All R. Mr

No. 48

Indian Chief into port."

ly into the steamer lane. All you

need do is keep steerage way, and wait

until you are picked up. You don't

imagine we want you sailing into the

harbor at St. Johns the same time

we get there, do you? Come on now;

stop this talk, and give us an answer."

less, staring out through the open port

my best course was to at least pretent

at the sunlit waters. It seemed to me

to yield to their wishes. To acquiesce

dom on board, an opportunity to learn to yourself."

For a long moment I stood motion-

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Going East-7.36 a.m., and 4.08 p.m. Going West-12.55 a.m., and 4.38 p.m.

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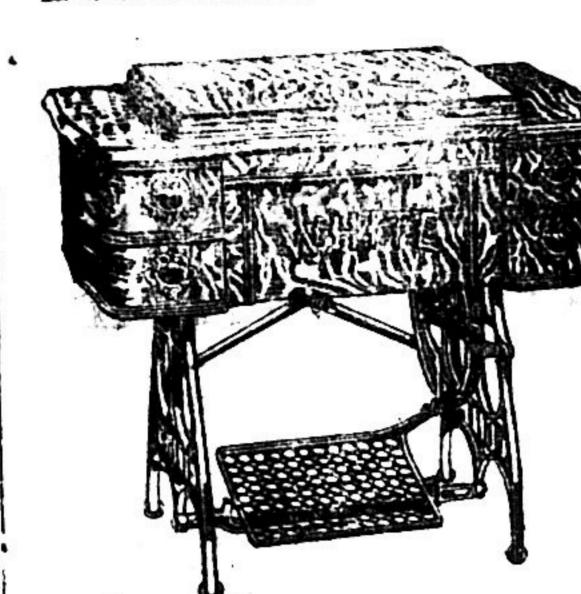
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A Romance of the North Atlantic

Author of "My Lady of the North," "Maid of the Forest," etc.

- Hoosessessessessesses "Is this true, Red? Have you feld lows held council?" "Some ov us have," he said sullenly.

it all over with Mr. McCann here, an' course, and report to you when the ves- pleted at last, and I lifted my eyes agreed what wus best. That's why sel is at the place you designate. That 'to McCann's gaze. the two ov us come ter see you." "Unless I consent to sign a report I have your pledge that the ship will showing your desertion of the ship be left in good condition, with all who "You are sure this is correct?" justified, you propose to sink the In- are loyal safe on board?" dian Chief?" "You an' Bascom-both ow yer."

"You'd report our condition ashore?" take to the boats."

drift would be southard, an' would shoe pinches!" matter-of-fact I no longer doubted this her stateroom; to eat alone if she "Two hundred and ten miles to the dare to leave us affoat, to be picked up even this measure of success." there was a big storm." aboard as she desires."

"See here, Red," and I drew a paper from the drawer of the desk. "Do you fellows realize the value of this ship, and the cargo below hatches?"

"We don't give a darn." "Well, you better, for it's a tidy body." the Indian Chief at Hamburg."

"Who'll pay it?" "The owner, within ten days of land-"An' if we get snapped up by an I refused to navigate the vessel, leav- "of our going farther north?" English or French cruiser on the way ing the ship to drift blindly through

worth more than fifty thousand to me essary instruments from the swinging for you if you are needed again on plan of Fergus McCann."



"Your Price is Too Low, Hollis." to get back to New York. So now, will . you help us quietly, or shall we have

"That you work out an observation had taken place on board the ship. tain point has been reached." "What point?"

"Fifty miles northeast of St. Johns." "And then what happens?" "We will take to the boats, and leave you and your officers to do what you please with the ship." "Are all the crew with you in this enoug The eyes of the two men met, and "They'll all do what we say; there's

the exact conditions, and might enable Realizing that silence was my best come. me to save the ship from destruction. weapon, I made no response, but "Why-I thought; they told me-oh!

