CHAPTER II.

A LIFE TRAGEDY.

Not a word or a gesture (scaped Brandon during the perusal, but after he had finished he read the whole through twice, then laying it down, he paced up and down the room. His clive skin had become of a sickly tawny hue, his eyes glowing with intense lustre, and his brow covered with those gloomy Napoleo-nic clouds, but not a nerve was shaken by the

the office and waited for some time before the senior partner made his appearance. When he came in it was with a smile on his face, and a general air of congratulation to all the

world. "Well, Brandon," said he, cordially," that last shipment has turned out finely. More than a thousand pounds. And it's all your doing. I objected, but you were right. me congratulate you.

Something in Brandon's face seemed to surprise the old gentleman, and he paused for a moment. "Why, what's the matier, my boy?" he said, in a paternal voice. "You have not heard any bad news, I hope, in that letter - I hope it's nothing serious?

Brandon gave a faint smile.
"Serious enough," said he, looking away "Oh no-oh no!" said the other, earnest-

ly; " not so bad as that."

"I must go home at once."
"Oh, well, that may be, but you will be back again. Take a leave of absence for five back again. Take a leave of absence for two
years if you wish, but don't quit for good. I'll
keep your place comfortable for you till you
return."

Brandon's stern face softened as he looked
Brandon's stern face softened as he looked

at the old man, whose features were filled with the kindest expression, and whose tone showed the affectionate interest which he

felt.
"Your kindness to me, Mr. Compton,"
and with deep feeling said he, very slowly, and with deep feeling, and he been beyond all words. Ever since I first came to this country you have been the truest and best of all friends. I hope you know me well enough to know that I can never forget it. But now all this is at an end, and all the bright prospects that I had here must give way to the call of the sternest duty. In that letter which I received last night there came a summons home which I can not ne-glect, and my whole life hereafter must be directed toward the fulfilment of that summons. From mid-day, yesterday until dawn this morning I paced my room incessantly, laying out my plans for the future thus suddenly thrust upon me, and though I have not been able to decide upon anything definite,

ness."

Mr. Compton placed his elbow on the table himself, Potts, was staying. near which he had seated himself, leaned his head upon his hand, and looked at the floor. From Brandon's tone he perceived that this resolution was irrevocable. The deep dejection which he felt could not be concealed. He was silent for a long time.

"God knows," said he, at last, "that I

should have happened.'

Brandon looked away and said nothing. tinued. "I do not know what to think. And how can I manage these vast affairs without with grief than to be a servant. Besides, she eiations. Had this man still any connection knew that whenever she came back my heart with Potts? The words of his father's letter did our business. I know that well. I had no head for it."

You can reduce it to smaller proportions,' said Brandon; "that can easily be done." The old man sighed.

"After all," he continued, " it is not the papers. business. It's losing you that I think of, dear hop. I am not thinking of the business at all. Compton buried h My grief is altogether about your departure.

I grieve, too, at the blow which must have
"You couldn't have been m fallen on you to make this necessary."

"The blow is a heavy one," said Brandon; have heard of the mysterious murder of Col"so heavy that everything else in life must onel Despard?" be forgotten except the one thought—how to recover from it; and perhaps, also," he added, in a lower voice, " how to return it."

Mr. Compton was silent for a long time, arms and shut his eyes in deep thought.

is to bear it as best I may. I will not induige in any selfish sorrow in the presence of the greater trouble. I will rather do all in my powers to coincide with your wishes. I see now that the hill stations, where she had gone for her er to coincide with your wishes. I see now that the hill stations, where she had gone for her distributions. When moving about the quarticular to a similarity of names.

know. It is worse than death, and I do not even yet begin to know the worst."

The old man sighed, and looked at him with deep commiseration.

If our separation must indeed be final.' said he, at last, "I will take care that you shall suffer no loss. You shall have your full share of the capital."

I leave that entirely to you," said Brandon.

