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VOLUME 59.

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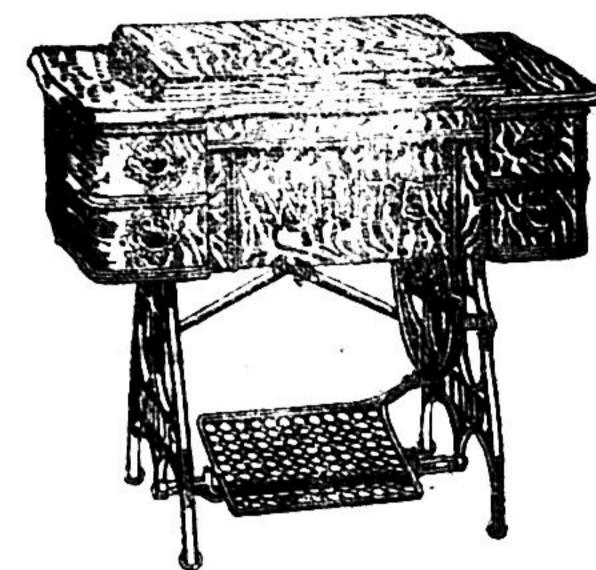
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A Romance of the North Atlantic

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

I'll stay here. Aye, man, yer better be left again unguarded, either on leave the gun." see to that.

lieve the monotony and dread of soli- is a cruiser showing up off our port two days out." tude. No one approached the door of quarter, which has caught sight o' us. "With what cargo?" the stateroom, not even to offer me She looks Frenchy, and if there is a food, and my ears were able to dis- hail, it will be up to you to answer- chinery." tinguish no sound of movement in the you are the only one aboard this main cabin. Occasionally footsteps hooker who talks the lingo like a napassed along the deck overhead, and live, see!" once or twice I heard the voice of Liv- Dubois stood staring, his lips parted rail. Phone 63 erpool sing out some order to the men in sudden terror. forward. The sun sank, its rays glinting across the waters, and telling me "Not yet; but they are bound to then Dubois' explanation: remained desolate, the horizon unbro-politely asking us to heave to; aye! ning." smoke. No echo of a cry reached me up on deck with you. Frenchy." from any lookout aloft. The vessel "But-but, monsieur, what ees it I wheel aft. What shape are your boats dead man." proceeded quietly, no effort being can say? I know not ze words, ze- in?" made, apparently, to achieve speed. I ze explanation." judged our rate would not exceed eight knots, and decided there was either a scarcity of men in the stokehole, or not what to speak." else they were conserving fuel to at-

> gan to fade into a purple dusk. CHAPTER XIX.