As to McCann, he had some object in climbed the stairs. The decks were I am so glad!" all this far more important than ap- clean—had evidently been scrubbed "They told you what?" peared on the surface. He was never that morning, and nowhere could I "Why, nothing direct. But there was assuming this risk, or investing all perceive any signs that the ship was fighting last night. I—I heard the this money in an illegal cause, without in the hands of mutineers. Liverpool struggle on deck, and then here in the a more serious purpose than an idle gripped my shoulder. desire to return to New York. He "Up the ladder with you," he or my room I encountered McCann and was taking a tremendous chance, driv- dered. "There's too little time left for some of the crew. They were dragging

by some impulse I could not com- gaping about here." . prehend. What was the secret—hate, There were two men at the wheel, was all blood." revenge, greed, love? I would find although one could have attended to "You were not injured?" out sometime; but now I could only the service, as the ship was at halfgrope in the dark, guessing at his mo- speed, and the sea far from heavy. I threatened me, but McCann interfered, tives. Yet I knew this—his promises recognized both faces, but couldn't re- and thrust me back into the stateroom. were lies. He would make use of me; call their names; the shorter fellow, He told me to lock the door, and not he would induce me to pilot the ship deeply pitted, exhibited a fresh scar to make any noise. I-I thought they to the spot he desired to attain on the where I had struck him with my boot- had killed you." broad bosom of the ocean, and then- heel the night before. He grinned good- "Well, they tried hard enough, but, what? The man would never be fool naturedly, and pointed to the bruised as you see, I am very much alive still. enough to permit the Indian Chief to flesh, as I caught his eye. White was They trapped me in the forecastle. sail into any harbor to accuse him of evidently the temporary officer in Do you know what has become of the such a crime. Back of all his words, charge, and the brutality of his face others?" his explanations, his apparent fair- was clearly revealed in the bright light ness, lurked treachery. I felt it, and as he leaned against the rail. How- "What I've told is all I know. Those

at the zenith. The others stood around concealing nothing. At the last she "I cannot conceive that I have much silent, watching as I figured out our asked: choice," I said quietly. "It is to either position on the back of an old envedo this in freedom, or under compul- lope. I took my time at it, not only sion. Naturally I prefer the former." from my own anxiety to be accurate, 'Yes; I will figure out the proper my mind, yet the calculation was com-

is all that is asked of me. In return I gave him the figures. "As sure as I can be the chronometer hasn't been corrected since the "There is one more condition, Me ship left Baltimore; except for possible variations on that account, the figures are right. Spread out the chart.

"After we started up the engines toward St. Johns." men, until the time comes for you to sails?" "Nothin' was said about that. Yer "Hah! So that is really where the again; while we had all hands on

"We will not quarrel about it-either "Well," I announced, after a mothe sails ter give the nooker steerage with the present position is just about here, wracked seamen tall their storm and misfortune along other lines. Why should I not have confidence in what to you mean by unmotested, pretty close with the negating. Our other harbor. They must land as ship-way. We figured we'd be safe unless. "What do you mean by unmolested? pretty close with the figuring. Our the Indian Chief into that, or any lessly. McCann took the compasses from my then quickly disappear." "That is to be left to her choice.

to be their final decision. I played my prefers, and to see such associates northern extremity of Newfoundland— by some vessel?" "A trifle more, I should say." "This is St. Johns here; what south-"That ain't the argyment." he said

easily. "So far as I see, that don't ing does that give?" change things none. She's locked here self in anyhow, an' won't answer notion as to have no desire for further decided to go—the one port meant the Cann." argument. I could be of no possible same to me as another. McCann got "Why not Fergus McCann?"

shelf, and, with these in my hands, deck." "I am expected to keep below?" fact that I was any longer a prisoner, you attempt to converse with any of he was in the boat?" "Bring the chart, one of you, and I'll the crew, you will be locked in."

