By Guy Boothby.

level. to her, she bowed to me, turned on her just then, lying along the deck.

amusement. Like the sultan of Surabaya prisoner. And by what a simple ruse I had been caught. By all that was reasonable in woman, however, what pos-

£3,000, and what earthly use could that be to a woman who was known to deal in millions? But perhaps, I reflected, it was not money she was after; perhaps she had some other desperate game to play-some other move in that wonderful life of hers in which my science could be of use to her and the nature of which I could not be expected to fathom. Situated as I was, she could compel me to do her bidding if she pleased o make it extremely awkward for me if felt it my duty to refuse.

You will doubtless have noticed that smallpox epidemic. The notion of that island with the raging pestilence probably only existed in the fertile brain of the man who had been sent to induce me to leave Hongkong. But in that case -and here the original argument wheeled back upon me-what possible advantage could accrue to her through abducting me? There were hundreds of richer men in Hongkong. Why had not one of them been chosen? But as the more I thought it out the further seemed to be from getting at the truth of it, I gave the problem up and turned my thoughts in another direction.

As I did so I heard somebody coming along the deck. This time it was a man's footstep; so I looked out to see who it might be. It was Walworth, the individual who had visited me in Hongkong and enticed me away. He was dressed in European habiliments now and carried a cigarette in his hand Seeing that I was aware of his presence, he came across to the hammock and held out his hand.

"Good morning, doctor!" he said cheerily enough. "I'm glad to see you're better. All things considered, you've had a nasty time of it since you said what purpose they were intended, my goodby to the Victoria hotel, haven't guide again laughed and said:

"A pretty cheeky way of putting it, considering he was the cause of it all, thought to myself. "However, I'll give him a Roland for his Oliver. He shall not think I'm wanting in pluck."

"You have certainly contrived a good many stirring adventures for my entertainment, I must say," I answered aloud. "But will you tell me one thing -why did you not let me know in Hongkong who my hostess would turn out to be?"

"Because in that case you would probably have informed the police, and we should not then have been able to give ourselves the pleasure of your company and assistance."

"Well, all I can say is I am sorry you didn't try for higher game while you were about it, for even with that five hundred you gave me your leader will only get a sop for her pains. You can't force blood out of a stone, can you?" He seated himself in the chair she

had occupied and lit a fresh cigarette. Having done so, he continued: "I don't know that I quite follow

"Well, I don't think I could make it much plainer without being absolutely rade. The long and the short of it is, Mr. Walworth, if it's money you're after-why not have gone in for a pigeon better worth plucking?"

"But then we're not after the money. you see. Why should I have paid you that £500 eise? No. Dr. De Normanville, you need have no fear on that score—our intive was perfectly honest. We are on our way to the island now where the smallpox exists, and, believe me, when your work is accomplished you will be conveyed safely back to your hotel. I can't say more than that. Play fair by us and we'll play fair by you. In the meantime we shall hope to make your stay with us as pleasant as

possible." breathed freely again. I was not abducted. I was only wanted in my professional capacity after all. Well, that was a relief. I was in a unique position, for it vas evident I was not only to be permitted the opportunity of making the Beautiful White Devil's acquaintance, but I was to be well paid for doing so. In the first freedom from anxiety I began to look forward with

almost pleasure to what lay before me. "Don't you think you could get up for a little while?" Walworth said,

when he had finished his smoke. would do you good. Let me help you.

With his assistance I scrambled out of the hammock into a cane chair alongside the companion hatch. I was still very weak and incapable of much exertion. There could be no doubt that I had lost a good deal more blood than I had at first imagined.

