"That'll be seen to, miss," answered the man with a look of familiarity that caused another shudder of disgust to run through me again. "Youder's everything that's wanted." He pointed to a canvas parcel. "And I'm going ashore with the 'tween decks folks to explain to the passengers how to steer for Madeira."

"Do you understand navigation?" said L

"I can box the compass," he answered with a glance at the others, "and make a straight line with a pencil and ruler on a chart. That's all the navigation they'll want," he added, with a tosa of his head at the island that flung a fall of yellow hair off his forehead straight cut.

I walked abouth the quarter-deak, watching the people moving upon the island. They had broken up into little parties and seemed to be searching, no doubt for water, and for the materials to make a smoke. In a short while the boats came alongside, and Owen bawled out certain orders. Six men, including Owen, stationed themselves in the gangway. Four were armed with muskets as before. Owen and the other I had noticed had strapped cutlasses to their hips One man continued to grasp the wheel; he was the ugly man with the hare lip. The fellow at the hatch was helped by another to lift the grating. He then roared down:

'Step up and bring your bundles along with ye." After a few moments the first of our unhappy handful of emigrants arose. He was a stumpy, red-headed man, in a moleskin cap and leather leggings, and blinked furiously as he looked about him. He was followed by a woman in a shawl and bonnet, and two children.

"Be the varth of me oath, ye'll pay for this," said the man. "I'd not have your necks, by Jasus, if the hangman's stretching should send me to heaven. Where's the island, ye divils?"

"Pass on now," cried Owen, and he was thumbed, cursing and blaspheming, over the gangway into the boat, the woman wailing to the men not to hurt her poor husband. The rest came in a little procession. One was that boy with the motherly face I had noticed nursing a baby when I joined the ship. They looked a poor, starved, half-clothed lot-six or seven men. and as many women, and the rest children. They dragged up their baggage along with them, and very quickly, and amidst a silence that made their passage ghastly as though they were going to their death they descended into the boats. Owen then picked up the canvas parcel, and with a screw of his beery blue eyes to see if I observed him, swung himself over the side. A minute later both boats were making for the island.

> CHAPTER IX. I GET AT THE TAUTH.

As my stepfather continued hidden I did not choose to remain alone with the piratic company who lounged in the gangway, or loafed pipe in mouth about the galley. I thought to find the stewarders in the saloon, till on descending I recollected I had noticed her face amongst the emigrants in the boat. I cannot express the extraordinary deep sense of solitude inspired by this interior. Its life, its memory to me was that of people moving here and laughing: it now looked empty as a cave, and the spirit of loneliness hung chill to the spiritisin its atmosphere. Through the open portholes name the soft feathery rush of wind as the vessel rolled. I felt as if I was alone in a deserted ship, and my heart Some of the doors of the berth were

open, and swung as the ship swayed; nothing was left but tossed bedding and the furniture of the vessel. It was after two o'clook. I had not eaten since breakfast; the remains of that meal lan upon the table in a confusion of broken victuals and tumbled napkins. I found some wine on a swing tray, and cut a plate of ham and some fort of pleasant spiced meat. Whilst I ate and drank I was wondering what in the name of life was to become of me, and despite that romantic heat of surfacity I lately wrote of I was now longing with a real passion of fear to be safe at home. I felt sick when I thought of the familiar looks of the fellow Owen. What did they mean to to with this ship? What was their destination, and how long would it take them to arrive at it. and when there, how did my step-father intend to dispose of me? These and the like sonsiderations so terrified me that I rould have oried my eyes out

By and by I caught a noise of ores, and going to a port heard voices. The boats had returned from the island. streamed in splendour under the aigh son and the dance of white fires wis on besh hands. After a little I don?" exclaimed Sinclair, straighten-coard a trainp of feet, a song of sea-ing his military figure to its topmost ment and the pertholos were darkened inches, and overwhelming the man he or the power in the opensky our picture to look and command.

