BY CUTCLIFFE HYNE



see more of him.

temper of an archangel."

courage any man," said Kettle, "and

Cortolvin loosened a couple more

"It will clear the air," said Kettle.

The old grizzle-headed mate thrust

"Get all the awnings off her," the

the upper bridge ladder-"Ave ave?"

shipmaster ordered: "Put extra grips

on the boats, and see everything lash-

ed fast that a steam erane could

move. We're in for a bad breeze direct-

"Aye, aye," rumbled the mate, and

just a point or two off the starboard

deck chair, and swung himself onto the

upper deck bridge. Cortolvin followed.

narrow ring. Overhead was a heavy,

purply darkness, impenetrable as a

The scene was terrifying, but Kettle

regarded it with a satisfied smile. The

one commercial prayer of the shipmas-

ter is to meet with a passenger steam-

er at sea, broken down, and requiring

a tow; and here was one of the plums

of the ocean ready to his hand and

anxious to be plucked. The worse the

weather, the greater would be the sal-

vage, and Capt. Kettle could have hug-

ged himself with lov when he thought

He had changed the Saigon's course

the instant he came on the bridge, and

belween her masts. There was

breath of wind to make the flags blow

aut; they hung in delected cawis; but

to Kettle they read like the page of

stapped the hinocular back in the hox

and snapped down the lid. "H. B., Mr.

Cortalvin, and don't you forget having

"You seem to know it by heart,

"There's not a steamhoat officer on

all the seas that doesn't. When things

are down with us, we take out the sig-

nal book, and hunt up H. B. among

the urgent signals, and tell ourselves

that some day we may come across a

Cunarder with a broken tailshaft, and

"Skipper," said Cortolvin, "I needn't

tell you how pleased I'll be if you

come into a competency over his busi-

ness. In the meanwhile, if there's any-

thing I can do, from coal trimming up-

ward, I'm your most obedient servant."

if you'd go and carry the news to the

chief I'll be obliged. I know he'll say

his engines can't hold out. Tell him

they must. Tell him to use up anything

down. Tell him to rip up his soul for

struts and backstays if he thinks it'll

keep them running. It's the one chance

of my life, Mr. Cortolvin, and the one

chance of his, and he's got to know it

and see we aren't robbed of what is put

before us. Show him where the siller

comes in, sir, and then stand by and

you'll see Mr. McTodd work miracles."

turned to the old mate. "Mr. Murgat-

royd," said he, "get a dozen hands to

rouse up that new manilla out of the

store. I take you from the foredeck,

and give you the afterdeck to yourself.

double bridle of that."

Cortolvin went below, and Kettle

"I thank you, sir," said Kettle. "And

seen it. Want immediate assistance,

said Cortolvin.

A mist of heat shut the sea in a

said Cortolvin.

FORTUNES ADRIFT.

Cortolvin came out under the bridge awning up through the baking heat of the companionway, and droplistlessly into a deck chair. He chest, "It's hard to breathe even here, was dressed in slop-chest pajamas of a and I thought I'd learned what heat wird pattern, and had a newly-shaven was out in those Arabian deserts. which stood out refreshingly There's a tornado coming on, that's

at avel across the box of cheroots, "are it. Mr. Murgatroyd!" he called we say nearer getting under way?" "I tooked in at the engine room as I down a purple face from the head of ama mast," said the tall man with a

man, "and the chief had a good deal was his idea that the fellow who last had charge of those engines ought to die a cruel and lingering death." "It's a sore point with McTodd when

whe breaks down. But did he say how assig it would be before he could give clapped a leaden whistle to his mouth, her steam again? I'm a bit anxlous, and blew it shrilly. A minute later he The glass is tumbling, hand over fist; reported: "A big steamer lying to what with that, and this heat, there's small doubt but what we'll have bow, captain. I have'nt seen her before a tornado clattering about our ears di- because of the haze." He examined her There's the shore close aboard, carefully through the bridge binoculyou can see for yourself, and if the ars, and gave his observations with wind comes away anywhere from the heavy deliberation. "She's square-rigeast'ard, it'll blow this old steamboat | ged forrard, and has a black funnel way into the middle of Africa be- with a red band-no, two red bands. fore we can look around us. It's a bad season just now for tornadoes." The clattering of iron bootplates

made itself heard on the brass-bound steps of the companionway. "That'll be the chief coming to answer for himself," said Cortolvin.