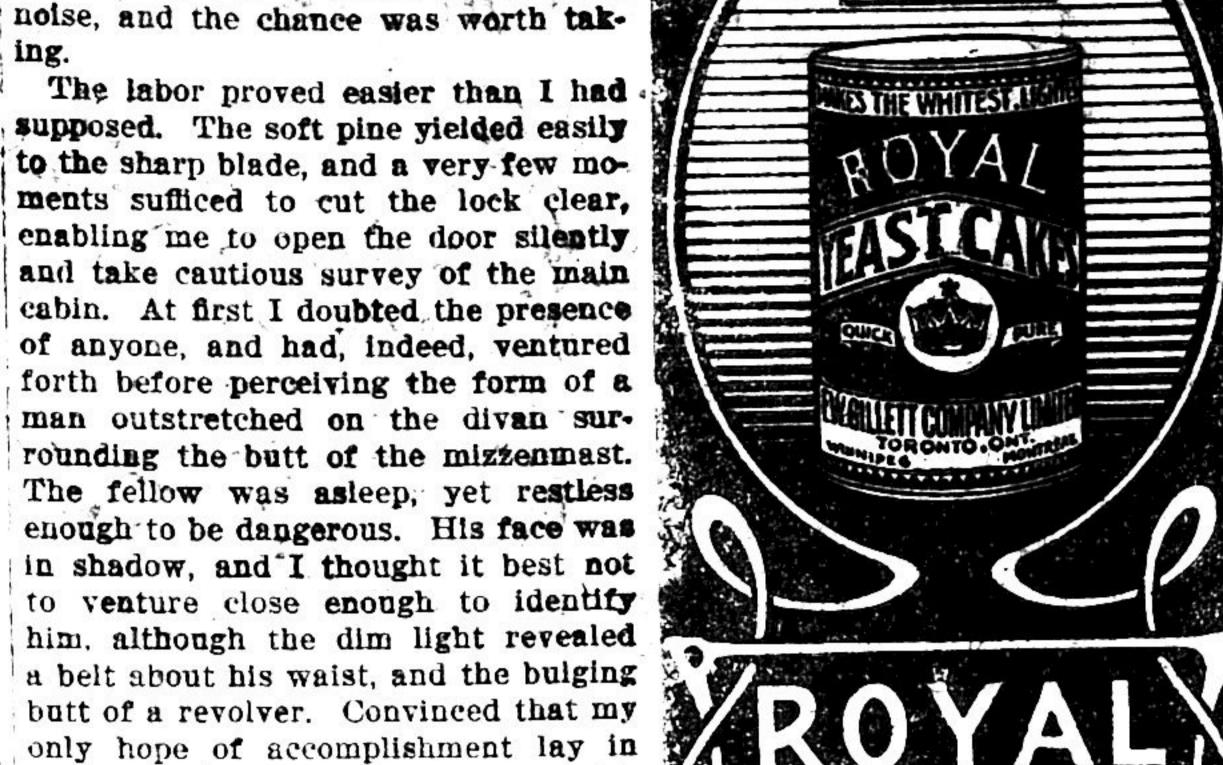
my mental state was such I had no approaching Frenchman. McCann's consciousness of hunger. I had dis- only hope of escape lay in some satiscovered no means of creating a light, factory explanation, which would lull although my eyes were sufficiently ac- the suspicions of the French comcustomed to dimness to enable me to mander—some lie smooth enough to move about my narrow quarters safely prevent boarding and search.

It must have been between eight and servation of any of my movements, I nine o'clock when the key turned in crept cautiously around the stair rail, the lock of my door, and Liverpool and noiselessly mounted the steps. I ing lamp in the main cabin flared into deserted, although forward of the his face, and saw Dade close behind blotches along the port rail, where spoke, but Red, having assured him- observing the approach of the Frenc'i self of my presence, stood aside, and cruiser. With heart beating like a tripmotioned the steward to enter. The hammer, I made my way along the latter deposited the laden tray on the front of the cabin, until I ventured to

cowed by his guardian. Realizing that deep shadows in which I lurked. insult, I remained silent, and the two has the minute men at the oars, and arccain and the insult. disappeared; closing and locking the but the night was clear of fog, and the glanced back, but I could see their door behind them. I confess I ate the food with relish, for it was well cooked, and served with some daintiness. After a second cup of coffee I felt much more like myself, rummaging through the captain's chest until I found some tobacco and a pipe, which I at once appropriated to my own use. No one returned for the emptied dishes, and I sat for a long while at the open port smoking, the blue spiral swept away

by the rush of air, and my eyes on the starlit waters. I had been sailor long enough to aceept the ordinary perils-of the sea as part of the profession. Nothing was too strange to be true at sea; and so it was not the position in which I found inyself; not the possible fate of the Indian Chief, or of her captured officers. which weighed most upon my mind—it was Vera Carrington. If those villains boats to save themselves, leaving us to drown like rats, what would they do with the girl? Would McCann dare to take her with him? Would he venture swer—not unless she was utterly in his power. Either he must quiet her by power has been also power has been and the must quiet her by power. Either he must quiet her by power has been also power has been also power has been also power her been also power her by power her by power her been also power her by power her been also power her by power her will, or else compel her to marry him, and so legally seal her lips. And the and so legally seal her lips. And the

fashion. I had a good strong knire in my pocket, and the lock of the door Cook's Cotion Root Compound against the door of a stateroom oppomy my man." was a common one, the wood surrounding it soft pine. There was nothing in that obstacle to prevent my escape, and if I was discovered at large, my punfrom Lever's Dry Sosp (a elsewhere. I that therefore nothing to



the discovery and release of my fel- 7

serted cabin, and entered the passage

low prisoners, I crept across the de-

leading forward. Somewhere amid-

ships these were surely confined. But

I was not destined to discover where.

aroused by the noise, spring upright,

and as the light fell on his face, I rec-

ognized a seaman named Dubois. The

rail, staring down as though momen-

tarily blinded by the light.

asleep, monsieur-non, non."

they want me on deck?"

man on the stairs paused, gripping the

You're the only Frenchman on board,

"You speak French, don't you?"