Fortunately our business is not much scattered. A settlement can easily be made, and I will arrange it so that you shall not have any loss. Our balance sheet was made out only last month, and it showed our firm to be worth thirty thousand pounds. Half "Half!" interrupted the other. "My dear

friend, you mean a quarter."

The old man waved his hand.

" I said half, and I mean half."

" I will never consent." " You must."

" Never."

"You shall. Why, think of the petty business that I was doing when you came here. I was worth about four thousand. You have built up the business to its present dimensions. Do you suppose that I don't know?" "I cannot allow you to make such a sacri-

five," said Brandon.
"Stop," said Mr. Compton. "I have not execut said all. I attach a condition to this which I implore you not to refuse. Listen to me, and you will then be able to see."

Mr. Compton rose and looked carefully out

into the office. There was no one near. He the boat. Their testimony was very then returned, locked the door, and drawing clear indeed, and there were no coa his chair close to Brandon, began, in a low

going to tell to you, not merely for the sake of sympathy, but rather for the sake of your I am going to tell you who I am,

assistance. I am going to tell you who I am, and why I came here.
"My name is not Compton. It is Henry Lawton. All my early life was passed at York. There I married, had a son and lived happily

for years—in fact, during the childhood of my | don, with great calmness. boy.
"It was that boy of mine, Edgar, that led

only child, and so we ruined him. He got beyond our control at last, and used to run "Yo wild about the streets of York. I did what I Brandon, interrogatively. could to save him, but it was too late. "Yes," said the old man with a sigh. "The

were among the worst in the country. My God! to think how my boy, once a sweet child, could have fallen so low. But he was weak, and easily led, and so he went on from bad to worse.

"I cannot hear to go into particulars," said the old man, after a long pause. "I wil come at once to the point. My poor, wretched

The old man was silent for some time.

and Crocker and my son were condemned to that God may bless you.

transportation. There was no help.

"I sold out all I had in the world, and in Brandon read this in silen compliance with the entreaties of my poor it back.

with who nearly went mad with grief, I came "A strange letter," said Compton, mournair. ompliance with the entreaties of my poor it back.

wife, who nearly went mad with grief, I came out here. I changed my name to Compton.

Out here. I changed my name to Compton.

I began of my Mary thus giving me up forever, so of my Mary thus giving me up forever, so cent, "I have brought my wool off at last."

Brandon paced the deck silently yet wa' shock of this dread intelligence.

Evening came and night; and the night passed, and morning came, but it found him etill there pacing the room.

My boy's term was for three years. I began to of my Mary thus giving me up lorever, so coldly, and for no reason; but afterward I well he was able to get permission to hire out as a servant. I took him nominally as my "My belief is, that these villians kept my to be a servant. I took him nominally as my that he was my son.

She thought of nothing but her boy. She made me take her and go in search of him again. So we went to India. After a long search I have lived here ever since, at first despairing, but of late more resigned to my lot. Yet still but of late more resigned to my lot. Yet still but of late more resigned to my lot. Yet still but of late more resigned to my lot. Yet still but of late more resigned to my lot. Yet still but of late more resigned to my lot. Yet still but of late more resigned to my lot. Yet still but of late more resigned to my lot. Yet still but of late more resigned to my lot. Yet still but of late more resigned to my lot. Yet still but of late more resigned to my lot. Yet still but of late more lateral ways soon on the best of terms. with an abstracted gaze, "to put a sudden tion with his old, vicious associates. True, end to my Australian career." they had changed their names, and were trying to pass for honest men. Crocker called himself Clark, and Briggs called him-

self Potts."
"Potts?" cried Brandon.
"Yes," said the other, who was too ab-

"What year was this ?" asked Brandon. "1825," replied Mr. Compton, "Crocker," he continued, " was acting as a sort of ship ping agent, and my son was his clerk. ourse, my first efforts were directed toward detaching my son from these scoundrels. did all that I could. I offered him half of my property, and finally all, if he would only leave them forever and come back. The wretched boy refused. He did not appear to be altogether bad, but he had a weak nature, alive," said Brandon.