Mr. Neil Angus McTodd always advertised his calling in the attire of the catward man, and the eye of an expert could tell with sureness at any given moment whether Mr. McTodd was in employment or not, and, if so, what Type of steamboat he was on, what was this official position, what was his pay, and what was the last bit of work on which he had been employed.

The present was the fourth occasion on which the Saigon's machinery had chosen to break down during Capt. Kettwo months of command, and after his herculean efforts in making repairs with insufficient staff and materials, Mr. McTodd was unpleasant both to work upon and associate with. He was attired in moist black boots, gray flanmel pyjama trousers stuffed into his socks, a weird garment of flannel upon bis upper man, a clout round his neck, and a peaked cap upon his grizzled red heir anointed with years of spraying His elbows and his forehead shone was full of unnecessary adjectives, and when of the universe.

war day int vard, would the things they mercal sugliss on this fullen tub. wish ha he was of neutago. Ther are holy engines and that's a met " and testile "How long can you

marantsa tham for this time?" The augment manned his nack with a was af cultan waste. "Ten revolutions, of Fau wish me to he certain. It's a warra dry ship, this."

"And how many more? We shall want them. There's a tornado coming

"i'm no' anxious ta perjure mysel' captain, but they might run on for a sail minute, or they might run on for a day. There's a capreciousness about and rattle traps that might amuse some people, but it does not appeal to was. I'm in fear of my life every minute a stand on the footplates." "I'd not have taken you for a fright-

ened man. "I'm no' that as a usual thing, but the temperature of you engine room varies metween a hundred and twenty and mondred and thirty of the Fahrenheit scale, and it's destroying to the nerwes. All the aqueous vapor leaves the system, and I'm verra badly in need of a tonic, Is you whusky in the black Sottle, captain?" "Take a peg, Mac."

"I'll just have a sma' three fingers, mow ye mention it." He laid the thickest part of his knotty knuckles against the side of the tumbler, and poured set some half a gill of spirit. "Weel," waid he, "may we get as good whusky where we are going to," and enveloped the dose with a dextrous turn of the wrist. After which ambiguous toast he wiped his lips with the cotton waste and took himself off again to the bak-Eng regions below; and presently a will rumbling, and a tremor of Eabric announced that the Saigon was

wace more under way. The little steamer had coaled at Permm Island, in the southern mouth of the Red sea, had come out into the Indian ocean through the straits of Bab-Mandeb, had rounded Cape Guardaful and was on her way down to Zanzibar in response to the cabled orders of her Parsee owner in Bombay. Cortoivin was still on board as passenger. His excuse was that he wanted to in-

Valuable Report to Farmers Continued from Page 1

taiking a reprint of the Act, with

Circular on seed testing, giving an outline of the objects of testing seeds for purity and vitality, and 'some general notes plicable to the conchition of t

a rowboat through what's coming. I a modicum of rational thought. The believe they'd draw if they'd a fishing little steamer fell away before the line made fast to them."

long enough at sea to have known your till her lee scuppers spouted green wabusiness by this time," said Kettle un- ter inboard; and she might well have pleasantly. "D'ye think that every been overturned at the very outset. steamboat that trades is a bran-new But Kettle beat the helpless Lascar 'Hartland and Wolff?"

waiting to be taught." "Pass the manilla round the coaming | wallowing circle to face the torrent of of the after hatch, and you won't come

and tell me that's drawn while this steamboat stays on the water top."

his will. cers in peaked caps and trim uniforms of the eternal sea. of white drill, talking together an-

tle ruffian of a skipper, and wished to steamers were level and not more than steam steering gear, and in some of "Cheerful toast, that of McTodd's," and (as Kettle had intended) the Ger- ed to take charge and pitch the little mans noticed it and commented. Then began the barter of words. "Those engines are enough to dis-

