By Cutcliffe Hyne

THE PEARL POACHERS.

"No, Mr. Carnforth," said Kettle "It would be lying if I was to say knew anything about pearl-fishing. I've heard of it, of course; who hasn't! And, for the matter of that, I've had on a diving-suit myself, and gone down and examined a ship's bottom to see if the divers that had been sent down to look at some started plates had brought up a true report. But I've never done more than pass through these North Australian seas. They tell me the pearl-fishing's done from small luggers of some 10 or 14 tons, sailing out of Thursday island.'

"It is," said the big man, "And-" "Well, sir, you'd better get another captain. I'm a steamer sailer by bringing up, and on a steamer I know my business, and can do it with any other man alive. But you'd not find me much good on a little wind-jammer like a Thursday island pearler, I'm a hardup man, Mr. Carnforth, and desperately in want of a berth; I hope, too, you'll not think it undue familiarity when say that I like you personally; but, honestly, I don't think you'd better engage me as your skipper for this trip. You could get a so much better man for your money."

Carnforth laughed. "My dear Kettle, he said. "I don't think I ever came across a fellow with less real notion of looking after his own interests. As you are aware, I know your peculiar qualifications pretty thoroughly; I'm an eminently practical business man; offer you a handsome salary with both eyes open; and yet you refuse because you are afraid of robbing me of my

money." .. "Mr. Carnforth," said the little sailor stifly, "I have my own ideas of what's right. You have seen me at sea using violence and ugly words. But you will kindly remember that I was in service of an employer then, and was earning his pay by driving his crew. It's another thing now; we are ashore here, and I would have you know that ashore I am a strict chapel member, with a high-pressure conscience, and a soul that requires careful looking after. could never forgive myself if I thought I was taking your pay without earning it thoroughly.'

"If you'll let me get a word in edgeways," said the other irritably, "and not be so beastly cocksure that you can rob me-which you could no more do than fly-perhaps you'd understand what I'm offering, and not sneeze at a good chance. The lugger is your own invention, and so is the idea that I'm merely going pearl-fishing in the ordinary way. My notion is to go pearlpoaching, which is a very different matter; go get rich quick, and take the risks, and climb over them and to go at the business in a steamer with a strong enough crew to-ar-do what's needful."

"And you're already a rich man, said Kettle, "with a fine position in the country, and a seat in parliament. Some people never do know when they're well off.'

"Some people don't," said Carnforth, "and you're another of them, skipper. For myself, I do a mad thing now and again because-O, because I like the excitement and flurry of it. But you!-You go and refuse a profitable billet that would fit you down to the boots, merely for the sake of a whim. quarter of an hour ago you told me you were practically destitute-ar-on the streets' you own words were; and here you are chucking up a certain 20 pounds a month, and a possible 90, when it's ready to your hand." "I didn't know about the steamer said Kettle, "and that's a fact."

"Well, I'm telling you now, captain, and if you don't take charge of her upper bridge, it will be your own fault. Why, man, there isn't a job between here and New Jerusalem that would suit you better, and besides, I'm keen to go there myself, and you are the one man in the world I want to have as a shipmate, and I ask you to come as a personal favor. "I'm sick of this smug, orderly, frock-

coated life here. Nature intended me for a pirate, and fate has made me successful manufacturer. I've tasted the wild, unregenerate life of the open air once under your auspices and rubbed against men who were men and l want to be there again. I'm tired of fiddling amongst men and women who are merely dollar-millers and dresspegs. I'm sick of what they call success. I'm sick of the whole blessed business."

Capt. Kettle thought of Mrs. Kettle and her children in the squalid house in South Shields, with the slender income and the slim prospects, and he sighed drearily. But he did not utter those thoughts aloud. He said, instead, that he was very grateful to Mr. Carnforth for his magnificent offer, and would do his best to earn thoroughly the lavishly income which was held out to him.

Carnforth reached out and gripped his hand.

"Thanks, Kettle." he said: "and mind, I'm going to try and lug you into a competency over this. You might just as well have given way before. I always get my own way over this sort of thing. And now probably you'd like to hear a bit more about the poaching ground? "If you please, sir."