and could not get rid of the influence of these two men. " I staid in India a year and a half, until I found at last that there was no hope. I could find nothing to do there, and if I remained I would have to starve or go out to service. This I could not think of doing. So I pre-pared to come back. But my wife refused to leave her son. She was resolved, she said, to stay by him till the last. I tried to dissuade her, but could not move her. I told her that I could not be a domestic. She said yet I see plainly that nothing less than a life her that I could not be a domestic. She said will enable me to accomplish my duty. The first thing for me to do is to acquaint you her boy. And she went off at once, and got her boy. And she went off at once, and got with this and to give up my part in the busi- a situation as nurse with the same Colonel Despard with whom Briggs, or, as he called

"What was the Christian name of this Poits?" asked Brandon, calmly.

" John-John Potts." Brandon said nothing further, and Comp-

ton resumed. "Thus my wife actually left me. I could He was silent for a long time.

"God knows," said he, at last, "that I not stay and be a slave. So I made her promise to write to me, and told her that I promise to write to me, and told her that I at the hotel book his eye ranged down the land, and was only going there now because the hotel book his eye ranged down the land, and was only going there now because the land, and was only going there now because the land, and was only going there now because the land, and was only going there now because the land, and was only going there now because the land, and was only going there now because the land, and was only going there now because the land, and was only going there now because the land, and was only going there now because the land, and was only going there now because the land, and was only going there now because the land, and was only going there now because the land, and was only going there now because the land, and was only going the land, and was only going there now because the land, and was only going there now because the land, and was only going there now because the land, and was only going there now because the land, and was only going there now because the land, and was only going there now because the land, and was only going there now because the land, and was only going there now because the land, and was only going there now because the land, and was only going there now because the land, and was only going the land, would send her as much money as I could.
She clung to me half broken hearted as I left one. "It comes upon me so sundenly," he continued. "I do not know what to think. And
tinued. "I do not know what to think And

enough; but I would rather break my heart

enough; but I would rather break my heart

elough; but I would rather bre

> was open to receive her." and lived for nearly two years. At last, in your guard. Watch every one. He has some September 1828, a mail arrived from India dark plan against you!" bringing a letter from my wife, and Indian The news which they brought well-

Compton buried his face in his hands and "You couldn't have been more than child at that time, but perhaps you may

He looked inquiringly at Brandon, but the

"Perhaps not," he continued—"ne; you were too young, of course. Well, it was in the Vishnu, a brig in which the Colonel had embarked for Manilla. The brig was laden with hogsheads staves and box shooks, and the Colonel went there partly for his health, on the other hand, why should be flaunt his the Colonel went there partly for his health, name so holdly before the world? If he is and with every minute the deep dejection of his face and manner increased. He tolded his embarked for Manilla. The brig was laden Brandon could not help

Malay named Uracao, was in irons, and he was immediately given up to the authorities."

by a frightful shrick and saw Uracao rushing

that he was steering the vessel and saw Potts catch Uracao, and helped to hold him. The Captain, Cigole, swore that he was waked by the roles and rushed out in time to see this.

Ward Lood Dio, ou would during the following year.

Brandon had come to the conclusion to tell nu; that he had been sent out by Potts to do some injury to himself, and that he was capable of the roles and rushed out in time to see this.

"How did they happen to leave the brig?"

"They said that a great storm came up about three days' sail from Manilla, the vessel sprang a leak, and thoy had to take to the hoat. Their testimony was very would turn out. As ne could not neep as that he had simply come to watch him so as to sociating Cigole in his mind with Potts, so learn his character and carry back to Potts all the knowledge that he might gain. This was his conclusion after a close association of one month with Cigole. Yet he tradictions; but in spite of all this it was felt to be a very mysterious case, and even "You have your secrets and I have mine. I the exhibition of the Malay creese, carefully don't wish to know yours, but my own I am | covered with the stains of blood, did not alto

> "I have kept them all. You may read the whole case if you care about it.'