Once seated in the chair, I looked about me. I was now permitted a full and uninterrupted view of the vessel and was able to make good use of my "And that is"- I said, trying in eves. Roughly sneaking that is to say wain to keep my voice down to a steady as far as I could tell, not being a nautical man, she must have been a topsail "The Beautiful White Devil," she schooner of about 300 tons burden, with answered, with another of her peculiar auxiliary steaming power, for I could smiles, and then, calling her bulldog see the funnel, which was not in use thing you say or do. If you act fairly beel and went slowly aft along the deck. | what part of the world she had been but if you play her false you're a dead So my thoughtless wish was gratified | built I could not tell, but wherever it after all. I had now seen the Beautiful was she did credit to her designer, for White Devil face to face, and, what her lines were perfection, and nothing sence in Hongkong has delayed my work was more to the point, I was likely to short of it. If ever a boat were built sadly. And there goes eight bells." be compelled to see more of her than I for speed she was that one, and I said should consider necessary for my own as much to my companion, who laughed.

and Vesey of Hongkong, I was now her be answered. "But then, you see, no do with myself, I went back to my other boat but the fastest built would chair. A tall man with a gray beard suit her ladyship. Believe me, there are close cropped, sharp glittering eyes and times when even the Lone Star is pretty sible advantage could she hope to gain | well put to it to throw dust in her ene. ever, by what looked like a saber cut by abducting me? At the very most, I mies' eyes. If you feel strong enough, could not lay my hands on more than shall we take a walk round and examine

> There was nothing I should have liked more, so, taking the arm he offerdecks, which were flush fore and aft, laying pins, shone till you could see like to ask. your face in them. Not a detail seemed to have been overlooked. Even the great actual use, flemish coiled upon the decks. She carried six boats, an unusually large number for a craft of her size; two were surfboats, I found on inspection; two were uncollapsible lifeboats; one was an ordinary ship's gig, while the other was a small steam launch o excellent build and workmanship. For a craft of 300 tons her spars were enormous; her topmast head must have been 150 feet from her deck, if an inch, while from her rig for ard I could guess the amount of extra canvas she was ca pable of carrying. Walking to the side, I discovered that she was painted white, with a broad gold stripe a little above the water line; below this she was sheathed with copper, which shone like gold whenever the water left it.

Inside the bulwarks, and reaching to within an inch of the scuppers, were some contrivances that caused me a con siderable amount of curiosity. At first glance they looked like reversible shop shutters more than anything else, being about 6 feet long by 3 wide, and were attached to the rail of the bulwarks by enormous hinges. On my asking for

"You must not ask too many questions, my friend, for obvious reasons. In this case, however, and since you have given your word not to tell what you may see, I will explain."

Detaching the catch of one, he lifted it from the deck and threw it over the side, where it hung, just reaching to the top of the copper below water.

"Do you grasp the idea?" he continued. "The next one fits into that, and the next one into that again, and so on



Taking the arm he offered me, we set off. all round the boat. You see, they can be attached in no time, and when they are once fixed, the shape of the mast. altered, the funnel differently cased or done away with altogether, the character of her bows and stern changed beyond recognition by another appliance, she can be three different crafts inside of 24 hours."

This, then, accounted for the number of different vessels the Beautiful White Devil was supposed to possess. I began to understand the marvelous escapes more clearly now.

"And whose idea was this ingenious invention?" I ventured to ask.

"Like most of our things, her ladypoems in the original.

ship's own," he replied, "and wonder-", fully successful it has proved."

"And shall I be presuming too much on your good nature if I seek to learn

something of the lady berself?" "Ah, I'm afraid there I cannot satisfy your curiosity," he answered, shaking his head. "We have strict instructions on that point, and there's not a man aboard this ship who values his life so little as to dream of disobeying. One piece of advice I will give you, however, for the sake of what we went as she looked then. She had discarded through together yesterday. Take care how you behave toward her. In spite of her quiet demeanor and frank, artless manner she sees, takes in and realizes the motive and importance of every-In toward her, she will act fairly by you, man. Remember that. Now you must excuse me if I go to my duties. My ab

As the silvery voice of a bell chimed out from the forecastle he left me and "There can be no doubt about that," | went below. Hardly knowing what to a not unhandsome face, marred, howextending from the left temple to his chin, resigned the deck to another officer and went below.