"Well, I can't quote you latitude and longitude offhand, but I'll show you the whereabouts of the place marked on the chart afterward. It's Japan way, and the Japs have chosen to claim all the bits of reefs thereabouts, and to proclaim a sort of close season against all foreign pearlers. Now, the place I've got news of is in their area, but so far it has never been fished. It is enormously rich, and it's absolutely virgin. Why, man, if we can put in six months' work there undisturbed, we can easily carry off a million pounds' worth of shells and pearls."

could beat off one of their gunboats changed for Governor L. C. Walthrop when we get there, and do, say, a (which seemed to carry a slight Ameriweek's fishing. But if that gunboat can flavor), a half sigh went up from steams back to Nagasaki, or wherever some of the ship's company, and a her port is, and brings out a whole queer little thrill passed through the blessed navy at her heels, we may find rest, according to their temperaments. the contract outside our size. Of They were making themselves sea

and a hundred men-" mayy. In fact, we mustn't fight at all Carnforth was watching him from a

**************** if there's any means of wriggling out believe fighting would amoun to piracy, and piracy's too lively even noisy, we'd have some cruiser of the nose in, and that's a thing we couldn't

afford to risk at any price. "Inen how are you going to manage

"What we must hope for is to be lef undisturbed. There's every chance of The reef is out of all the steam lanes and circle tracks, and the Japs gunboat patrol is not very close. fact, the place has only been newly charted, It was found quite by acci dent by the skipper of a sea-sealing schooner, and he missed the plum because he happened to have been a brute to one of his hands."

"But I thought you said this was out of all ship tracks?"

"Don't hustle me, The schooner had been sealing off the Commander islands, She was coming home, and got into heavy weather. She was blown away three days by a gale, and picked up the surf of this reef one morning at daybreak, ran down into the lee, and lay there till the breeze was over. The reef wasn't charted and the skipper, who was 'on the make;' wondered how he could gather dividends out of in the Thursday island trade, and his with you now, and you keep me always thoughts naturally ran upon pearls and at boathook's length away from you. shell. He'd a diving suit on board, Be hanged if I see what I've done to and he rowed into the lagoon, made stiffen you." one of his crew put on the suit, and

"Now observe the result," said Carnforth with sly relish, "of being too severe on one's hands. This sailor, who was sent down in the diving-suit, had scaling schooner, and when he got on the floor of the lagoon and saw the place round him literally packed with shells that had never been touched by I suppose I can't help it." human fingers, he made up his mind that the time had come to repay old weed and mud; and the boat rowed happens." back out of the lagoon; and the

and ran away on her course. "The skipper reported the new reef, and in due course it got on the charts, started off on this expedition filled with formation. He didn't find one at once; he had to wait two years, in fact; and if he only knew what he'd lost, eh,

ture her old man hearing what he's lative poison. earning his owner's pay."

also that you're far too obstinate an considerations.

the shipping interest can fill the gap his nimble fingers, one would think for themselves, whilst to all others that they had never held anything these small questions of ways and more deadly than the ordinary utensils means would be infinitely tedious. The yacht's voyage out to Japanese walk, and stood for a moment beside

waters may also be omitted. The Eng- him. lish papers announced its commence- "Skipper," he said, "you're a queer seas to study oriental questions on the with gusto." considerable time."

The official log kept on board was mals. We always like most what we meager and scanty, being confined to get least of." arid statements of distances run and "Well, I suppose that's intended tries even these were skilfully ficti- and watched the sewing. trimly polished teak and straddled over into thunderous surf. It seemed

lieve, of course, that she was a mere were all on deck, drawn there by trader that had always been a trader. curiosity, and along one bulwark the But to the nautical eye she was unsus- watch on duty were handling the deeppicious; she looked one of those ex- sea lead. At intervals came the report, yachts that have been sold out of the trolled in a minor key, of "No bottom petticoat cruising service of Cowes, The engines were running half speed and had been adapted to the more ahead, and presently they stopped, and homely needs of the mercantile ma- the order was given for the yacht to rine; and in the Mediterranean, the lay to where she was till daybreak. A Australian seas and China waters, light breeze had sprung up, bringing there are many of this breed of craft with it a queer taint into the sweet ger. making a humble living for the own- sea air. and a little withholding of the paint something," he said at last.

Rechristening of course is but a gian port, sir?" clumsy device, and one which is (the "By Jove! yes, skipper. It's just the were through with our business here. gentle novelist notwithstanding) most same. Decaying fish. passport in the shape of "papers." here?" any custom-house; and to attempt do- ting out shell."

the alias. Carnforth laughed. "Wait a bit," said Capt. Kettle himself finished letter- whistling a jaunty tune and was star- smell a bit different to a rose garden, he. "You're going ahead too fast. ing the last of the lifebuoys and put ing keenly out at the phosphorescent Mr. Carnforth, but it'll be a sight more There's no question of fighting a whole down his brush and shook his head. blaze of the breakers as though he valuable."

deck chair. "You don't like it?" he "I never did such a thing before," said Kettle, "and I never heard of it being done and come to any good.

