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derneath, with face concealed in the and dripping to the deck. I sprang for

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A Romance of the North Atlantic

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

"Yes, sir, in a way; there was food in the boat."

TURNER, ship the rest of the voyage. Do you eyes met. understand? Answer me do you?"

"Do better than that."

pick up Dubois, and put him in number seven stateroom. Make him as comfortable as possible, but don't be long panion?" about it. Then report on deck to Mr. "I slept at first, but have been awake pointing. Olson; he'll keep you busy, and out of mischief. A word with you, Olson." had disappeared, having either sunk, or being hidden in the hollow of the great surges. The screw was beginning to revolve once more with power, a minute." the planks trembling under foot and a bit of sunshine was streaming through ately?" the clouds overhead. I stood silent a moment, endeavoring to think out the situation, and Olson waited patiently,

his eyes sweeping the sky and then the "What do you think of our guests?"

I asked finally. "Can we trust them "Not so far as you could swing a) bull by the tail, sir," he answered soberly. "They ain't forgot the night "Your opinion is, they will never help sail this ship into St. John's, if

"That's it, sir; they're so black now. they won't mind a little more."

"That's my judgment; we must keep them apart as much as we can, and have an eye on them all the time. How about Dugan?" "He talks straight enough, and to my notion means to play square."

We ought to be able to keep the fel- her fingers clasped mine. lows separated. Besides I'll be about most of the time."

"How long do you suppose it will be, ' "Today and another night likely; 1 vation at noon. It will not give them it be possible that she suspected, knew,

much time for plotting." I sent the two forward with Olson when they returned to the deck from the cabin, and he busied them gather no one?" ing up the riffle about the forecastle moved as though scarcely able to exert and left him on watch below." himself, but Red took hold as if glad ladder, and we spoke together briefly, out what had occurred. She finally lunteered to get some food ready.

and I went below with her, rousing up Dade, and putting him at work under her orders. An hour later all aboard on my face. enjoyed a warm meal, eating alike in After the meal I yielded to my own "No, not since we had supper to far too small to admit the passage of a need of rest, certain I should be on gether."

cabin. I left my stateroom door open. actions, or words?" But in ten minutes I was sound asleep. "Why nothing that I remarked. He scattered on the rug beneath; a chair What awakened me I do not know. I seemed about as usual; more haggard, was overturned on the deck; a chest in had a confused sense of some heavy and nervous possibly, but he spoke one corner had been rummaged, its body falling, but no other sound. Yet cheerfully enough. What can you contents flung aside. My eyes fell on this impression was so strong, so in- mean?" sistent, that I sat up in the berth, and "Oh, I do not really know; perhaps I tesque in its coating of coal dust. stared out through the open door into sught not to say such a thing. I meant "Hanged if he ain't got away, sir," the cabin beyond. I neither saw, nor to have spoken to you about it before, he blurted out, "but he never went my eyes when I got to my feet; then I knew that the dark shapeless object, suspect Philip Bascom is insane." half under the table, was the motion-less body of a man. My throat seemed say that?" to contract, and choke me, but I forced a quick breath and stepped forward ly able to quiet him." was deserted, not another stateroom of dishes, a decanter of brandy stand. Cook's Cotton Root Compound ing alone on the swinging shelf. Un-

what purpose was it struck? It was upon me irresistibly. I called Leayord. of which he passed over to Olson, who murder, a cowardly slash from behind; The mate thrust his head over the tested the weight in his hand. no wound which could be self-inflicted, forward rail. but a blow of deliberate purpose. Who abourd would have reason to seek the engineroom?" life of Dubois? I could think of no

instant I stared, dazed, into the dead. to turn, in which direction to seek the pass the word forward to have Mr. Ol- ger than the mate." murderer. I felt as though every facuity of both brain and body was paralyzed by the shock. Yet this was wrong?"