The case a sure sharp or L started. The follow's countenages changed, a

Along with the echo of stamping fest on the decks entered a new sense of bnoyancy in the heel of the vessel. She lifted with the light long heave of the flashing swell, with a floating launch that was life itself, and I heard the brooklike murmur of broken wapart of the world and with what in-

The door of an after cabin stood open, and the island swung suddenly into a stern window. I hastily rau into the berth to look, then to obtain a good last view of the people, stepped into the Captain's cabin and adjusted his with him. He must not speak to me. telescope to my vision, and kneeling on the transom or locker, or whatin the port and looked. A group of three sprang life-like into the lenses. They were emigrants down on the white beach of the bay, stooping and peering and prodding like children and caught another figure; this was Monsignor. He stood alone, his hands were folded in front of him, and he watched our departing ship. His black hat shadowed his face, which showed like marble under it, and on plundered money?" the instant of my covering him his dusky gaze sank deep into mine. I rarted as though he spoke to me. The figure of Mr. Bergheim now stepped into the disc; it gesticulated and point ed at the ship; then a little shift of the helm lannched the island out of the square of the casement, and the vision of white beach and green heights, and the giant line of glass clear comber spouting foam, and then into the dark

blue open sea. I put down the glass and went into the saloon and paced the deck. The motion of the ship was soft and glidiug. It would have been sweet to me at another time. The pure wind gush ed through many openings; through the skylight one could see the sails of the mizzen swelling in alabaster, sharp-edged with light against, the blue, Just then I saw a leg in the companion way, and my stepfather descended. On perceiving me he called out in a level quiet voice, not wanting in a cer tain ring of heart, as though his spirit were good:

"What, ho. Laura! The last of them are ye? But it looks more deserted than ever I saw it ir dock.'

After saying this he stood a while in silence, turning his eyes about. He then came to the table, and helping himself to some remains of cold fowl and a piece of tongue, he asked me to find him a bottle of brandy in the steward's pantry and sit beside him I did a she bid me and when he had asked me to eat our talk went thus "Wh re's this ship being steered to his civility.

"To a Bahama Cay," he answered.

"Where's that?" "No matter. It's within reach of week anyway.

What will follow?" "I don't mind talking to you now," he answered, eating with a good appetite, and speaking with a note of briskness whilst I took notice that the heavy expression which had blackened his expression during the voyage had passed of gold of their breasts, and the shadout of his face, though to be sure his owe in the hollows were prismatic as frown stayed, that is in its coming and going away. "I have cast in my lot with the men. They can't do without me, and why shouldn't I get money out of the professingal ruin the seizare of the ship has brought upon me' when some slightly heavier lift of the They offered me a large proportion of sommer swell stiffened the helmsman's the gold, and I want the money." said he dropping these words slowly, but lee-side the water shaled awar into the with an accent brutal with resolution, wake, and made marble of the blue of

"Maria told me she believed you vere in difficulties."

I was bankrupt?"

"How should she know anything and there, sitting at table, chatting not be missed. Fortune has here play for me! I shall not even go to sea again, but pass my old age in comfort and quiet in some glorious climate where a man, careful of his health may live for ever."

"Your share will be stolen money." said.

"I steal nothing," said he, showing his teeth, after half draining his tumbter. "It was not I who rap away with the gold. If I am to salve it for the crew I have a right to the share they offer; the owners would never get a penny from them, nor supposing I was to hand the money over would I ever receive a cent in acknowledgment of my services. At sea we never do more than our duty."

I knew he lied, and it was shocking to hear him. I listened, nevertheless, with a motionless face; in truth 1 could act as well as be. He waited for me to speak.

"What's to become of me?" I asked. "You shall be sent home." "Why did you' bring me this voy

age?" I asked. "Why? You know! To please you, to divert you. You can ask ungrateul questions with a curst hard look."

"The man you call Owen---" "It's bis name."

"Says he remembers seeing me in your house."

"He's a liar," he shouted, flushing scarlet. Then jumping up, he went The breeze was now w bit I sh. It to the foot of the steps, and bawled in may have shifted; the island was no a roaring note for Owen. The man The tale and style were heavy. I could a part of my share on the understand- perhaps still was that felon; an incomknier visible in the windows. The instantly appeared in the hatch and came down.

"Were you ever in my house in Lon-

sparkle of cunning sharpened his

"Mo day" sold the dog

"You told me you saw mie there." said I, quietly.

"Miss, you said you had seen me. and it wasn't for me to contradict ac beautiful a lady." answered the creatore, grinning.

I looked down, and drammed with my fingers, wondering if the Captain ters. We were away! But to what would openly notice the fellow's sanciness. Instead he gave him certain directions touching the course, and Owen went on deck.

> My stepather returned to his plate. looked at me steadily, and said, "Are you convinced?"