"Well, don't let that worry you. Mc-

I had taken scarcely a step when the

the darkness, I saw the sleeping guard, spectacle, the slim figure of a man ap- stairs into the cabin." a voice hailed us in French. "Ahoy there! What ship is that?"

"Is that you, Dubois?" he asked in Chief, bound for Liverpool." the harsh croak belonging to Jim "Is there anyone aboard who spe "Well, we won't fight over that now.

man stammered out an answer. and we want you on deck. Go on up;

"You're north of your course." "A French warsheep; eet hail us?" the ship held to its southwest course, question us, all right. There! did you "We ran before the storm last night, izing instantly that our effort to at- want to, but it is my belief you fools But he has drifted into a desperate but the ocean, so far as I could see hear that? A shot across our bows, monsieur, having been struck by light tain the open was already too late.

> "Three of them left, monsieur." "Oui, monsieur, oui, but-but I know lively about it."

tain greater speed during the hours Cann will tell you-but God pity you, of the warship?" of darkness. The bright sunlight be- Dubois, if you fail to repeat it. Up "The French cruiser Descartes, on go back." with you now, and be lively about it!" patrol. Get your boat over."

called up to Liverpool, waving his hand with a laugh full of confidence, and went forward. A moment later he was the lock of my door, and Liverpool found the after part of the main deck joined by Dubois, and the two men tooked in. The light from the swingmy eyes, blinding me, yet I recognized blotches along the port well where members of the watching party were be carefully forged papers in his pocket to enable him to proceed with such confidence. Slowly I lifted myself until 1 could peer over the side at the dark expanse of water between the vessels. desk, and backed out silently, every peer over the port rail, secure that my The searchlight of the warship rested movement showing him thoroughly presence on deck was screened by the in a glare of white on the small boat bobbing up and down, revealing the The gleam of the stars alone remen at the oars, and McCann and Duas though at an excellent joke.

CHAPTER XX.

The Cruiser Leaves Us. I was still clinging to the rail, and staring down at the light; I heard noth. ing, felt no premonition of alarm, when suddenly a hand gripped my throat, the great fingers stifling every effort to ery clapped over my mouth and I was "There'll Be Six of You Dead If You

and so legally seal her lips. And the black outline of the present was perfectly capable of taking was plainly visible, approaching us at uproar, a revolver gripped in his hand, whole ship's crew. The best thing for merely opened a door—besides, even man was perfectly capable of taking was plainly visible, approaching us at uproar, a revolver gripped in his hand, whole ship's crew. The best thing for merely opened a door—besides, even man was perfectly capable of taking was plainly visible, approaching us at uproar, a revolver gripped in his hand, whole ship's crew. The best thing for merely opened a door—besides, even man was perfectly capable of taking was plainly visible, approaching us at uproar, a revolver gripped in his hand, whole ship's crew. The best thing for merely opened a door—besides, even either course — whichever seemed half-speed, and silently closing up the was the first face I saw.

A safe, reliable regulating site, murder in my heart as I con "You showed forged papers?"

"Ave: that was easy enough: von edicine. Sold in three de- fronted the two who had flung me from "Ave: that was easy enough: von

medicine. Sold in three defronted the two wno nau nung me front

"Aye; that was easy enough; you

"He talked with you, then?"

never supposed I was such a fool as "Yes, at the table. We were alone
never supposed I was such a fool as "Yes, at the table. We were alone
never supposed I was such a fool as "Yes, at the table. We were alone
now for the first time—Liverpool Red
No. 2, \$3; No. 3; \$5 per box.
No. 3 the table. We were alone
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never supposed I was such a fool as "Yes, at the table. We were alone
never supposed I was such a fool as "Yes, at the table."
The table of table seethed in my brain—to kill.

"Curse you both," I cried, covering miscellaneous cargo. The fellow swal- words said. I left the table without THE COOK MEDICINE CO4 seethed in my brain—to kill.