I could hardly accept the evidence of

my own eyes. How had this thing hap-

usual, and I felt it useless to disturb time to tell him briefly what had oc- duffer doesn't stand up to the job, I'll the man. Leayord was no longer be- curred, when White emerged through bust glass an' all over his head." low; he had doubtless awakened and the deck opening and reported, his We certainly made a thorough search gone on deck, but I discovered Dade eyes blinking in the bright light, and of it. I doubt if a stray rat got by us asleep in his old berth down the pas- his face grimy with coal. sage, shook him awake, and compelled him to come back with me. The horror with no bluster in the gruff voice.

"Stay here until I find out what is mind. I just found Dubois lying on diligence and wit; he had disappeared himself into the sea. Masters could mounted to the open deck. mined to learn the truth. happening on deck. There is nothing the cabin deck murdered-" to be afraid of, you fool; the man i. dead. Yes, you can stand over there,

but don't leave until I come back, and back." As I emerged from the companion, "There is no one else on board who tight, pierced by a single door, to be way. There was no other entrance to ror and tragedy I had just left behind; leaving the dingy, death-shadowed could. He is locked in his stateroom, sure, but this was closed and locked the engineroom; the forward bulkhead the unspeakable terror of feeling that keep your eyes open." below and hustle coal; you climb down cabin behind, the open deck was such and we've got to get him out. Come securely. "Is there any communical was solid; there were two ventilator somewhere aboard, hidden in some him to lie down and get some rest. other world. Vera was still resting in I led the way down the stairs in no hold, White!" I asked, staring helplass for the passage of a man's body, and being, with murder in his crased brain; also Tony, and relieve Masters. Tell a scene of quiet as to appear like an- on now, both of you."

Move along now; I'll be down there her chair not twenty feet away. She pleasant frame of mind. An insane ly at the steel barrier. glanced up, smiling a welcome, as I man running free aboard, animated by "No, sir; the fo'castle is all above locked at sea. Nevertheless I had these frenzy of hate, the desire for destructhere; you are a hand on board this of her face instantly changed as our sponsibilities, increased our dangers "What is it, Mr. Hollis? Are we after the brightness of the deck above. "Well, I had charge e' loadin' the bunkers. At the end, utterly baffled, calmed me, and brought back my powagain in danger?"

"Very well; now you and Liverpool have been here for the last hour?" discerned that there were two bodies Captain Hadley tested it before we left a huntin' for." "Who have you seen enter the com- one. I involuntarily shrank back, grip- in the Chesapeake. I think it was a man, and a mighty dangerous one. had, indeed, succeeded in slipping forfor some time. Dade came out on deck "Look here! there are two bodies;

again; that must have been an hour The sailor sprang past me, and door is steel, and it looks too heavy for he's managed to slip on deck and per- of us would hant him in his hole. ago. There was no one else until Mr. dropped to his knees. Leayord was called to take his watch." "Who called him?" "Olson; he was not below more than thrust in the back."

"And Leayord responded immediother man aboard been aft." "Yes, so quickly I remember thinking he could not have removed his clothes to lie down."

a gun in his drawer." "No one has entered the cabin

She shook her head. "No one, I am sure; Mr. Olson did "Dubois has been killed," I explained sun streamed in through the stern in the fireroom; I'll ask him." not go below; he is forward there now. much devil in 'em as there ever was." Please tell me what has happened?" briefly. "I found his body on the ports, and every object within was cabin deck. The deed was just done; was not there. I drew back the cur his fall awoke me from sleep, but before I could leave the stateroom the murderer had disappeared."

"There was a knife wound in the back piercing the heart. The man died without a sound." She rose to her feet, her face white, "That was my impression; he's her body trembling so that I put out my hands to her support, and instantly

A Maniac on Board. The horror with which she looked . tell better when I get an obser- into my face held me speechless. Could the perpetrator of this crime—that she sought to shield him? "You searched the cabin? You found

caused by the night's storm. McCann steward's stateroom. I awoke him, "There was no one hiding in any of to be occupied. Vera came down the the staterooms? You tried the doors?" "They were all empty. Mr. Bascom's door was the only one locked."