"He has an offensive familiar way "He belongs to Deal, where they have no manners," he exclaimed, putever it is called, steadied the telescope ing more food unpon his plate. Don't notice him. He means nothing In fact we must be civil to these fellows. Laura," says he, softening. "They have put a noble estate in my way, and what do I care about their manshell-hunting. I swept with the glass ners. Owen is to be the chief mate, and will sit at this table. The second mate'll live aft too, but you'll see nothing of him.

"Father," said I, softening too. 'surely you'll take no portion of this

He motioned as if he would strike me, and silenced me with a look of fire. I felt afraid of him, and went to a cabin window and stared out. I did not like to reflect how wholly I was alone in that ship. He was my stepfather, and ashere had professed a sort of tenderness for me, but we were not bound by ties of flesh and blood. He was now a criminal, and therefore a smoking towards the land, passed into desperate man, and by that face he a heap of black rock brilliant with turned on me I guessed I was to act with a fine vigilance if ever I was to return home in safety. What most terrified me was his easy way of referiring to Owen's behavior. I sighed, I grieved, again I could have wept for the comparative safety of the island that was now far astern. Why, since it was certain that he had planned, that be alone had planned, this enormous piracy, had he brought me ou this voyage with him' And what was his motive in keeping me on board? He did not again address me. When

he had finished eating he went the round of the cabins, examining them one after another, then entered liseown and shut the door Our imprisonment in the saloon had made a sickness of the scene of it to me. I telt a craving for the spacious freedom of the ocean, and went on deck. Owen had charge of the ship; he walked to the weather side. When he saw me he touched his cap, and an odd dry smirk of cunmag twisted his lips. I quite knew the beast wanted to say he had lied and couldn't help it In a minute he dart. ed below and brought a chair 1 gave him a faint nod, but made no use of

My thughts were with the island. and I went right aft past the wheel, and saw it hanging in a little cloud of gold low down upon the sea. I thought I caught a delicate film feathering over it and believed it might by sunke. but I could not imagine they would be senseless enough to waste fuel in signals to an empty horizon.

The ship swarn in three lordly pyra mids of canvas: the sun made cloths the glancing gleams in the lining of the mussel shell. She lay slightly over, and sheared through the water quietly. Only at intervals would you hear a frothing fall from the weather bow, grasp of the spokes. But along the Did you know before we sailed that the brine, with its white streaks and cloud turns.

When I considered that this noble ship with a hold full of valuable commodities and £98,000 pounds in gold about my affairs?" he exclaimed, with bad been seized by Captain Sinclair for heat. Then controlling himself he plunder the surprise in me was so continued, "I should not be able to great, that the thing might have hapshow my face in London again. They'd pened at that instant, I was thunderlock me up for debt. Owners will struck, I was turned motionless by the never want from captains, and I should amazing, incredible character of his colossal ocean robbery, and stood on ed a trump card. No debtor's goal the lee quarter staring forward as if I were a statue.

> Our ship's company of rogues were all on deck at this hour. They idled and loafed, smoked and talked in various parts. The only member of the original crew I saw was the cook. He leaned half in, half out, of his galley door, and seemed on very easy terms with the two fishermen-like figures that with hands buried deep in their breeches' pockets, trudged up and down abreast of him. I had not noticed the steward go ashore, but he was certainly out of the ship, and must have been sent away with the saloon passengers.

The afternoon was already advanced, and the air was already crimsoning as the earth slowly lifted its evening horizon. I felt weary and heart-sick, and extraordinarily depressed with loneliness. I took care whilst I was on deck that Owen should not have an opportunity to address me, but I never turned my eyes in his direction without with my share." finding that he stared at me with look of admiration as unconcealed as the

expression of a dog in its wants. This evening some time about six o'clock I sat in the saloon trying to read, but I could not fix my attention. The book was "The Pirate." It was one of a few hundred volumes that You'll not trouble her, Owen, un on a visit of curiosity, and in one of ation, but after I had turned a page touch above you." or two I found my curiosity flag. "It was agreed that she was to make like a vestry clerk nosing Amen, went word now and again." versation. The Captain then said -he you."

stood close beside the skylight:

mate and James Harris acts as second. That, my lads, is to the general satisfaction?"

I caught a rumble of assent. More talk followed. I could not, however, hear what was said. There was a bright scarlet light of sunset spreading fron. the bow to over our mastheads; it met the soft violet gloom of the evening dusk sifting up astern, and the sails or | did not catch it. the mizzen counding to a starry truck showed like an exquisite painting. A of the steps looking about him awk. you're agreeable.' wardly.