We're nobodies now, and it's everyone's business to meddle with a nobody. If you're a somebody, only the proper people can interfere." "I can't help it," said Carnforth. "The Vestris is well known at home, and I'm well known, too; and we've just got to see this business through one way or the other, under pursers' names. She's the Governor L. C. Wal-

throp, and I'm Mr. Martin and you can "I'll still use my own name, sir. I've carried it a good many years now through most kinds of weather, and it's had so many stones thrown at it that a few more won't hurt. If we get through with this little game, all right; if we get interrupted. I guess the only thing left will be to attend our own funerals. I'm not going to taste the inside of a

Japanese jail at any price." "I never saw such a fellow for looking at the gloomy side of things," said Carnforth Irritably,

"It's the gloomy side that's mostly come my way, sir. "I wish to goodness I'd never been idiot enough to come out here on this

"Why!" said Kettle in surprise, "you've got the remedy to your hand. You give your orders, Mr. Carnforth, and I'll boutship this minute and take

"And don't you want to go through "I don't see my tastes need be mentioned," said the sailor stiffly, "You are

my owner, sir. I'm here to do as I'm "Capt, Owen Kettle," said the other, with a laugh that had got some sour earnest at the back of it, "you're a cantankerous little beggar, I sailed with you before, and found you the In the off-sealing season he was most delightful of shipmates. I sail

> "Sir," said Kettle, "on the Sultan of Borneo you were my guest; on this yacht you are my owner; there's all the difference in the world."

"You wish to point out, I suppose that a shipmaster looks upon an ownbeen having a dog's time of it on the er as his natural enemy, as he does the board of trade, Still, I don't think I personally have deserved that." "I am as I have been made, sir, and

"You are a man with some wonderfully developed weaknesses. However, scores. So when he came up out of the as to going back, I'm not going to stulwater again, he said, sulkily enough, tify myself by doing that now. We'll that there was nothing below but sea- see the thing through now, whatever Martin Carnforth nodded curtly, and

schooner let draw her forestay sheet got up and walked the deck. He was conscious of a fine sense of disappointment and disillusionment. He had and the sailor kept holding his tongue a warm glow of romance. He had been till he could find a market for his in- grubbing along at distasteful business pursuits for the larger part of his life, and adventure, as looked at from the then he found me. I guess that skipper outside, had always lured him strongly. would be easier on his hands in future Once in Kettle's company he had tasted of the realities of adventure among Cuban revolutionists; had got back safely, and settled down to business "A shipmaster, sir, has to get the full again for a time; and then once more amount of work out of his hands, or had grown restless. He had the virus he's neglecting his duty. I can picture of adventure in his blood, and he was that schooner, Mr. Carnforth, and I pic- beginning to learn that it was a cumu-

missed, and still carrying on the driv- So, once more he had started off, but ing game. The things we have to ship this time he was being chilled from as sailors are beasts, and you have to the outside. Properly treated, the prostreat them as such; and if you can pects of the trip would have been rosy show me a master who's popular in the enough. Handled by Capt. Owen Kettle, forecastle, I can show you a man who's the whole affair was made to assume letting his hands shirk work, and not the aspect of a commercial speculation of more than doubtful sanity. And, as "H'm!" said Carnforth. "I've seen he walked, he cursed Kettle from his you handle a crew, and I know your inmost heart for bringing him to earth theories and little ways, and I know and keeping him there among sordid

animal to change your opinions in a The little mariner himself was seathurry. I've a prety strong will myself, ed in a deck chair under an awning, and so I can sympathize with you. turning in the frayed sleeve of a white However, we'll let that matter of ethics drill jacket. His sewing tackle stood in slide for the present, and go into the a pictured tin biscuit box on the deck question of ways and means"-and on beside him. He unripped the old the dry detail of this they talked till stitches with a pocket knife, and resewed the sleeves with exquisite ac-Here, however, the historian may for curacy and neatness. His fierce eyes awhile withhold his pen, since those in were intent on the work. To look at of tailoring. Carnforth broke off his

ment in one of the usual formal para- mixture. You've lived one of the most graphs: "Mr. Martin Carnforth, M.P. exciting lives any man's ever gone for the Munro division of Yorkshire, through, and yet you seem to turn your has started in his fine steam yacht, the more peaceful moments to tailoring or