"You-you made him open?" "No; why disturb him?" She drew a quick breath, her eyes "You—you have not seen Philip Bas- was empty; only one of the round

body. The bed had not been slept in, deck all night, and returned to the "You saw nothing strange then in his and was neatly made; one drawer of

> "Insane! Good heavens why do you cided. "But where? and for what pur-

"He has talked to me so strangely, pose? There is no knowing what a He he frightened me, and I was hard- man in his state of mind may do. Good

spikes. I have a revolver. Tell Mr. Leayord the situation, and have him keep his eyes open. Better have him warn McCann, and Miss Carrington had best remain near the wheel until we get our hands on this fellow. Hurry

E.W. GILLETT CO. LTD. Olson and I remained motionless, our eyes on the black opening leading forward, the dim rays of the lantern falling on the ghastly faces of the two dead men outstretched on the deck. It was a grewsome spot, and my heart was beating like a triphammer. I made There was no answer possible. Every sure my revolver was loaded, dropping ever get into the cabin? Whose hand other man on board was already ac- the weapon into a jacket pocket. White could have struck the blow? and for counted for. The truth was borne 'n rejoined us, grasping the spikes, one

"Quiet as a June mornin' up there, "Do you know if Masters is in the sir," he announced, squinting about. "There min't nobody seen nuthin' of no maniac. I reckon yer better let Olson "Then call down, and have him carry the lantern, so you and I can be send White on deck immediately; and sorter free to grip the chap; we're big-

"From what I've seen of Olson he'll "Aye, aye, sir; is there anything do his share of the fighting," I answered, knowing the Swede to be hot-"I will explain presently; just now I tempered, and touchy about his size.

the various staterooms; all opened at want you to remain in charge of the "However, one will have to carry it." proved unoccupied. His was locked as Olson arrived first, and I barely had ly, "Til hold the glim, but if that big

"You wanted me, sir?" he asked, cabin to the engineroom ladder we

"Yes; he had been stabbed in the Beyond the hele leading to the en-oiling the machinery, and a man could gineroom below, our advances were have slipped down the ladder unob-"And you believe the owner did it?" blocked by a steel builthead, water served, and escaped again in the same in spite of what I knew; of the hore tion between the forecastie and the shafts, but neither was large enough black corner, lurked an irresponsible

that I grasped the stair rail and ad- after-hold, sir," and Olson scratched White gave vent to an oath. "There has been trouble below. Let vanced almost blindly. I had reached his head trying to remember. "That "It beats me, sir," he confessed aft; then he must be forward. It was

"That is the usual arrangement, but The fellow has either found some I would, first of all, see to it that the there is a slot here for a key; still the means of getting into the hold, or else decks were guarded, and then the rest

any one man to operate," "Aye, it's Dade, and the poor cuss I leaned over, and looked down into one messes there now?" is done for, sir-it's another knife the lighted engineroom at the bottom of the shaft. All I could see was a

"And no longer any doubt who did great wheel steadily turning. 't," echoed Olson, "for there's not an- "Masters." self ready to act. "And we must get peared burly and shapeless.

him at once. Come on, both of you; "That you, captain?"

The door of Bascom's stateroom was "Well, I'll be swamped! Can't you closed, and I grasped the knob with no find him?" thought it would yield to my fingers. "Not yet; we've searched every place But it did, and I almost fell forward aft. He hasn't visited you?"
into the room, catching myself, and

> "Tony's killed, sir," he called up ex- afraid than you are!" citedly. "He's lying on the coal in "Then why don't you stay here?"

with a knife."