"What do you want?" said I. "I've been told off as steward, mum," he answered. "Oi'm to loight the

lamps. Where's there a lucifer?" "There's the pantry," said I, point ing, "and I expect you'll find all you want in it," and with that I went to my own berth. I took off my hat and lay down in my

bunk and fell asleep. I could not, however, have slept long. When I awoke stars slided in the porthole, but the light of day hung yet pale in the air. I refreshed myself with a wash and went out, supposing that by this bour I should find the evening meal on the table Aft, where my cabin was, the shadows hung thick; between these bulkheads and the lamps were the shaft of the mizzenmast and the borad saloon stairs. I was advancing, but the Captain's voice at that instant pronounced some words: immediately I fell back softly and recoiled into my cabin, where, grasping the handle of

My stepfather and ()wen sat at table. The cloth was laid, plenty of food was npon it. I could not get a view of the Captain because of the mizzenment. )wen, sitting on the left in Monsignor's place, was in full sight

the door, I could hear and see.

"If the schooner should fail us I shall be at a loss," said the Captain. "There's no fear of Jim a-failing of, us" said Owen. "He's not a man to shift his helm over a job like this."

"We shall be of the Cay in seven or eight dave" said the Captain. The schooner must be there. We're no ship to be seen hanging about these waters. We've got to transfer the mover as first as we can sling the cases over the - de, and then away with us.

And enil-and still-" He fail silent for half a minute, then ex laimed.

"I cannot make up my mind to sink this fine vessel."

"What's to be done with her?" said the other, who did not "sir" him, and I wondered t & Cac in bore without visible impatience the fellow's note of familiaries

"I'm for giving her a chance—furling every and letting go the anchor, and leaving or to be pourded by what ever may one along."

The other was silent as though thing was a matter of indifference.

"There is no good," continued the Captain, "in heapt is up this sort of business. We planted to seize the ship, to turn the passengers out of her, and transfer the money to a schooner. All this has been done with little tronble, and, thank God! without bloodsued Why deliberately, why mercilessly sink this beautiful vessel then? lt would be murder, man. I'll not have it on my conscience."

"Well, she can be left a-riding as you say Some wrecking crafts bound to fall in with her. But the men want to know, Cap'n, if you hain't got no better scheme for securing the money' It's all gold. My breeches' pockets'll hold a tidy lot, but not my I see it in your looks. Don't show share of the ninety-eight thousand your teeth like that. You've caught SAFE DEPOSIT BOXES TO RENT.

"It .nust be carried from port to port exchanged, dealt with by banks, manoevred as I have told you, until the last man's share is out of her. "

"Why can't the rases be run?"

"Where?" "In the Downs

The silence that followed this was trongly expressive of contempt or pas-

"Are you in your right mind that you talk of the Downs?" said the Captain, presently. "Why, man, before we fetched the Channel the passengers will have been rescued, and sent home by steam, or the original crew will have arrived in England, and the whole country will be ringing with this piracy, for that's what it amounts to.'

"You may be right," said Owen. "but if one could be sure that them parties hadn't returned—if we'd only be allowed a single dark night for the iob-the Downs 'ud be the place, and 'ud save a vast of trouble. Plenty of caves and secret hiding places for the money could be dealt with by the handsfull."

"Are you prepared to take your trial with the certainty of transportation for might threaten bullets and halters. life? But." continued the Captain, with a faint note of scoffing in his talked. And yet I don't know that I voice, "you're all anxious to return ever once recollect wondering what had to Deal with your booty. I'll show you how you may do it after you've plergyman; and had been sent to sea in put me ashore in the place I decide

"No, no, captn, we can't do without you," said Owen, gruffly. "You bosthe traverse through to the blooming which should surprise you. I was told end. "Sides, if you go ashore you'll of a man who returned to England take Miss Hayes along with ye," and after a long absence abroad. He went here I saw him grinning like a mask, to gaol-Pentonville. I think it was-

formed the ship's lib-ary. The title less she shows herself willing to listen the cells he saw a man with whom he took my fancy. I thought it would be to you? She's a high spirited young and dined in splendor in his house in a in keeping with my extraordinary situ. | woman, and might think herself a

not make out what the book was about ing that she was willing," said the Suddenly I heard voices, a sharp show man. "My share'll come to more'n burned white and sick, and walked off. of 'Lay aft all bands,' and presently four thousand pound, and that should Owen, in dull, mechanical accents, hlep me with her if you'll put in a

through the men's name: 'Dick Slack, "I undertook that you should capture Tom Swivel, Henry Gorm, Sandy this vessel, and that you men should man who could not keep his hand out May," and more-but I forget them, find your account in the job, but not This was followed by a sort of con that I should woo a young woman for

"You might say a word for me, six Very well. William Owen is chief Doan't let her think I'm the common

X

chan I look. If my father was a treat boatman my mother was a farmer's daughter, and farmers be gentlemen, ha? When you told me who she was that night I called you said you was taking her with you, and that if things worked out as schemed I might court

her with your sanction." The Captain made some answer.