"Howdy, captain," said Kettle, "I hope it's not a funeral you've brought the heat down there would sour the up for?" This heat's been very great. Has it knocked over one of your pasbuttons of his pajamas and bared his

A large bearded man made reply: "We har seen a slight mishap mit der machinery, captain. My ingeneers will "O, that's all right. Thought it might

tain. But I'd hurry and get steam on her again, if I were you. The breeze may come away any minute now, and you've the shore close aboard, and you'll be on it if you don't get your steamboat under command again then, and have a big loss of life. If you

you don't drown all hands."

held up his hand for further parley. with perilous speed. But for the moment the opportunity of It was possible to see dimly down speech was taken from him. The pas- the wind, and when Cortolvin turned sengers were either English, or for the his face away from the stinging blast most part understood that tongue when of the tornado, he could understand spoken; and they had drunk in every with clearness their exact position. word that was said, as Kettle had in- Close astern was the plunging Gertended; and now they surged in a man liner, with her decks stripped and writhing, yelling mob at the foot of the deserted and only the bridge officers two bridge ladders, and demanded that exposed. Beyond was cotton-white sea, Seems to me like one of the German assistance should be hired, let that and beyond again were great leaping mail boats, and I should say she was cost what it might.

Capt. Kettle rose springily from his above that frightened uproar, and the beach German shipmaster raved, and ex- Thirty minutes passed, each second ceiling of brick. The only light that steamer.

crept in came from the mysterious unseen plain of the horizon. From every point of the compass uneasy thunder gave forth now and then a stifled bel-

never showed, sudden thirmings of the gloom would hint at their nearness. The air shimmered and danced with cabled me to hurry and get to Zani- face close to Kettle's ear. the baking heat, and though lurid greys and pink predominated, the glow bar." "Vell, how mooch?" which filled it was constantly changing

gers seem so anxious. "Hondred tousand teufels! Herr

Gott, I haf not Rhodes on der sheep!" hurry to make my passage. If you keep me waiting here five minutes longer it'll cost you £120,000 to be plucked in "The hands knew it as well as me, and

went into a frenzy of expostulation; he going to cast off the hawser." appealed to all Capt. Kettle's better feelings; he dared him to do his worst, leaned his ethows on the white railing of the bridge and did not reply by so

speak. He waved his hand toward the fearsome heavens with lights and pointed to the bumping thunder, which made both vaguely tremble and he let those argue for him. The clamor of the passengers rose again in the breathless, baking air, and the captain of the liner had to yield. He threw up his arms in token of surrender and a hush fell upon the scene like the silence of

"My gompany shall pay you hondred

for the other thing seems to be come stand by me, Cortolvin?" come past. You've cut it pretty fine. I say, 'God is great! and our fates are and kept up the normal speed.

gone from him. He gave his orders my wife; I step out of the middle of On the bridge, in glistening oilskins, with crispness and decision, and the Arabia and stumble across you, and Rettle and two mates stared before

link it on the manilla.

Kettle's voice from the bridge.

thing ready to begin to tow. We'll use again, and the Saigon was steaming the bullion which he heped she car- steam lane to the eastward, which difahead on the tow line. It was a time ried. "Aye, aye," said the mate. "But it for hurry. won't do to tow with wire, captain,

though whips had lashed them.

lards art might be stepned in putty for of limp humanity, incapable of steering were they to the hateful shore that

an the use they are. They'd not tow or of doing anything else that required blast like a shaving in a dry street; "I should have thought you'd been the tonnage of the tornado heeled her from his hold and spoked the wheel "Well," said the mate sullenly, "I'm hard down; and the engines, working strongly, brought her round again in a