I passed them without a word, and to scuttle the vessel?" clambered down the ladder to the main "Just hold on a minute," and Liver- deck, aware of the grinning faces of pool, blocking the doorway, pushed me the men at the wheel. Humilinting as back with his nuge hand. We is the situation was, this was verification of my own secret suspiparty, I will take upon myself to exright now, mister, that yer the captain of revolt. White crossed over to the cion. of this ship Indian Chief. Blast yer! rail and watched until I vanished with ye ain't nuthin'; an' if yer attempt to in the companion. I realized his pres- "although I had no thought of telling play us any dirty tricks, I'll smash ence without so much as glancing up you." foot of the stairs, a sudden eagerness have considered what to do?" He to speak to Vera, to explain to her the

aside, "I just wanted him ter know. 1 don't kill nobody in cold blood; but I'm goin' ter take keer of myself an' my mates. Yer git me, skipper?" "Yes, I get you," I answered a bit "So let it go at that, my man;

Liverpool laughed drunkenly.

wrned toward the door.

that right, Mr. McCann?"

I know the time to fight, and the time to keep quiet. Now let's go on deck."

CHAPTER XVIII.

Except for the absence of the regular officers from their stations, I should not have known any especial change a day, and set the ship's course Outwardly everything appeared about pool, with McCann trailing behind. The latter paused to insert the key into the lock of the door, and I indulged in one swift glance about the spartment. Bascom occupies his own state-

"And Miss Carrington retains hers: "We are not here to be interviewed, Hollis," broke in McCann sharply. "Go



would insure me a measure of free gong on deck, and keep your tongue The key turned, and she stood facing me, her eyes filled with startled wel-

500 PURPOSES

cabin; and when I started to leave

"No; the big man with the red hair

She shook her head. knew it, and the very suspicion led me ever, I had scarcely time to more than villains have control of the ship?" to reach swift decision. My eyes met glance about, as the sun was already I related the story to her swlitly, him, executing a mocking curtsey.

"That is all? You know no more?" Then the others must be alive, and

"I believe so; they would not kill if rassing." possible to avoid it, as such a crime "Stop the play-acting," he burst have gladly received your advice. You would render their own case more des- forth, advancing about the stair rail. were my father's friend."

"What-what are you going to do?" a direct answer?" I confessed. "I have had no time to eyes, but there was not the slightest made him instantly her victim. think, and my head still throbs so from falter to her voice. blows that I hardly realize the situa- "Captain Hollis," she said softly, al- you would have listened?" tion. I cannot hope to fight these men most regretfully, "had asked me if—if "Most assuredly. How could you

"You believe they will take to the boats, and leave us aboard?" ment of measuring, "that would tally course. They would never dare sail deliberate lies; then he laughed mirth- you have been a guest in our home,

longer, the three men talking earnest- board to drown like rats. That would stood me before, but now he felt conlonger, the three men taiking earnest- board to drown like rais. That would vinced that under all the veneer I was nature to doubt his own attractiveness.

McCann growled something which I ly while I left them, and walked over be too horrid a crime for this age.

Sis kind; and he instantly felt that "I—I—you surprise me," he stamtook to be assent, and I was myself to the starboard rail. It was of no White and Liverpool might be brutal

over, all we'd ever get would be a jail. these unknown waters, exposed to go the source of the stantily to peril, I would be guilty of course would be source of me at principally gamblers and rounders. He no longer captain of this ship. I am:

That sorter plan don't make no hit stantily to peril, I would be guilty of course would be source wanted of me at principally gamblers and rounders. He no longer captain of this ship. I am: "Not if your port is St. Johns; the "Gentlemen!" she echoed the word will recall that circumstances have ton alone." That sorter plan don't make no hit with me nor my mates. We've talked with me nor my mates. We've talked is notorious in New York, and his and I will say what I placed on hoard a failure to do my duty almost as there anything more wanted of me at principally gamblers and rounders. He no longer captain of this ship—I am; is notorious in New York, and his and I will say what I placed on hoard is notorious in New York, and his and I will say what I placed on hoard a failure to do my duty almost as there anything more wanted of me at principally gamblers and rounders. He no longer captain of this ship—I am; is notorious in New York, and his and I will say what I placed on hoard is notorious in New York, and his and I will say what I placed on hoard is notorious in New York, and his and I will say what I placed on hoard is notorious in New York, and his and I will say what I placed on hoard is notorious in New York, and his and I will say what I placed on hoard is notorious in New York, and his and I will say what I placed on hoard is notorious in New York, and his and I will say what I placed on hoard is notorious in New York, and his and I will say what I placed on hoard is notorious in New York, and his and I will say what I placed on hoard is notorious in New York, and his and I will say what I placed on hoard is not placed on hoard is it all over."

great as the crime of these offices. On present:

McCann struck the desk with his fist,

McCann struck the desk with his fist,

direction in which we were going, the others, both answering him in low cent circles. He doesn't know what tell Mice Carefington who and what direction in which we were going, the others, both answering him in low cent circles. He doesn't know what tell Mice Carefington who and what direction in which we were going, the others, both answering him in low cent circles. direction in which we were going, the others, both answering him in low cent circles. He doesn't know what tell Miss Carfington who and what

"I know of him longer; I have heard "that I have been before a topic of If more tales, yet surely you saw what conversation between you? What was rage, not even venturing a reply, "You believe, then, the intention

"And leave us helpless on board?" "Yes, Mr. Hollis." I drew a deep breath, at this direct his answering, but as a disinterested "So do I," I returned in a whisper,

There came to me, as I paused at the "You have some plan, then? You "No; hardly that. There will be two "Well," growled the giant, stepping rapped at her stateroom door. I felt to the boats. Much may happen within that time; we may be spoken by warship, and manned by a prize

> "You hope for this?" "St. Johns is a naval base; the closer we approach the harbor the more apt we are to encounter a British cruiser." Her fingers grasped my sleeve.

"But, Mr. Hollis, if all these hopes fail, and there should be no rescue, is there not something we can do? Must we remain here helpless, just waiting for death to come?" I took the little hands in mine tenderly, and, with an effort, controlled

cautious. Our only chance is to retain our freedom, and arouse no suspicion that we are plotting together; Can you "Yes," she said. "I-I think I can." from the first the real object of this and get the word to me?"

Miss Carrington?" seid a voice quietly. even compelled him to acknowledge McCann stood in the open passageway leading to the steward's pantry, attraction." less than fifteen feet distant, a satiriblank. Not so with Vers. With a Go on, please."

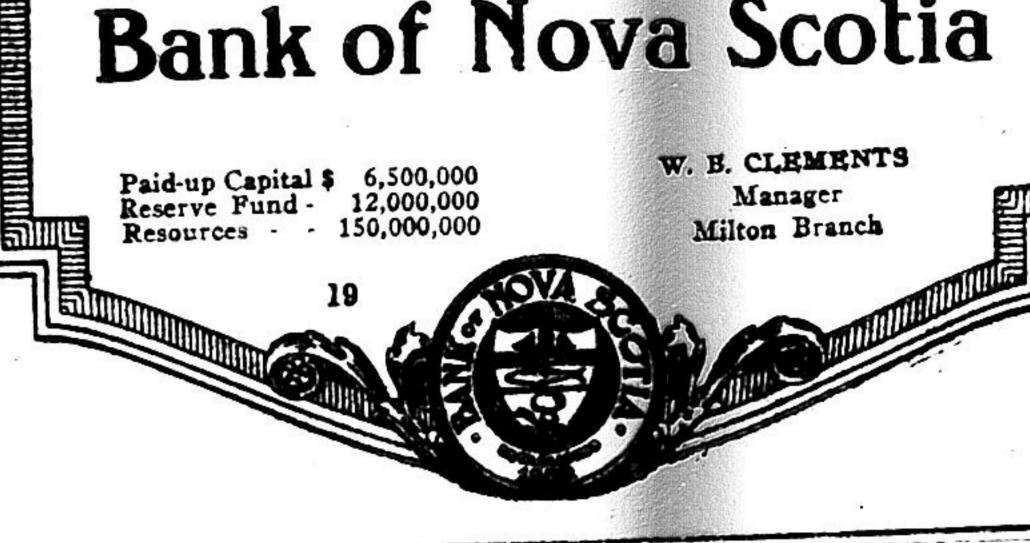
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sudden gleam of humor, she withdrew revolver. her hands from mine, turned and faced