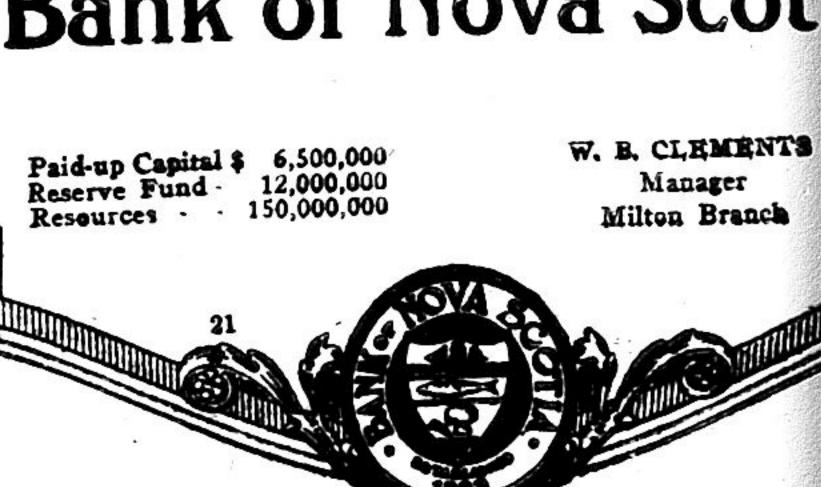
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found no trace of Bascom; no indica- in the cabin above; but the madman his beit. I tested the builthead door "Aye, White; you possess the tion even that he had ever passed that had disappeared. However, here was again as we came to it, but it seemed only intensified my own, but I had grip strength and nerve for this sort of job. way. The effort to locate Bascom's proof positive that the fellow was still as solid as the steel wall itself, and on my nerves by now, and was deter. Miss Carrington here suspects that hiding place was absolutely vain—the on board; still hiding between decks, thoroughly satisfied that it had not the owner of this ship has lost his cunning of the madman overcame our He had not reached the open, or flung been opened since the ship sailed, we

ing not so much as a clue behind. sound, seen no shadow. He had been

me question you before I explain. You the center of the cabin before my eyes door never was opened but once, when hoarsely, "unless it's a spook we're impossible to hide long on shipboard in outstretched on the deck instead of Baltimore, or maybe after we got out "I wish it was; the trouble is it is one thing I was decided—if the fellow ping the sleeve of White's shirt, and opened an' shut frum the bridge, Mr. Well, he's not down here, and he must ward unobserved, he was never to be have gone back by way of the ladder. permitted to return aft again wassen.

> "Then let's have a look up above; you understand?" come on men."

"Yer ain't goin' ter leave me down "Give me the lantern. There is no The engineer stepped into view, and here all alone, are yer, captain?" ques- knowing what that fellow may do; he "Right you are," I said, gripping my peered up into the darkness; he ap- tioned Masters anxiously, "with Tony might fire the ship, or wreck the lying' dead in there, an' a murderer gines, unless we get him in time."

prowlin' about?" "A haif nour ago; he stopped and of us. He has a knife, and there was crasy, and has hidden himself some suppose you must have a fireman—other man at the mainment, and then spoke with me before taking charge of a grant in his drawer." "He'll not be down here again, but I "'Tain't no job I like, sir; I shoveled coal here already for eight hours." the lantern, leaned out over the poop

"I'll tackle it, sir," interrupted Ol- rail. son quietly. "That big book would "That you, captain? Have you got "Not to my knowledge. Tony is back throw a fit down here every time he Bascom yet?" saw a shadow. After you get those "No; he has managed to escape, and The three of us clung to the ladder hatches off send him in on top o' the get forward, but not without leaving the ports, and every object within was gazing down, the light from the lantern cargo. There'd be no danger o' his another victim behind. Tony Rapello

number one bunker, cut in the back "I'm plumb tired out shovelin'."

"That will do, men," I broke in The words were not out of his sternly. "There will be work enough, lamps." mouth before we were scrambling and maybe fighting enough for both of down. But our haste gained us noth- you. As long as you have volunteered, his eyes on the deck. There doesn't ing. The only trail Bascom had left Olson, you may take a turn down here, was the dead Imian, stretched out in and White will go with me. Keep a

CHAPTER XXIX.