Vestris, for a lengthened tour in China poetry indifferently, and enjoy them spot, and will probably be absent some "Mr. Carnforth," said the little sailor "I guess we're all discontented ani-

the ordinary meteorological happenings sum up my character as well as your of the ocean; and toward the latter en- own," said Carnforth, and sat down

tious. Indeed, when the vessel neared The mate on the yacht's upper bridge the scene of action her yellow funnel picked up the reef with his glasses changed to black with a crimson band, that evening a couple of hours after a couple of squarish yards were cross- sundown. The night was velvet black, ed on her foremost, her dainty gaff with only a few stars showing. A sulsails vanished and were replaced by len groundswell rolled the seas into serviceable trysails, and the midship oily hills and valleys, and the reefs house was soiled by the addition of a ahead showed themselves in a blaze of coat of crude white lead above the phosphorescence where the swell broke by a clumsy iron bridge defended by though the yacht was steaming toill-fitting canvas dodgers and awnings. wards the glow and din of some dis-There was no making the expert be- tant marine volcano. The watch below

ers. A couple of weeks' neglect will For a long time Carnforth had been make any brasswork look unyachtlike, snuffing diligently. "I'm sure I smell brush soon makes all small traders "It's there, said Kettle. "Have you ever been in a north country. Norwe- was speaking. If I had my way, he'd

seldom used. A ship at her birth is "There's not another stink like it on given a name, and endowed with a this earth. You know what it means couldn't have done the high-handed

Without her papers she cannot enter a "I suppose some other fellows are in who he can be, though? Some poor begcivilized port; she could not "clear" at the lagoon before us and they're rot- gar whose corns I trod on up at Cam-

ing so would be a blatant confession of "That's it," said Kettle: "and we're that beard have completely changed "Six months!" said Kettle. "That's "something wrong." So when the paint going to have our work cut out to get a him out of memory. However, if he a big order. I've no doubt that with a brushes went round, the name Vestris cargo. But we'll do it, Mr. Carnforth, chooses to come round and be civil he decent steamer and a few rifles we on counter boats and lifebuoys was ex- never you fear. I suppose there'll be can; and if he doesn't I won't worry. trouble, but that'll have to be got over. And now, captain—pearls. The sooner We've not come all this way to go back we get to work the more chance we with empty holds."

Carnforth looked at the little man and slipping away undisturbed."
slily. Here was a very different Capt. "Right-o," said Capt. Kettle. "They've Kettle from the fellow who had been got the other two sandbanks, and, by mending the white drill coat half a the stink, they're doing a roaring busicourse, if you are going to fit out a pariahs from that moment onwards, dozen hours before. He was rubbing ness. We'll bag this empty one near us real big steamboat, with a gun or two, until they should deem fit to discard his hands, his eye was bright, his and set about fishing this very hour, whole frame had stiffened. He was and plant our shell to rot there. It'll

was planning to overcome all obstacles. An hour before Martin Carnforth had been cursing the tedium of his exedition. A little chill went through him now. Before many more hours were past he had a strong notion ne would be scared at its liveliness. He had seen Capt. Kettle's methods before when things went contrary to his

plans and wishes. Slowly the night dragged through and by degrees the blackness thinned The eastern waters grew gray and the sky above them changed to dull sulphur yellow. Then a coal of crimson fire burned out on the horizon and grew quickly to a great half dish of scarlet; and then the rest of the sun was shot up, as an orange pip is slip ped from the fingers; and it was brilliant, staring, tropical day.

For full an hour the yacht had been under weigh at half steam with lead going, circling round the noisy reefs. The place was alive with the shout of breakers and the scream of seafowl. Inside, beyond the hedge of spouting waters, were three small turtlebacks of yellow sand, and a lugger at anchor.

The water outside was clear as bottle-green glass, and of enormous depth. The only entrance to the lagoon was a narrow canal between the reefs, shown up vividly by the gap in the ring of creaming surf. It was not likely that any one from the lugger would lend a hand for pilotage-or be trusted if they offered, So Kettle steamed the yacht to some half-mile off the entrance, called away the whaleboat, and went off in her himself with a crew and a couple of leadsmen to survey the channel. He did it with all deliberation; returned; took his perch in the forecrosstrees, where he could see the coral floor through the clear water beneath, and conned the yacht in himself. Carnforth leant over the bridge-end and

The coral floor with its wondrous growths came up towards him out of the deep water. The yacht rolled into the pass on the backs of the great ocean swells, and the reef-ends either side boomed like a salute heavy guns. The white froth of the surges spewed up against her sides, place grew stronger every minute.