"When I heard of this before the mail was ready, and Mr. Compton stood on the quarteropened I felt an agony of fear lest my miserto all my troubles. I suppose we indulged able boy might be implicated in some way. him too much. It was natural. He was our To my immense relief his name did not occur

"I should like to very much," said Bran-

"You got a letter from your wife?" said

ould to save him, but it was too late.

"He went on from bad to wore, until at last I ever received from her. Here it is."

And, saying this, he opened his pocket book and took out a letter, worn and faded, and blackened by frequent readings.

"Calcutta, August 15, 1828.

I send you, you will see what has occurred.

Our dear Edgar is well, indeed better than Potts, give him one of those patent cart.

boy got in with there miscreants, as I was usual, and I would feel much cheered if it month's end to another. At last a great bur- is the last letter that you will ever receive glary took place. Three were arrested, from me. I am going to leave this country Among these two were old offenders, hard-never to return, and do not know where I ened in vice, the one named Briggs, the will go. Wherever I go I will be with my other Crocker; the third was my unhappy darling Edgar. Do not worry about me or by your face that you will do it. Good by. about him. It will be better for you to forget

as a servant. I took him nominally as my "My belief is, that these villians kept my servant, for no one knew that he was my son, son in their clutches for some good reason, and so we had him with us again.

"I hoped that the bitter lesson which he for keeping her. There's some equally good reason at last reason which he for keeping her. There's some mystery about ocean. had learned would prove beneficial, but I did not know the strength of evil inclinations.

As long as his term of imprisonment lasted allowed to go free. They might have detain would have to lead for the next six months As long as his term of imprisonment lasted allowed to go free. They might have detainhe was content and behaved well; but at last, ed her by working upon her love for her son, he was content and behaved well; put at last, when the three years were up, he began to grow restive. Crocker was freed at about the same time, and my boy fell again under his evil influence. This lasted for about a year, that sounds like her, and they no doubt told the average sort of men. There was no three was no composition; there is not a word there that sounds like her, and they no doubt told the average sort of men. There was no the somewhat passionate; the crew consisted of the average sort of men. There was no the sounds like her, and they no doubt told the average sort of men. There was no the sounds like her, and they no doubt told the average sort of men. There was no the sounds like her, and they no doubt told the average sort of men.

So we went to india. After a long scaled a found him there, as I had feared, in connection with his old, vicious associates. True, trace of these dear ones whom I still love it was different. The fact of their being the they had changed their names, and were trace of these dear ones whom I sent not they had changed their names, and were as tenderly as ever. You, my dear boy, only passengers on board might of itself they have been a sufficient cause to draw them with your ability may conjecture some way. Besides, you will perhaps be traveling more or less, and may be able to hear of their get them back again."

Brandon shuddered perceptibly at the words "heart broken father;" but he quickly recovered himself. He took Compton's hand and pressed it warmly.

"Dear friend, I will make no objection to efforts shall be directed toward finding them oat.'

and can make them happy." "I'll make them go to you if they

fervently.

stranger sitting there in a lounging attitude than a speculator in wool, had it not been for

foreign air, and quick, restiess manner.

features were small, a heavy beard and mous tache covered his face, his brow was low, and Cigole managed to baffle the most dexterous the covered his face, his brow was low, and his eyes black and twinkling. A sharp furtive glance which he gave at Brandon attract Brandon. He would acknowledge that he was ed the attention of the latter, for there was an Italian, and had been in all parts of Italy,

column of names till it rested on the last

open to receive ner.

I came back to my lonely life out here even to the antipodes to strike you. rushed into his mind-" His arm may reach With these thoughts in his mind Brandon

went up to his room.

CHAPTER III.

" A MAN OVERBOARD !" In so small a town as Sydney then was, Brandon could hope to learn all that could be learned about Cigole. By casual inquiries he learned that the Italian had come out in the latter gave no sign.

"Perhaps not," he continued—"ne; you for a London house in the wool business. He

"My boy," said he at last, in the same paternal tone which he had used before, and in a mild, calm voice, "I suppose this thing can not be helped, and all 'hat is left for me to do is to hear it as hest I may. I will not indulge of Brandon.