While the watch was being changed I had an opportunity of examining the ed me, we set off. The first thing that crew. They were nearly all natives, attracted my attention was the spotless | smart, intelligent looking fellows, and neatness and cleanliness prevailing. The excellently disciplined. Whether they were Dyaks or Malays, however, I had were as white as curds; the brasses on the not sufficient experience to determine, wheel, capstans, masts, skylights, be. and for more than one reason I did not

But at that moment my reverie was interrupted by the appearance of a neatsheets of canvas, bellying into balloons | ly clad steward, who in broken English above our heads, appeared at first sight | presented me with an invitation from to have been lately washed, while the her ladyship to tiffin in the saloon in I had quite abandoned the idea of the very ropes were white and, when not in half an hour. This was an unexpected honor, and one which, you may be sure, I did not hesitate to accept. I wanted, however, to make a suitable toilet first. but where to do it puzzled me, for so far as I knew no cabin had yet been apportioned to me. I placed my difficulty before an officer who was standing near me. He said something in native dialect to the steward, who replied, and then turned again to me.

> cabin next to Mr. Walworth's, he says, and if you will follow him he will conduct you to it."

main companion (I afterward discovered | tion of the audience, but what was ladies and gentlemen on their way to the that the one aft was sacred to her lady. ship) as requested and found myself in a large messroom, in which three officers were seated at lunch. On either side a number of fair sized berths were situated. The one set apart for me was nearest the companion and contained a bunk, a small settee and locker combined, a washstand basin and a place esting to know, always had a free pass ter's dress and severely burning her face for hanging clothes. The first opera- The play lasted two hours on an avertion was to shave, a bath followed, to age, and, considering the noise and the which another steward conducted me, smells which accompanied the performafter which I returned to my berth, ance, one was, Mr. Collins presumed, dressed my wound, and, having selected not sorry when "the actors dropped on clean suit of white ducks, attired their knees to pray for the queen." myself and repaired on deck.

Punctual to the stroke of two bells (1 o'clock) I was summoned to the after saloon by my first messenger. I followed him, and descending the companion, the scantling of which was prettily picked out in white and gold, found myself in her ladyship's own quarters. There was no one present, and I must own I was glad of that, for I wanted an opportunity to look about me.

would be difficult to do adequate jus- red gold in the sunshine and verdure of reconsider his decision, was defeated, and tice to the cabin in which I found my- English scenery. Their horns are almost self, but for the better understanding of | white, their eyes and muzzles of jet | my story I must endeavor to give you black, their throats white and their some description of it. In the first place, you must understand that the compan- spotted with round dots of purest white. ion ladder opened directly into the sa- It is worth a pilgrimage to Woburn to loon itself. This otherwise common- see these deer alone. They breed conplace effect was, however, rendered stantly, sometimes producing two fawns most artistic by a heavy pile of carpet in the twelvementh. - Spectator. which covered the steps and by the curtains which draped the entrance and the portholes. More of the same noiseless carpet covered the floor, while light said a man of mature years, "as I grow was supplied from ports on either side older I rather welcome them. They blot and from a richly decorated skylight in out the old cares completely and so the deck above. The effect of the thick | show how unsubstantial they were, and butt of the mainmast was entirely taken | I know that in due course these new away by a number of artfully contrived | cares will be supplanted by others and and molded Japanese mirrors, which, will as completely give way to them. besides fulfilling their original purpose, Thus I am constantly reminded that gave an additional air of light and ele- our cares really don't amount to much, gance to the room. The walls, which except as we imagine them great, and were exquisitely paneled and molded I expect to see the day when I shall in ivory and gold, were loaded with give but scanty room to them and not bric-a-brac of every description, includ- | be disturbed by them at all."-New ing much china and many pictures of York Sun. rare value, while deep chairs and couches, Turkish and Indian divans, piles of soft cushions and furs were scattered about here and there, as if inviting the cabin's occupants to an existence of continual repose. A grand piano stood in one corner, firmly cleated to the deck; on the bulkhead above it were an exquisitely inlaid Spanish guitar and a Hungarian zither, while above them again were several fine specimens of the old Venetian lute. Altogether a more luxurious and beautifully furnished apartment it has never been my good fortune to behold, and I settled myself down in a comfortable chair prepared to spend a really critical and enjoyable time. Then a daintily bound volume, open on a cushion near where I sat, attracted my attention. I took it up to