Then she shot through into a mirror speed, and with hand lead going diligently steamed up to an anchorage in looking about him on deck.

and wearing a crumpled pith helmet color by the sun, and, dangling over his chest at the end of a piece of fine which glittered like diamonds when withal he was entirely happy. they caught the sun. He touched his helmet to Kettle. "You've brought a fine day with you,

captain," said he. "Rather warm," said Kettle. haven't looked at the glass this morning. I hope it's going to keep steady." The visitor glanced round and sized

up the yacht and its resources. "O, I should say it's likely to for the present. You've a nice little boat here, and a likely looking lot of men. You'll be having 10 of a crew all-told, captain, "Thirteen," said Kettle.

"Humph, it's an unlucky number. Well, captain, if I were you I wouldn't stay here too long. The weather's a bit uncertain, you know, in these seas." "We want some pearls and shell be- natural boundary and neither transfore we go." "I might have guessed that. Well, it's

a nuisance from our point of view, be- for the present, and each party toiled cause we thought we'd the lagoon to with the same frantic energy, and ourselves if the Japs didn't interrupt. But, take the tip, captain, and don't be too greedy. If you stay too long, the glass may fall suddenly and-"

from no man living." lessly. "But who have we here?" And he stuck the glass into his eye and them all had leisure to be curious about

Capt. Kettle made a formal introduc-

used to be Carnforth up at Cambridge, more the profit. They ripped the shells didn't you? Mr. Carnforth, I remem- from the sea and spread them upon ber, and M. might possibly stand for the beaches. The roasting sun beat

Capt. Kettle smiled grimly and Carn- ed away their soft tissues in horrible Martin."

and talk. By the way, it's awfully rude its score of pounds, or the great pear-

you are." there, and you weren't. You did your bad. best to torment my life out. I took a life. You got plowed and became a little enough in common; and, besides,

have a cocktail." "Thanks, no. I prefer not to be un- before their eyes. der the tie of bread and salt with-ertrade rivals." He dropped his eyeglass and walked to the head of the accommodation ladder. "Look here, Master Carnforth," he said, "I'll give you a useful tip. Clear out!" Then he went down into his whaleboat, and the brown men pulled him back to the lug-

"Curse that beggar's impudence," said Carnforth, hotly, "I wonder who

the deuce he is?" "Maybe we'll find out," said Kettle. "I tried to catch your eye whilst he be on board now, kept snug till we

He'd have been a lot safer that way.' "O. no!" said Carnforth. like that on the little he said. Wonder bridge. Well, anyway, 20 years and have of getting a cargo under hatches



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Then began a period of frantic toil upon her deck planks. The stink of the and labor. Every man on board was "on shares," for it had pleased Carnforth's whim to use this old bucanof still, smooth water, slowed to half- neer's inventive. Half of the profits went to the ship, and the rest to the crew. Each man had so many shares, 16 fathoms off one of the sandy islets. according to his rating. Carnforth him-A white whaleboat put off from the self, in addition to his earnings as ownlugger, rowed by three Kanakas, and er, earned also as an ordinary seaman, by the time the yacht's cable was and sweated, and strained like any of bitted, a man from her had stepped up the hands. From an hour before daythe accommodation ladder, and was break to an hour after sunset he was away in the boats, under the dews of He was a biggish man in striped pa- morn and eve, or the blazing torrent jamas, barefooted, roughly-bearded, of midday sunshine. Every night he tumbled into his bed-place dog-tired, well down on the back of his head. His and exulting in his tiredness. Every face was burnt to a fine mahogany morning he woke eager for the fierce toil. He was unshaven, sunburned, blood-smeared from the scratches of sennit, were gold-rimmed eyeglasses the shell, filthy with rank sea mud. But

Kettle toiled with equal vigor, working violently himself, and violently exhorting the others. Neither his arms nor his tongue were ever tired. But he was always neat, and seldom unclean. Dirt seemed to have an antipathy for the man, and against his dishevelled owner, he looked like a park dandy beside a ragpicker.