"All I ask is that von'll give me a chance," continued Owen. "I don't man came below and stood at the foot doubt she'll cozen if she finds that

He plucked at his bit of mustache, which looked of a silver white in the lamplight. My blood boiled. Every instinct

warned me to listen no more, lest I

should shrick or rush out upon them. I softly shut the door and stood beside my bank with my face hot as blood with shame, rage, madness, buried in my arm. Had he brought me this voyage to find me a husband in Owen? No, I could not believe that, because the invitation was in his mind when he wrote to me whilst I was at my sister's, and before Owen had seen me. But did not it look as though he bad kept me in the ship that be might keen the beast Owen in countenance with some sort of promise he had made to him about me that night at his honse?

What a liar he was! What a darkhearted villain to show himself so utterly insensible to my feelings and pride as to keep me in this ship to humor such a poor low dog as Owen! I wept some scalding tears, and whilst I subbed with my wet eyes vacantly watching a dance of stars upon the glass of the window, some one knocked and the door was opened.

"Are you here, Laura?" says the Captain.

ing, peering way. "Yes." I answered, speaking low, that the grief and rage in my threat

· What should not be distinguishable. do you want?" 'To see if you are awake, supper's been a long while laid. You were asleep when I looked in half-an-hour

"Who's at table?" said I, still speak ing very low.

'No one, he answered. "I am going to my cabin. Owen has charge of

the ship. "I'll get some supper presently, said I. I waited about ten minutes, again

and again plunging my face in water to 1id it of the redness of temper and tears, and then went to the table and cut a small meal, but I was without! appetite and toyed with my food. Yet I felt safe then from Owen, though he might from time to time look at me through the skylight; having charge,

he durst not leave the fleck I had not been seated many minutes when Captain Sinclair came from his cabin. He wore a cap, and I was mak. ing for the deck, but on looking at me, paused, observed me with attention came to the table, and took a chair beside me

"What are you fretting about" asked.

I shot a glance at him, but made no answer. He looked aft, and suspicion arched his brow. He said quietly, but with an unpleasant frown:

"If you've been listening you've heard more than I want you to know, or than you yourself would care to know. But you have been listening At lowest market rate on approved collateral me in a lie—and what then? We've all got to lie to make money. Widows and orphans are lied into paupers' graves by people who put handsomely into the plate every Sunday, and are called by the purple parsons, swelled with the rogues' 20-port and comet vintages, their Christian friends. The Albert H. Harris, lie is the spirit of trade. All tradesmen are liars. Under heaven is there such Julius M. Wile, a nar as the grocer? I lied to save Gibert Brady. your feelings. It's nothing to me now J. Craig Powers, that you know Owen called at my house, nor that this scheme of seizure originated with mself. Nothing. What's made you ory is not my lie, but Owen's talk, hey? Now listen.

Von shell become this way Parisis. You shall humor this man. Be civil, FRANK M. ELLERY...... Soen I advise; let him think, hope, flatter himself as be may. But take you my word that I will shoot the hound if he sniffs an inch beyond the bounds I have in my mind. Pluck up-pluck up! I am a villain, and in hell, but you shan't suffer. "

He smote me twice lightly on the back, and giving me one of those snugging of the sovereigns, and the smiles that lighted up his face with beauty, he went on deck.

There was no comfort, however, to be got out of his strong words. He and flames, but it was a villain who made him so. He was the son of a good ships, and in other words I understood had been well cared for in his routh. But even parsons' sons will turn out rascals now and again. There sed this job, and it's for you to work is no caper human nature can cut great West End square over and over again; a well-bred, handsome, courteous, gentlemanly man had been, and parable host. The visitor started, Good God! Did he suppose there was thy virtue in handsome looks, gendemanly bearing, and plenty of good early education to keep out of gaol a if other people's pockets? To be Continued.

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