"So my lady understands German and reads Heine, too, does she?" I said BRITAIN OUGHT TO SEIZE IT

But I was prevented saying what I would do by the drawing aside of a curend of the saloon and the entrance of my hostess herself. If she were capable of such a weakness, my astonishment must have flattered her, for, prepared as I was to see a beautiful woman, I had no idea she would prove as lovely the close fitting white dress she had worn earlier in the day and was now attired in some soft clinging fabric of a dark color, which not only brought out all the lines of her superb figure, but Charles Beresford has arrived in this city rendered her even more attractive than with important data gathered in a jourbefore. There must have been a quanti- ney of several months through the Chity of jet scattered about the costume, nese Empire. for I was conscious of a shimmering sensation which accompanied her every portunity permitted me now of seeing Yangtse Valley. what a beautiful face it really was and how exquisitely her head was set upon her shoulders. Her hands and feet were very small, as was her mouth, while her ears were like shells tucked into fragrant nests against her head. But the glory that eclipsed all others was the wealth of golden hair that crowned her. Such hair I have never seen before or since. It seemed to have caught all the sunshine of the world and to be jealous of dispersing it again.

Once more, as if to afford as great a contrast as possible to so much loveliness, the same ferocious bulldog followed at her heels, and when she approached me stood regarding me with calmly

scrutinizing eyes. "Welcome to my cabin, Dr. De Normanville," she said, coming over to me and holding out her tiny hand with a frank gesture. "I am delighted to see that you are looking so much better."

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

The Stage In Shakespeare's Time. John Churton Collins, the distinguished essayist and Quarterly Reviewer, has been lecturing on the theater of then was of wood, circular or hexago- be enormously cheapened. nal in form, being modeled externally on the general structure of the old amphitheaters for bull and bear baiting. The Latest Species of Criminal the Old "Your traps have been placed in a interior was fashioned after the manner of an inn yard. The pit was scorched by the sun, while the actors were protected by a thatched penthouse. The I followed the steward down the scenery was supplied by the imaginalacking in scenery was made up in noise and bustle, things being kept very lively in that direction. The most numerous class among the audience were roist-

ering prentices. On the stage and in other parts were writers and actors. These, it is inter-

The Cheetul.

The axis, or cheetul, deer of the Indian jungle can claim to be the most ornamental of all the 36 races of deer to be seen gathered together at Woburn. In the early summer, when all the other deer except the wapiti are either shedding their horns or "in the velvet, the axis are in perfection, both of color and antlers. The large herd of this spe-In the small space I can allot to it, it | cies looks as if carved out of ivory and backs and sides a brilliant golden tan,

Welcoming Fresh Cares.

"As far as fresh cares are concerned,

Blind Reading.

By a system of numeral type invented by Rev. W. H. Murray of Peking, originally a Scotch workman, the blind people of China are now taught to read and write in less than three months, and this in spite of the fact that there are 408 distinct sounds in the Chinese language. By a special adaptation of this system the blind are now actually teaching sighted pupils to read.

In some of the European art galleries the dust is removed from the paintings and statuary by means of an air pump, a jet of air being thrown with great force against the article which needs

known language.

tain that covered a door at the farther Kiangning Strongest Point Controlling Yangtse Valley.

> Admiral Lord Charles Beresford Has Gathered Data Which Proves This to Be the Strategic Point of Greatest Value to Great Britain in Holding Her Sphere of Influence Intact-Other News by Cable.