The Colonel went there partly for his health, on the other hand, why should not had used before, and in partly on business, taking with him his valet not be helped, and all 'hat is left for me to do is to hear it as hest I may. I will not indulge of Brandon.

The Colonel went there partly for his health, on the other hand, why should no haunt his in reality following me why should he not drop his name? But, then, again, why should he? Brandon despised him as an ordinary villain, and hardly thought it worth his while to take any particular notice of him, except to watch him in a general way. But Cigole, on the con-

ever? Certainly it was not very probable.
On the whole Brandon thought that this man, whoever he was or whatever his purpose than that of Cigole, and the purpose that now

Italian named Cigole. Information was at once laid against the Malay. Potts was the chief witness. He said that he slept in the cabin the cabin the said that he slept in the cabin the cabin the cabin the said that he slept in the cabin witness. He said that he slept in the cabin witness. He said that he slept in the cabin presence in Sydney unless he himself told ordinary spy of despotic countries, such as him. For the old man was so filled with abound most in Rome and Naples in him. For the old man was so filled with the good old days.

trouble at the loss of his partner that he could the good old days.

For the common spy of Europe may deceive from the common spy of Europe may deceive the common spy of Eur by a frightful shriek and saw Uracao rushing from the Colonel's state room. He sprang up, chased him, and caug: t him to nothing clear, and all his thoughts up, chased him, and caug: t him just as ho was about to leap overboard. His creese covered with blood was in his hand. The Colonel, when they went to look at him, had his throat cut from ear to ear. Clark swore that he was steering the vessel and saw Potts arrival at London, and three months afterward £3000 —£10,000 would be remitted during the following year.

Storm the cost of his partiel traine tests the good old days. For the common spy of Europe may deceive the English or American traveler; but the Frenchman, the German, the Spaniard, or the London as soon as possible. Mr. Compton had arranged for him to draw £2000 on his arrival at London, and three months afterward £3000 —£10,000 would be remitted during the following year.

on board a considerable quantity of wool. On the whole Braudon felt gratified to hear this. gether dispei this feeling."

"Have you got the papers yet, or are there any in Sydney that contain an account of this thought of danger arising to himself did not thought of danger arising to himself did not sation, "are both in the same trade. If I enter his mind. He believed that Cigole ever get to England I may wish some time meant mischief, but he had too much confi- to see you. Where can I find you? dence in his own powers to fear it.

On the 5th cf August the ship Java was and hesitated for some time.

"Well," he said at last, "I do not think well," he said at last, "I do not think deck to bid good-bye to Brandon.

Co.'s house is one of the strongest in Lon-don. I have bought you a parting gift," said inquiring of Giovanni Cavallo, 16 Red Lion don. I have bought you a parting gift," said he, in a low voice. He drew from his pocket a pistol, which in those days was less known than now-indeed, this was the first of its kind which had roached Australia, and Mr. And, saying this, he opened his pocket book and took out a letter, worn and faded, and oblackened by frequent readings.

Brandon took it respectfully and read the following:

Crompten had paid a fabulous price for it "Here," said he, "take this to remember me by. They call it a revolver. Here is a box of patent cartridges that go with it. It is from me to you. And mind," he con-tinued, while there came over his face a "MY DEAREST HENRY,-By the papers that vengeful look which Brandon had never seen

ridges, and tell him it is the last gift of a broken hearted father."
Brandon's face turned ghastly, and his lips

seemed to freeze into a smile of deadly mean "God bless von !" cried Compton. "I see He wrung Brandon's hand hard and left

The old man was silent for some time.

"I do not think, after all, that he was guilty; but Briggs turned King's evidence, dearest husband; it shall be my daily prayer that God may bless you.