My revolver covered them both, my fingers nervous on the trigger. Suddealy the door behind me vielded and I staggered back, unable to regain my balance until fairly within the stateroom. With a crash the door closed. instantly shutting out the surprised faces of the two men in the cabin; a key cresked in the lock, and Vera Carrington fronted me, her back against,

the wood. "Were-were they trying to kill; you?" she panted. "They certainly did their best," 1 answered, "but it was my turn when you dropped me in here." "You-you mean that I made a mistake-that you were in no danger?" "I had the upper hand. I took this revolver away from White, and do not believe either of the others were armed. In another second I should have fired. Ove only hope of rescue lies in creating an alarm; there is a French eruiser; lying just off our port quarter." "A French cruiser! We have been

"No; merely balted and questioned. The Frenchman does not even suspect anything wrong. I was endeavoring companion door opened, and a man decks yonder could blow us out of the to sound an alarm when these fellows started down the stairs. Crouched in water. Even as I stared at the grim seized me, and threw me down the

peared at the end of the bridge, and "But how did you get on deck? And where did you procure the revolver?" "I cut my way out; the gun was There was a shuffling of feet above taken from White. Don't block the way, me; then McCann spoke in English: | Miss Vera! I must get to the deck "The American freighter indian again, or it will be too late." "Is McCann out there?"

Dugan. White is knocked out, and of McCann's swift threat hissed into me go; I can fight my way through his ear; then the frightened French- with this gun. Those devils will either make way or get hurt."

stepped forward, searching with suspinow." clous eyes every dark corner, dimly "What are your terms?" "Miscellaneous; mostly farm ma- conscious that the girl followed. I had A searchlight swept us fore and aft, advanced a step upward, before my

ken by a gleam of sail, or smudge of and we are slowing down; come, hurry "Ah, I see; that accounts for your him, you men. Lively now; there's no seckoning."

muzzle leveled at my head, but before gaff, an' tell us what yer want." "Send the captain, with the French- I could move, or even determine what "I will," I snapped back. "The free-

What would McCann do? Was he fought them all, but to attempt resist- are you, the czar of Russia?" der, and disappeared through the come did not truly comprehend what efforts sea scum." panion, evidently after the ship's pa- were being made to block our retreat. "All right; go ahead. What else?" sents the only problem unsolved." pers. Liverpool's voice ordering the Before a hand could grasp either of "I am to retain this revolver for "My presence! Why, he has no watch to lower number five boat, and us, we were within the shelter of the protection, and the key to my state cause to fear me. No one knows where stand by, sung out from the poop rail. stateroom, and the girl had closed and room; Miss Carrington is also to regam. If I never appeared alive again, Assured that White was beyond obMcCann emerged from the companion, locked the door. Fists pounded on the tain her key. When you men desert not a soul could ever account for my

Break In This Door." plished so quickly, and with so little ments with which to batter their the stairs.

curred, or who were my assailants. I Whatever the argument, the advocates cruiser." fell sprawling on one shoulder, but was of peace seemed in the majority, for as instantly on my feet, bruised, but out of the hubbub McCanu spoke loud port of which he had been viewing the "we have weapons as well as you, and "To me!" Her lips smiled, although

This was the consideration which two vessels. I left the neart come up wilderment, but before he could say cruiser?"

Wilderment, but before he could say cruiser?"

Wilderment, but before he could say cruiser?"

He laughed, and I could hear Liverrealize what it would mean to me to Chief will be left with none to rescue
to carry them all, but the Indian.

This was the consideration which two vessels. I left the neart come up wilderment, but before he could say cruiser?"

He laughed, and I could hear Liverrealize what it would mean to me to Chief will be left with none to rescue
to carry them all, but the Indian. served partially to arouse me from into my throat as I gazed specification, more my inst jamined into his jam, and I could hear Liver-realize what it would mean to me to those of us who are left on the fellow went over full length on the pool join in rather noisily.

Served partially to arouse me from into my throat as I gazed specification on the fellow went over full length on the pool join in rather noisily.

The laughed, and I could hear Liver-realize what it would mean to me to those of us who are left on the fellow went over full length on the pool join in rather noisily.

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When the laughed, and I could hear Liver-realize what it would mean to me to the fellow went over full length on the pool join in rather noisily.

When the fellow went over full length on the pool join in rather noisily.

When the laughed, and I could hear Liver-realize what it would mean to me to use with the pool join in rather noisily.

When the laughed, and I could hear Liver-realize what it would mean to me to use with the pool join in rather noisily.

When the laughed, and I could hear Liver-realize what it would mean to me to use with the pool join in rather noisily.