> Shanghai, Dec. 17.-Admiral Lord

One of the most emphatic of his recommendations to the British Government as a result of his trip will be the necessity movement. She carried herself with a of occupying Kiangning, as the strongest truly regal air, and I had a better op- strategic point for the control of the Lord Beresford has been exploring

> China as the representative of British commercial bodies, to report on the best means of protecting and extending British interests in the Chinese Empire.

> He will make a tour of America before returning to England. From Shanghai he will proceed to Tokio and Yokohama, Japan, hence passage will be taken to San Francisco.

SIR SANDFORD FLEMING'S IDEA.

Wants State-Owned Cables Connecting All British Possessions.

London, Dec. 17 .- The morning newspapers print a letter addressed to the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies, by Sir Sandford Fleming, chancellor of Queen's University, Canada, and a leading expert in telegraph communication and the unification of time reckoning throughout the world, advocating the adoption of a system of state-owned cables connecting every British possession, and all Great Britain's naval coaling stations.

Sir Sandford Fleming proposes three sections of cables, in the Pacific, Indian and Atlantic Oceans, and estimates their cost at £6,000,000. The first step he suggests is a state owned Pacific cable. He contends that if his proposals were Shakespeare's time. The typical theater carried out, the cost of cabling would

VIENNA'S VITRIOL FIEND.

World Has Developed.

Vienna, Dec. 17 .- A vitriol thrower is the latest species of criminal in this city. The miscreant hides behind doorways in dark streets and selects the best dressed theatres as his victims.

The police have received numerous complaints of dresses ruined by the destructive acid so thrown. Herr Muhlberger, a Government official, reported last night that a man suddenly jumped from a doorway in front of himself and fashionable dandies, swashbucklers, daughter and threw vitriol from a large bottle all over them, ruining his daughand hands. Another complainant was Frau Amalia Sieger, the wife of a prom-

HARCOURT'S RESIGNATION.

Resolution of Regret Passed by the National Liberal Federation.

Birmingham, Eng., Dec. 17 .- At the meeting yesterday of the National Liberal Federation Mr. Spence Watson moved a resolution expressing deep regreat at Sir William Vernon Harcourt's resignation of the leadership of the Liberal party, tendering heartfelt thanks for his brilliant services and expressing pleasure at the fact that he will continue to devote his pre-eminent powers to the cause of Liberalism.

An amendment, asking Sir William to Mr. Spence Watson's resolution was adopted almost unanimously.

A motion to consider the leadership of the Liberal party was withdrawn.

MENELIK FAVORS ITALY.

He Grants Humbert a Concession on the Frontier and Britain Agrees.

Rome, Dec. 17.-Admiral Canevaro. the Minister of Foreign Affairs, admitted in the House of Deputies yesterday that King Menelik had agreed to the frontier Italy demanded on condition that if the hinterland be abandoned it shall be included in Abyssinia. The agreement has the assent of England.

Rebellion Is Getting Serious.

Cairo, Dec. 17 .- The native rebellion against the Turks in Yemen, a chief division of Arabia, is becoming formidable. Thirty thousand Turkish troops have been mobilized in the district.

Mahdi Dinin, the insurgent chief, is said to resemble the Mahdi, the Mohammedan warrior-prophet, in religious fanaticism, and rules his followers despotically.

It was a similar outbreak 15 years ago, under the Mahdi, that swept the Soudan and ended in the massacre of Gordon at Khartoum. Aden, the chief town of Yemen, is English.

A New Train Service.

St. Catharines, Dec. 19. - Arrangements have been made by the Niagara Central Railway to commence a new hourly passenger service between this place and Niagara Falls. The freight and passenger service are to be kept distinctively separate, so as not to inconvenience passengers while shunting. The service will connect both ways with Michigan Central trains. Next week will see the repair work completed and operations will also be commenced to extend the N.C.R. to Port Dalhousle. By an arrangement with the Michigan Central King is the most ancient of titles. It, the N.C.R. will be able to reduce its find that it was a volume of Heine's or its equivalent, is found in every passenger rates between St. Catharines and any point on the former road.