"I do not think, after all, that he was same as dead to you. Good-by forever, my dearest husband; it shall be my daily prayer over the stern and smoking a cigar. He was near enough to hear what had been said, but that God may bless you. he did not appear to have heard it. Throwing Brandon read this in silence, and handed his cigar into the water, he plunged his hands

> "Aha, Capitano," said he, in a foreign ac-Brandon paced the deck silently yet watch-

The good ship Java went out with a fine breeze, which continued for some days, until at last nothing could be seen but the wide In those few days Brandon had setwhen, at last, one morning a letter was brought me from him stating that he had gone to India.

"My poor wife was again nearly distracted."

"My poor wife was again nearly distracted."

"And now," said Compton, after another long pause. "I have got to the end of my account of that affair he evidently believed."

"The weather what to write, or wrote out something, chance, certainly, for one of those conspirations and made her copy it."

"And now," said Compton, after another long pause. "I have got to the end of my account of that affair he evidently believed

or less, and may be able to hear of the fate. This is the condition that I make. I implore you by your pity for a heart-broken that his purposes would be best served by close that his purposes would be best served by close association with this man; he hoped that association with this man; he hoped that he course of such association he might together: but Brandon found it difficult to draw something from Cigole. But Cigole bafiled him constantly. He was as polite and courteous as all Italians are; he had an abundance of remarks all ready about the state of the weather, the prospects of the voy age or the health of the seamen; but beyond any thing, and I promise you that all my best these topics it was difficult to induce him to go. Brandon stifled the resentment which he felt toward this man, in his efforts to "Tell them to come to me, that I am rich, break down the barriers of formality which he kept up, and sought to draw him out on the subject of the wool trade. Yet here he was baffled. Cigole always took up the air of a "God bless you!" ejaculated the old man, man who was speaking to a rival in business ervently.

Brandon spent the greater part of that day guarded in his remarks about wool, as though in making business arrangements, and in reading the papers which Compton had preserved containing an account of the Despard murder.

It was late at night before, he returned to It was late at night before he returned to have been completely deceived, and would his hotel. As he went into the hall he saw a have come to consider him as nothing more reading the Sydner News.

He was a thin, small-sized man, with a made him regard this man as one who was foreign air, and quick, restless manner. His actuated by something far deeper than mere

efforts and the most delicate contrivances of something in the glance that meant more but earefully refrained from telling where he than idle cusiosity. than idle cusiosity.

Evon in the midst of his cares Brandon's time that he had been in the Eastern seas. He curiosity was excited. He walked with remarked once, casually, that Cigole was a Even in the midst of his cares Brandon service casually, that Cigoie was a curiosity was excited. He walked with remarked once, casually, that Cigoie was a very common name among Italians. He said that he had no acquaintances at all in English of the key of his room. Glancing he heard that there was a good market for wool. At another time he spoke as though much of his life had been passed in Marseilles, and hinted that he was a partner of a com-

mercial house here.

Cigole never made any advances, and never even met half way those which Brandon made He was never off his guard for one instant. Polite, smiling, furtive, never looking Brandon fairly in the face, he usually spoke with a pro fusion of bows, gestures, and commonplaces, adopting, in fact, that part which is always at once both the easiest and safest to playthe noncommittal, pure and perfect.

It was cunning, but low cunning after all, and Brandon perceived that, for one who had some purpose to accomplish with but a com-mon soul to sustain him, this was the most ordinary way to do it. A villain of profounder cunning or of larger spirit would have pur sued a different path. He would have con-

the hill stations, where she had gone for her you must have a good reason for your decision, although I do not seek to look into that reason."

Believe me," said Brandon, "I would show you the letter at once, but it is so terrible.

Mails used only to come at long intervals show you the letter at once, but it is so terrible.

The hill stations, where she had gone for her health. Grief may have had something to do with the Colonel's voyage, for he was very much attached to his wife.

Brandon from time to time had opportunities of hearing more about Cigole, yet always the man seemed absorbed in business.

He wondered to himself whether he had successful to be intent on something else, but in reality watching Brandon's acts or listening to his words. To any other man the knowledge of the better confide his suspicious to Mr. Compton in those days, and this one brought the account not only of the Colonel's fate, but of the trial at Manilla and the execution of the man that was condemned.