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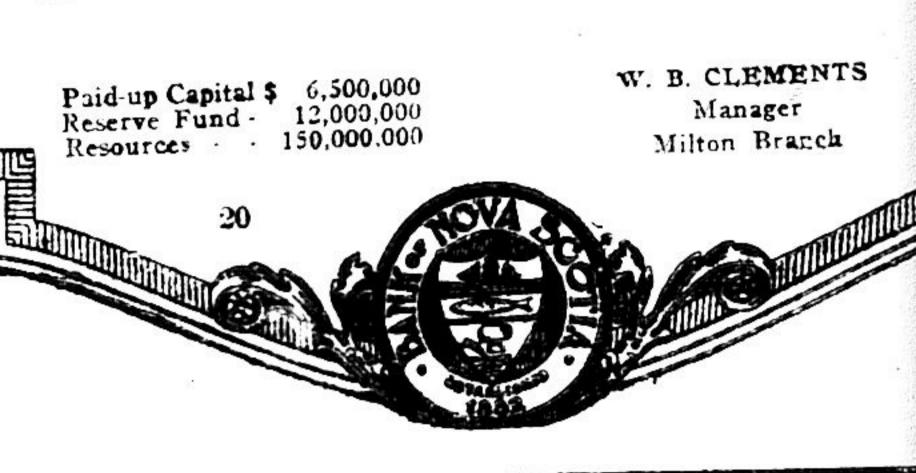
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lowed my yarn as though it was sugar speaking. He-he followed me, how-"I lay back to rest, but I was not to the rail, and caught a word or two sleep, monsieur—non, non."

I heard them hustle Dubois forward McCann has gone aboard the cruiser.

He has forged papers with him. Let the only war vessel patrolling these "Saying nothing?"

waters; we have a cinch." "Not without me," I answered calm- isughed and went away." ly, after a pause in which my mind. "I suspect the man is almost as "Oul, monsieur, je parle Francais." She stepped aside, and with no gripped the situation. "The telltale much afraid of you as you are of him," "Then talk up; what ship is that?" other thought but the necessity for compass shows you are three points I said quietly, "and is puzzled what I could hear McCann prompting and action I turned the look I could hear McCann prompting, and action, I turned the key in the lock off your course now. I'll talk with to do with you." deck or in the cabin. McCann would "Vat ees it. Monsieur White? Why Dubois echoing the words put in his and flung the door open. The main you, McCann, but if I continue to navdeck was deserted; to my surprise, igate this ship it will be at my own "Well, if you were not aboard, his The afternoon passed, dragging its "What's the difference, you frog- "The Indian Chief, Boston, McCann, all three of the men had disappeared. terms, and you'll either give me what problem would be a much easier one weary hours, Nothing happened to re- eater? But I'll tell yer anyhow. There master, from St. Johns to Liverpool, With revolver gripped in one hand, I I ask, or we'll fight it out here and to solve. The lives of none of the

> I took time to think, determined to attained the foot of the stairs, even demand every concession I dared ask, but finally settled on the little group progress was arrested. Suddenly the assured that I held the winning hard, instincts, which have no wise been of men clustered together on the poop companion door was flung open and a "Well," I said finally, "this coast changed by the possession of wealth. mob of men confronted me, surging to the west of us is no joke at any But he is fully awake to the peril of in through the narrow space from the season of the year, and there are sea his position. The fellow is a coward There was an instant of hesitation; deck. I drew instantly back, stunned currents along here to fool any sea- back of all his bluff, and I do not think by sight of McCann in their lead, real-man. You can take the chances if you his criminal instincts are bloodthirsty.

> stump of a foremast and the temporary danger; if he lifts that gur, he's a "D--- it," sung out Liverpool "I mean there is but one sure soluhoarsely, "we don't need no sermon on tion-dead men tell no tales." I was staring straight into the black the dangers of the deep. Stow the

> man, over with the ship's papers. Be was best to be done, Vera steed be- dom of the ship for both myself and tween me and the mob on the stairs. Miss Carrington. Our meals are to She stood with hands clasped, and "Oui, monsieur; what is the name "Go back! back to my stateroom; be served privately, and the lady is not parted lips, her eyes wide open with he'll never shoot me. Please, please to be addressed by any one of you." unconcealed horror, for the moment "My Gawd," exclaimed a muffled unable to utter a word. I was hot-headed enough to have voice "you don't want much! Who "You-you actually think that, Mr.