"White, you remain here in front of the cabin, and keep your eyes open. Don't let a shadow get past you aft; "Aye, sir."

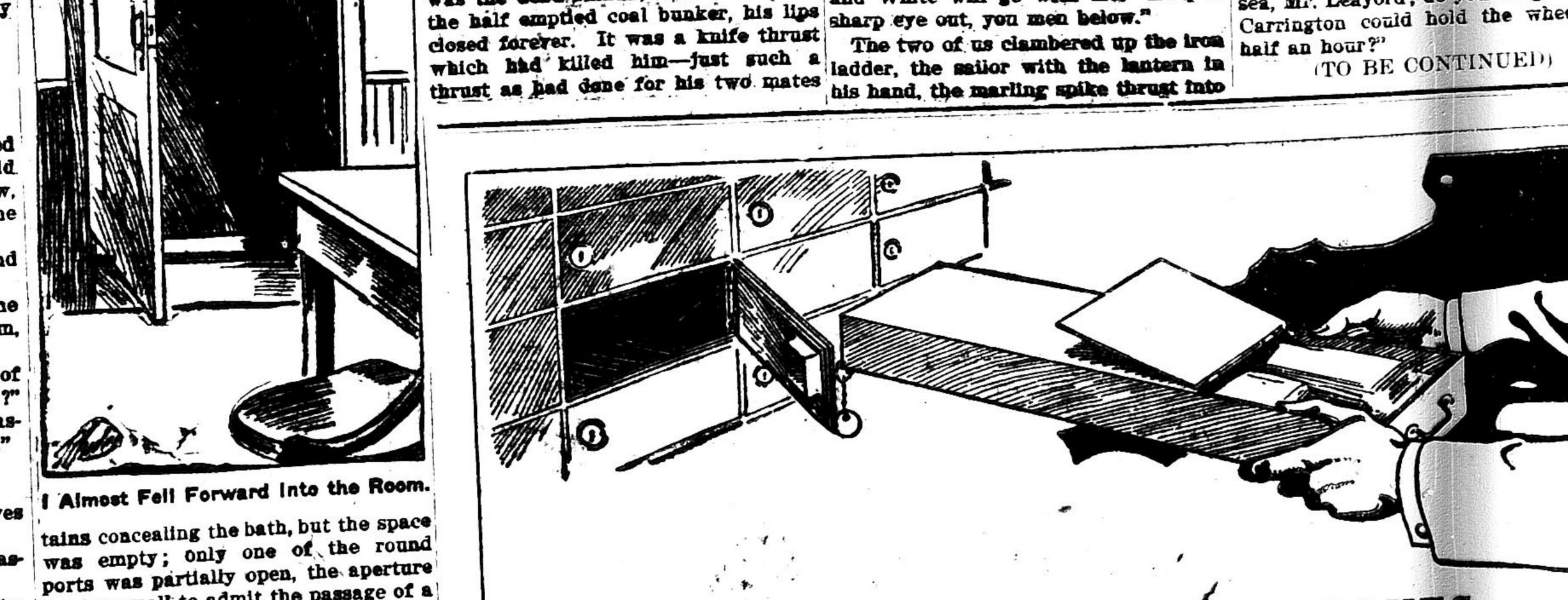
"You think be's forward, sir?" "Where else can be be? I'll put an-

Leayord, attracted by the gleam of

"The bloody villain! How did be

"Which is more than I can figure out; stole on deck, probably, and then alipped along in the rail shadow. Where is McCann?" "Just gone forward to fix the ridin"

seem to be a great deal of wind, or sea, Mr. Leayord; do you imagine Miss Carrington could hold the wheel for



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heavens! he could wreck the ship. Get "And you suspect he killed Dubois?" a light, White—take the cabin lantern. Olson and I will have to look behind these doors first, and then we'll explore between decks." A safe, reliable regulating We found nothing, not the slightest of strength—No. 1, \$1; trace of the fugitive. Beyond doubt he