"It was a very mysterious case. In the month of July a boat arrived at Manilla which carried the crew and one passenger from the brig Vishnu. One of the men, a Malvy named Liveson was in iven, and her account not only of the Colonel's fate, but of the trial at Manilla and the execution of the world his suspicions to Mr. Compton or not. Yet whyshould he? The old man would become excited, and feel all sorts of wild hopes about discovering his wife and son. Could it be possible that the Italian after so many years could now afford any clew what-from the brig Vishnu. One of the men, a Malvy named Liveson was in itemas extent absorbed. He wondered to himself whether he had better confide his suspicions to Mr. Compton or not. Yet whyshould he? The old man would become excited, and feel all sorts of wild hopes about discovering his wife and son. Could it be possible that the Italian after so many years could now afford any clew what-from the brighest degree irksome. But to Brandon it was gratifying, since it confirmed his suspicions. He saw this man, whose construct efforts were directed to ward not committing himself by word, doing the trial at Manilla and the carcinom to the highest degree irksome. But to Brandon it was gratifying, will be possible that the Italian after so ward not committing by his attitude, his gesture, and the further probable.

On the whole Brandon thought that the highest degree irksome. But to Brandon it was gratifying, will be possible that the Italian after so ward not committing by his attitude, his gesture, and the further had been in the knowledge of words. To any other man the knowledge of the trial at Manilla and the factor of the words. To any other man the knowledge of the trial at Manilla and the factor of the words. To any other man the knowledge of the words. To any other man the knowledge of the trial at Manilla and the fact was immediately given up to the authorities."
"Who were the others?"
"Potts, as he called himself, the Colonel's valet, Clark, three Lascars, and the Captain, an Italian named Cigole. Information was at once

Readon felt quite certain that Market is purpose that now might be, would be encountered best by him self singly. If Mr. Compton took part he was of watered in purpose that that of Cigole, and the purpose that now might be, would be encountered best by him self singly. If Mr. Compton took part he was of watered in purpose. The purpose that now might be, would be encountered best by him self singly. If Mr. Compton took part he was of watered in purpose that now animated his life was unintelligible to this self singly. If Mr. Compton took part he was of watered in purpose that now animated his life was unintelligible to this self singly. If Mr. Compton took part he would be encountered best by him animated his life was unintelligible to this self singly. If Mr. Compton took part he was of watered best by him animated his life was unintelligible to this self singly. If Mr. Compton took part he was of watered best by him animated his life was unintelligible to this self singly. If Mr. Compton took part he was of watered best by him animated his life was unintelligible to this self singly. If Mr. Compton took part he was of watered best by him animated his life was unintelligible to this self singly. If Mr. Compton took part he was of watered best by him animated his life was unintelligible to this self singly. If Mr. Compton took part he was of watered best by him animated his life was unintelligible to this self singly. If Mr. Compton took part he was of watered best by him animated his life was unintelligible to this self-singly. If Mr. Compton took part he was of watered best by him animated his life was unintelligible to this self-singly.

the noise, and rushed out in time to see this. Clark had gone as mate of the vessel. Of the Lascars, two had been down below, but one was on deck and swore to have seen the same. On this testimony Uracao was condemned and on the country the was on the testimony Uracao was condemned and claim to the country the country the country the country the country the might be bribed or otherwise induced to tell do anything. He certainly could not entice the what he knew; yet thinking it possible that Cigole had designed to return in the same conspiracy. He was too great a coward to attend to the country the country to himself, and that he was capable of any crime. Yet he could not see how the could not see how the country the country the country the country to himself, and that he was capable of any crime. Yet he could not see how the could not see how the could not see how the country the country to himself, and that he was capable that if the man remained in the country the country the might be bribed or otherwise induced to tell do anything. He certainly could not entice the what he knew; yet thinking it possible that Cigole had designed to return in the same; the country that the man remained in the country the count this testimony Uracao was condemned and ship with him, he waited to see how things tempt any violence. So Brandon concluded would turn out. As he could not help as that he had simply come to watch him so as to