She took five minutes to make that recovery, and when she was steaming "Aye, aye," said the mate, and step- on again, head to the thunderous gusts, ped into his slippers and shuffled away. | the tale of what she had endured was Capt. Kettle walked briskly to the cen- written in easy lettering. On both fore tre of the upper bridge and laid a hand and main decks the bulwarks were on the telegraph. He gave crisp orders | gone level with the covering boards; to the Lascar at the wheel and the the raffle of crates, harness casks, Saigon moved in perfect obedience to gangplanks, and so on, that a small trader carries in view to the sky, had Ahead of him the great slate-colored | departed beyond the ken of man; and, liner lay motionless on the oily sea. indeed, those lower decks were scour-Her rail was peopled with the anxious ed clean to the naked rusted iron. The faces of passengers. Busy deckhands port lifeboat hung stove from bent were stripping away the awnings. On davits, and three of the coolie crew the high upper bridge were three offi- had been swept from life into the grip Cortolvin fought his way up on to

the upper bridge step by step against The little Saigon curved up from the frantic beating of the wind, and, astern, stopped her engines, and then, without being bidden, relieved at the with reversed propeller, brought up lee spokes of the wheel. Capt. Kettle dead, so that the bridges of the two nodded his thanks. The Saigon had no 20 yards apart. It was smartly done, the heavier squalls the wheel threatenshipmaster clean over the spekes. Amid the bellowing roar of the tornado, speech, of course, was impossible, and vision, too, was limited. No

> human eye could look into the wind, and even to let it strike the face was a torture. The sea did not get up. The crest of any wave which tried to rise was cut off remorselessly by the knives of the hurricane, and spread as a stinghard, indeed to tell where ocean ceased and air began. The whole sea was spread in a blurr of white and

The big helpless liner astern plucked savagely at the Saigon's tail, and the pair of them were moving coastward with speed. Left to herself and steamget on the beach, it'll surprise me if ing full speed into the gale, the little Saigon would have been able to main-Capt. Kettle put a hand on the teles tain her position, neither losing ground graph, as though to ring on his en nor gaining any. With the heavy tow in gines again, but the bearded German, charge, she was being driven toward after a preliminary stamp of passion, the roaring surf of the African beach

fountains of whiteness where the tor-There was no making a hail carry tured ocean roared agaist the yellow

plained, and reasoned for full a dozen of them brimmed with frenzied strugmoments before he quelled it. Then, gle for both man and machinery. The panting, he came once more to the end tornado raged and boomed and roared, of his bridge, and addressed the other and the backward drift was a thing

will be 'Jones' for the lot of us.

have felt the weight of it. The old fellow bawled at him again. lander rebels." they say they're not going to be his seat. The meal began and went on. The shipmaster on the other bridge drowned for anybody. They say they're Mr. Grimshaw made no allusion to the

whole erew of you inside three minutes. By James! yes, and you know me, and you know I'll do it, too. You through the meal he did not know ham faced jelly fish, away aft with you,

The man winged under the little cap: given him for retort. And all Kettle looked agross the wheel at his assistant.

know it as well as you do. But I've the upper bridge. got a fortune in tow yonder, and I'd rather die than set it adrift. It isn't how Capt. Owen Kettle's luck again tousand pound, captain, und-you hat one fortune, either; it's a dozen for buffeted him. der satisfaction dot you make me ruin- tunes, and I have just got to grab one of them. I'm a married man, sir, with through the night, to the accompani-"I have been ruined myself," said a family, and I've known what it was ment of deep and dismal hootings from Kettle, "heaps of times, and my turn to watch and see 'em hungry. You'll the syren. A fog spread over the At-

now, I'll run down closer to you, cap- "It seems I promised. You know I've to "Half speed ahead" as the board of tain, or do you bid your hands heave been long enough with Mahometans, trade directs. The engine room, howme a line from the fo'c's'le head as I skipper, to be somewhat a fatalist. So ever, had private instructions, as usual, You've no time left to get a boat in the written on our foreheads, and no man On the forecastle head four lookout

other man. All the insouciance had went away from England because of be in their bunks. mates and the Lascars jumped to obey hear that she is dead; I look forward them into the thickness, but could not them. The horrible danger that was to to going home and living a peaceful see as far as the foremast. And the come lay as an open advertisement, country life; and now it appears I'm Armenia surged along at her comfortand they knew that their only way to to be drowned obscurely, sut of the able fourteen knots, with 500 people pass safely through it-and even then touch of newspapers. However, I'll be asleep beneath her deck. The landsthe chances were slim-was to obey consistent. I won't grumble, and you man fancies that on these occasions the man who commanded them to the may hear me say it alcud: 'La Allah steamships slow down or stop; the illah Allah!""