vanished from my mind as a realized this new chance of rescue. At any risk taken the procention to alter life. I retained some antique to ship." I not realized to this to—to murder all on board to protect Had he taken the precaution to alter life. I retained sense sufficient to ship," I returned stiffly, "and the only himself?" the ship's manifest, or even forged a know this, and that only force would man on board capable of navigating "If assured such an act would bring No food was brought me during the afternoon, nor had I eaten all day, yet cient to awaken suspicion on board the afternoon, nor had I eaten all day, yet cient to awaken suspicion on board the cited talk on the deck above me; then ter an oath, and Red roar out some leave them. McCann descended the starboard lad- order, punctured with profanity, yet McCann, I am talking to you, not that feetly plain, Miss Vera, it is my judg-

ship, which I know you plan to do, disappearance." the Indian Chief is to be left in seaworthy condition. That's all." "Enough, I should think. You must consider your services indispensable. However, I accept the terms, providing you agree to do what we ask in re-

"That I navigate the ship to within gers. fifty miles of St. Johns; notify you when we reach that point, and give cannot imagine it possible..." you correct sailing directions." "That is what we want." Good; I accept. Take your men

out of the cabin." I stood motionless, still gripping the evolver in one hand, listening to catch every sound the other side of the closed door. There was a muttered would win him safety, and also your discussion, the words mostly inaudible. although I heard enough to convince worth playing for, surely." me that McCann was urging accept- "And the others? What would be ance of my conditions on the ground the fate of you and the others if I t it would be impossible for me, made that hateful bargain?" alone, and under surveillance, to add to their danger. Some words were from what it will be if you refuse," I added in so low a tone as to fail to said soberly—and my hand closed on reach my ear, but whatever they were, hers. "McCann has no intention that they evoked a laugh, and seemed to we shall ever put foot on shore. He restore the dissatisfied to better hu- would be a fool to permit such a mor. Liverpool took sides with Mc- thing." Cann in the dispute, and the two unit-

narrowing gap of water between the "What the "he exclaimed in be only say have become of the French "I cannot conceive how." "You do not? Yet surely you can to carry them all, but the Indian

"No; it was locked, and-and he

rest of us would weigh much in the

calculation," "And you think my life does?" "Undoubtedly. McCann is a villain by nature; he was born with criminal

"You mean—oh, not that?"

CHAPTER XXI.

A Plan to Save Ourselves. Hollis? You mean he would be willing

ment that your presence on board pre-

"True, and probably McCann is fully, aware of these conditions. But he wishes you alive, not dead. That is what makes the problem." She crossed the narrow space of deck, and grasped my coat in her fin-

"Oh! this is too terrible! He—he 'And why not?" I interrupted. "He is all-powerful on board. He judges the virtue of others by his own standard. He dreams that you might even make that bargain to preserve life." "That I would marry him?"

"Marriage would seal your lips; subjugation and wealth. It is a stake "In no way different, I imagine

"You think it all planned out?" "In detail; McCann, Liverpool and and thrown through the opened door wood in impotent rage, and I heard finally dispersed, and we could hear White know exactly what they intend of the companion. This was accoming others to bring imple their heavy sea boots tramping up doing. Their questioning of me, and Relieved of the strain, I turned to me of this. I even believe now I could notice from the Frenchman, from "McCann," I shouted, "call off your meet the questioning eyes of the girl. name the other men of the crew who whose deck no doubt every eye was men! I have six bullets here; and "That—that was better than fight- will be in their boat, when they abanwhose deck no doubt every the there'll be six of you dead if you break ing-wasn't it?" she asked almost anx- don ship-Dugan, Dubois, Sachs and into the dimly lit cabin, and it was not There was silence; then a mutter "Yes; I lost my head for the me- others I am not so sure of. Why, Miss until I struck the lower deck that I of voices—one angry with threat, ment, and could only think of reaching Vera, you heard what I was compelled even realized clearly what had oc- others seemingly urging compromise, deck, and shouting an alarm to the to assent to a moment ago. I am to miles of the harbor of St. Johns, timing our arrival at that point to some probably I would never have reached hour of the night. I am to give Mc don the ship there, and take to the boats. There are enough remaining in good condition—and just enough—

> in an unseaworthy condition—either with her bottom pierced, or her seacocks open; and that those of us left