"Perhaps not," he answered grimly, ashore, and determined to warn you of "but just now I am privileged to do his purpose, but had no opportunity as I please on board this ship. Answer Besides, I felt you had so poor an opin my question—what is it you think you ion of me that propably you would not

"What were you talking about? I want I could read the man's surprise in "Frankly, Miss Vera, I do not know." The girl's long lashes shaded her words was a shock, yet his egotism

McCann stared at the innocent, brutal. I owed my life to you equally downcast face as though he half be- with Captain Hollis, and am very "That would be their only safe lieved the words her lips uttered were grateful. I have never forgotten that

"I-I know that-but-but will they ing. My congratulations, captain, on her eyes never met mine. What did The hot blood flushed my face, not Was she endeavoring to deceive him, I hesitated, but her eyes compelled so much at the words as the tone with or was she speaking now in deadly ear which they were uttered. They con- nest? Nothing in her manner, or in "It veyed to me a deliberate insult, tin- the tone of her voice, gave me a clue hardly seems possible they can contem- gling with a memory of the purpose As for McCann, the very expression of plate such an act of villainy as the he charged me with during our last his face pictured his delight, his con interview. He had not quite under- viction of her sincerity. It was almost

the crew fifty thousand dollars, to be described as you choose, if you will dock so anxious to ascertain our exact positive docted to go the one port meant the Cann." ated for what they are worth," I an- forts. My-my duty was to you, and "His education, his former life, the swered, unable to wholly restrain my-

room; no protection to her. Indeed, if "There is no use, then," he called, civilization in which he has been self. "But we will let the discussion "Oh, will we? Well, perhaps you

"Your price is too low, Hollis. This opportunity might arise for the distribution of the girl's face to inspire me to the solution of t

the occasion?" McCann laughed, not in the least threshold McCann closed the door, and embarrassed, and evidently convinced I heard the key turn in the lock. that his position was sufficiently Trembling still with anger, and dazed "strong to give him a clear advantage. by the strange action of the girl, "Hollis' natural modesty prevents



ginging out as naturally as McCann grinned into my face, to

"There is not much to tell," he went on, almost jauntily. "I saw exactly "Hardly fair, Mr. McCann," she said, how things were going before we left the boat. I knew Hollis' reputation

"Perhaps an answer will be embar- "You were greatly mistaken, Mr. Mc Cann," she said pleasantly. "I would

his face. The graciousness of her "You mean you trusted ma? That

to the boats, and leave you to be picked lutely unmolested by either you or your ten miles. When did you furl the danger—they are sailing the ship and I said I I thought I said I

this mean? Was the girl acting a part? ence. "I-I assure you I was actuated

by the highest motives in all my ef-He turned and faced me, the bully in him surging to the surface. "I will converse with Miss Carring-

With hands clenched in impotent stepped backward. As I crossed the really occurred to me once that she might be acting a part, seeking in this way to gain McCann's confidence, in order to win from him the information we required. It was only as I sat there in silence, brooding over every detail, that this possible conception began to slowly dawn upon my mind. That she

As the full knowledge of this truth grew apparent, I was able to view all She had simply accepted her her command. Girl as she was in years, her experience in the world had been that of a woman, and she instincawakened pride on the man's face. had no power of resistance left; he was already putty in her hands. True, but would he remain so? The

one to help her if she made a single to trace our salling course on the TO BE CONTINUED

"Wait, Captain Hollis," and her fin-

VUAH