ers had been made, the snaky steel the infernal uproar of the tornado he ing his ship across the Atlantic again. wire hawser had been hauled in did not hear much of what was said, A day lost to one of these ocean ferthrough a stern fair-lead by the Sai- and part of what did reach his ears ries means in coal, and food, and gon's winch, and the old mate stood was beyond his comprehension. Beside, wages, and so on, a matter of £1,000 or ready with the shackle which would his mind was, not unnaturally, occu- so out of the pockets of her owners, pied with more selesh considerations. and this is a little sum they do not The heavens yielded up an overture Astern of him, in the German liner, care to forfeit without strong reason. like the echo of a Titian's groan. "Hur- were some thousand passengers, who They expect their captain to drive the ry there, you slow-footed dogs!" came were all assets for salvage. The de- boats along as usual and make up for tail of human life did not enter much the added risk by increased watchful-The Lascars brought up the eye of into his calculations. He had been ness and precaution, and a keen noting the hawser, and Murgatroyd threaded brought up in a ichool where life is of the thermometer for any sudden it on the pin of the shackle. Then he cheap, and not sopleasant and savory fall which should foretell the neighborover there before we do anything, and cried, "All fast," and picked up a spike a thing that it is set much store on. hood of ice. and screwed home the pin in its socket. The passengers were part of the ship, Now the Armenia was skirting the here this time of year." But he was the fog dense all around her. "Now we've fixed upon prices. So have every. Already the engines were on the move just as much as vere her engines, and edge of the banks, on the recognized prompt to act on the emergency.

explanations and instruct through what's coming. There's no moment if anything more hot, and the be damaged if allor a part of her was that is, except fishing schooners. manilla. You will back the wire with a men who tried to withstand it, as the fates should teal this fortune from message to the engine room, and cer- below. We can't have them messing order."

"Aye, aye," grunted the mate; "but The coolie quartermaster clung on to And, meanwhip, the line of surf was the Armenia's bow was clashing into . CLARA, what am I to make fast to? Them bol- the Saigon's wheel spokes, a mere wisp growing ever narer. So close indeed, and clanging and ripping and bucking tom of the upper bridge ladder half-



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when for a moment the fountains of white water subsided where the breakers raged upon the beach, they could see dimly beyond through the sea smoke. Palm trees, and ceibas and great silk cotton-woods, whipping and crashing before the insane blast of the

All hands on the Saigon's deck had many minutes before given themselves up for as good as dead. Their only chance of salvation lay in casting off the tow-rope, and no one dared touch the linking shackle. They quite knew that their savage little skipper would fulfill his threat if they disobeyed his orders. Indeed, old purple-faced Murgatroyd himself sat on the hatchcoaming with an opened clasp knife, and vowed death on any one who tampered with either shackle or manlin. The clumsy mate had swallowed rough words once, but he preferred drowning to living on and hearing Capt. Kettle address him as coward.

The shore lay steep-to, but the backwash creamed far out into the sea. Already the stern of the German liner was plunging in the whitened water. which could be measured with the eye. thirsted for revenge. He had taken "Dose passengers vas nervous," said Then the old mate heaved himself Mr. Grimshaw's measure pretty accurhe, "because dey thought dere might up the bridge ladder by laborious in- ately at first sight, and was tolerably come some leetle rain squall; so I ask ches. His clothes were whipping from sure that eight days of his conversayou how mooch vould you take my him in tattered ribbons, his hat was tion would irritate his skipper into a low, and, though the lightning splashes rope and tow me to Aden or Perim? gone, and the grizzled hair stood out state approaching frenzy. So he por-"Phew!" said Kettle. "Aden! That's from the back of his head like the tioned off the commissioner to the end wrong way for me, captain. Red sea's bristles of a broom. He clawed his way right-hand chair at the captain's table, where I've come from, and my owner along the rail and put his great red and promised himself pleasant revenge in overlooking the result.