At the other side of the lagoon the white man from Cambridge, and a white friend, and their crew of 10 Kanakas, worked with similar industry. The ring of the lagoon was some half mile in diameter, with lanes of deep water running through its floor where divers could not work. There was no clashing of the two parties. One of these water lanes seemed to set out a gressed it. On each submarine territory there was enough shell to work on spread out the shell on the sunbaked sandbanks, and poisoned heaven with the scent of decay. But there was no further intercourse between the 'two "Take care, my lad," snapped Ke:- bodies of men, nor indeed any attempt tle, "I'm a man that accepts threats at it. How the others were doing, the yacht's party neither knew nor cared. "O, all right," said the stranger care- Theirs was a race against time for wealth, and not one striver among

his neighbors. In a nicer life, the smells of the place ; tion. "My owner, sir, Mr. Martin of would have offended them monstrously; here they were a matter for congratu-"Humph!" said the visitor; "you lation. The more the putrefaction, the upon the spread out shellfish and melt-

"Bit of a surprise to find you pearl- The value was all a gamble. There poaching, Carnforth. I see your name might be merely so much mother-o'in the Australian papers now and pearl for inlay work; or seed pearls again, and got a notion you were such as the Chinese grind up for medisomething big at home. Had a bust- cine; or larger pearls of any size and color and shape, from the humble "No," said Carnforth. "I'm all right opalescent sphere worth its merger there. Come below and have a drink half-a-crown, to the black pearl worth of me; I haven't tumbled yet to who shaped pink pearl worth a prince's ransom. It was all a gamble, but none the "Never mind my name," said the less fascinating for that. Carnforth was visitor coolly. "I don't suppose you'd mad over the work; Kettle, with all

remember me. I was a reading man up his nonchalance gone, was nearly as But the process of realizing their big degree and made a fizzle of after- wealth was none too fast, and, in fact, seemed to them tedious beyond words. commercial success. So, you see, we've Every filled shell, with its latest possibilities of treasure lying out there upon I was here first, and resent your com- the sand, was so much capital left in a perilously insecure investment. They "O, rubbish, man! Come below and were so bitterly afraid of interruptions. The dark shadow of Japan was always

Still at last came the first moment of realization. They had toiled a month, and they had collected that day the fruits of their first day's labor. The mother-o'-pearl shell was packed in the hold: the little crop of pearls stood in a basin on the cabin table, and they gloated over them as they supped. Carnforth stirred them lovingly with

the butt of his fork. "Pretty little peas, aren't they, skipper?' "For those they amuse, though I like to see a bit more color in a woman's ornaments myself."

"Matter of taste and matter of fashion. Pearls are all the rage just now. but women will spend their money on ness more than once during that ly attended to. Satisfaction Char something, and so the price of pearls is month of savage toil. "So much the better for us, sir. It's a

pity, though some of them seem a bit pounds' worth, in fact. But they did off color, like that big gray chap for in- not lament. There would be an enor-"Gray, man! Why, that's a black pearl, and probably worth any ten of wealth, however, never came. During "Well," said Kettle, "I don't set up lagoon and upset all their plans. She

for being a pearl merchant. Poaching was the consort of the lugger comhem's trouble enough for me." "Pass the biscuit, will you?" said she had taken away to a safe place Carnforth, yawning. "I suppose that their first crop of pearls and shell. Furlittle lot-is worth-worth-anything ther she was manned by 14 whites all over—a thousand pound;" and with armed, and all quite ready to defend that he dropped back dead asleep in what they considered their poachers' his chair with a forkful of food in mid- monopoly. As a consequence they pull-air. Captain Kettle finished his meal, ed across to the yacht some two hours but he, too, man of wire though he was, before daybreak, and Carnforth and uddenly tumbled forward and went to Capt. Kettle found themselves waked deep with his head on the table. It was by three men, who carried Marlin reno new thing for them to do. They had peating rifles, and were quite ready to

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"a kes shaving a pleasure,"

LINDSAY

dropped off like this into unconscious

The next day they had a smaller crop

ready to glean-a bare five hundred

use them if pressed

Surcingles

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cowed. "By James!" he cried, "this is

"It'll be a funeral." said the man with the eyeglass, "if you don't bring your hand out from under that pillow, and bring it out empty. Now, don't risk it skipper. I'm a good snap shot myself, and this is only a two-pound trigger. Capt. Kettle did not chuck his life away uselessly. He let go his revolver and drew out his hand, "Well," he said, "what are you grimy pirates going to do next? By the look of you, you've

"Carnforth," shouted the man with (Continued on Page 3.4)

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J. J. WETHERUP

JOSEPH MEEHAN

But the little sailor was not easily

mous quantity ready for the morrow. That further realization of their piracy! the night another lugger sailed into the manded by the Cambridge man, and come here to steal our soap and hair-

the eyeglass, "come in here and be told what's going to happen. I say, you