"We can't hold her," he roared. Capt. Kettle worked the Armenia "She's taking us ashore. We shall be outside the bar and came down to din-"We'll say £100,000, as your passen- there in a dozen minutes, and then it ner. Horrocks whispered in his ear as he came down the companion, "Mr. Capt. Kettle glared, but made no ar- Grimshaw's the man on your right, sir. ticulate reply. If he could have spared | Had to give him to you. He's some sort "Well, captain, take the offer or a hand from the wheelspokes, it is of a big bug in the Government at leave it. I'm not a towboat and I'm in a probable that a Mr. Murgatroyd would home; been over in New York inquiring into the organization of those Pat-

Kettle nodded curtly and went on to previous encounter. He had made up This time Capt, Kettle yelled back a him mind to exact retaliation in full reply. "You thing!" he cried. " You and started at once to procure it. He he prayed him to do his best. But Ket- putty man, get back to your post! If had the reputation in London of being gazed upon the man's gesticulat- you want to live, keep those niggers' a "most superior person," and he posfingers off the shackle. By James, if sessed in a high degree the art of beson for the beach, and drown the clever man with his tongue, and never

Under his polished attack he was imthrusts went hame. He retired from the dinner table with a moist prespira: tion on his face, and an earnest prayer Cortolvin shrugged his shoulders and that the Armenia would carry foul glanced backward at the heach and weather with her all the way up to Kettle leant across and Prince's landing stage, so that he might he forced to spend the next seven or "I know it, sir, as well as you do. I eight days on the chilly eminence of

And now we come to the story

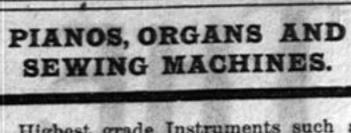
The Armenia was steaming along

water. The wind may come away any can change by an inch the path which men peered solemnly into the fog and noment now.

is foreordained he should tread. But knew that for all the practical good capt. Kettle was changing into anthey are queer fates, some of them. I they were doing they might just as well

liner captain knows that if he once did The connection between the steam- Capt. Kettle made no reply. Through so, he would have little chance of tak-

tainly before steam could be shut off, round here yet awhile."



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as though It had charged against a solid cliff. The engines stopped and the awful tearing noises ceased save for a tinkling rattle as of a cascade of glass, Cad, cool and expectant. "Ah, Mr. Horand, "There goes my blooming ticket," | rocks, come here." said Kettle bitterly. "Who'd have The Armenia had slipped back from thought of an iceberg as far south as ; the berg by this time and lay still, with "Now, Mr. Mate, away forward with ser; look how she's by the head alfers from that leading west; and by all you, and get the carpenter, and go ready. Get your crew of stewards to-The company thich owned her was the laws of navigation there should down and find out how big the dam- gether and victual the boats. Keep 'em The air thickened and grew for the responsible for al, their credit would have been nothing in the way. Nothing, age is." The crew were crowding out in hand well, or else we shall have a on deck. "All hands to boat stations, stampede and a lot of drowning. I'll give in wire. A wire hawser would jerk tornado raced down upon them as a lost; and he, Own Kettle, would reap which do not matter, as they are the See all clear for lowering away, and have the boats in the water by the the guts out of her in 15 minutes." black wall stretching far across the a proportionate reward if he could only sufferers if they haven't the sense then hold on all. Now keep your heads time you're ready, and then you must Kettle tightened his lips. "Mr. Murgatroyd," said he, "I am not a blame churning at its foot. It hit the steamwhen he thought of the way.

Mettle tightened his lips. "Mr. Murgatroyd," said he, "I am not a blame churning at its foot. It hit the steamwhen he thought of the roaring beach
But, suddenly through the fog ahead was damage, there's no hurry. Put a "Aye, aye, sir." men. There's no damage, and if there hand up the passengers, women first." fool. Neither do I want dictation from ers like a solid avalanche, and the so terribly close astern, he bit his there loomed out a vast shape, and al- couple of hands at each of the commy officers. I told you to rouse up the spindthrift in it cut the faces of the beard in an agon of apprehension lest most before the telegraph rung its panion-ways and keep all passengers do as he's bid, shoot. We must keep

"Wait a minute. If any one won't The purser showed a pistol. "I put The purser was standing at the bot that in my pocket," said he "when I

(Continued on Page 3.)

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