passage in the ship Java, and two days before the vessel left he learned that Cigole man. To him he appeared only an agent in villainy, and therefore unworthy of vengeance; yet he might be made use of as an aid in that vengeance. He therefore wished for the close association of a long sea voyage to have a clew by which he might afterward

that you will wish to see me—" and he hesi-"God bless you, dear boy! You will find tated; "but," he resumed, with an evil able boy might be implicated in some way. the money coming promptly, and Smithers & smile, "if you should by any possibility wish street, London."

" Perhaps I may not wish to," said Brandon, coolly, "and perhaps I may. At any rate, if I do, I will remember to inquire of Giovanni Cavallo, 16 Red Lion street, Lon-He spoke with deep emphasis on the ad-

dress. Cigole looked uncomfortable, as though he had at last made the mistake which he So the time passed. After the first few days the weather had

come quite stormy. Strong head winds, ac-

companied ofton by very heavy rains, had to it was for this assault that all the propara- in such a direction that even if he did strugbe encountered. In spite of this the ship had tions had been made. a very good passage northward, and met with no particular obstacle until her course was collecting clouds, but at length he turned could look past the island, and see the wide

courses. For weeks before and after this season the winds are all unsettled, and it seems as if the elements were let loose. From the first week in September this became manifest and every day brought them face to face with and every day brought them face to face with the season of and every day brought them face to face with the sterner difficulties. Twice before the captain had been to Australia; and for years he had been to Australia; and for years he had been in the China trade; so that he knew these seas well: but he said that he had never these seas well: but he said that he had never these seas well: but he said that he had never the second to be absorbed by some overmeastering and had been swept along not very far from

was the middle of September before they entered the Indian Occan. The weather then became suddenly calm, and they drifted along beyond the latitude of the western expectations for the service of the se

ous and distracted. The streams that flow gazing at the island.

stantly on the alert. Yet between the storms the calms were requent, and sometimes long continued, though of such a sort as required watchfulthe storm would suddenly rise in its might. and all the care which experience could suggest was not always able to avert disaster. "I don't like the weather, Mr. Brandon. It's the worst that we could have, especially

" Why just here ?" "Why, we're just opposite the Straits of Sunda, the worst place about these parts.'

"What for?"
"Pirates. The Malays, you know. We're not over well prepared to meet them, I'm afraid. If they come we'll have to fight them the best way we can; and these calms are the worst thing for us, because the Malay proas can get along in the lightest wind, or with oars, when we can't move at all."
"Are the Malays any worse than usual now?" asked Brandon.

"Well, no worse than they've been for the last ten years. Zangorri is the worst of them

"Zangorri! I've heard of him." "I should think you had. Why there never vas a pirate in these seas who did so much, damage. No mortal knows the ships that devil has captured and burned." "I hope you have arms for the seamen, at any rate."

for the men, and we will have to get along the best way we can with these; but the owners ought never to send us out here without s better equipment.' "I suppose they think it would cost too much, "Yes; that's it. They think only about the

profits, and trust to luck for our safety. Well,

"Oh, we have one howitzer, and small arms

only hope we'll get safely out of this placethat's all. And the captain walked off much more ex ited than usual. They drifted on through days of calm which were succeeded by fierce but short lived storms, and then followed by calms. Their course lay sometimes north, sometimes south sometimes nowhere. Thus the time passed.

until at length, about the middle of September, they came in sight of a long, low island "I've heard of that sand bank before?" said the captain, who showed some surprise at seeing it; "but I didn't believe it was here. It's not down in the charts. Here we are three hundred and fifty miles southwest of the Straits of Sunda, and the chart makes this place all open water. Well, seein's be-

lievin'; and after this I'll swear there is such a thing as Coffin Island." "Is that the name?"
"That's the name an old

and no mistake."

"Why did he call it Coffin Island?"

which the captain mentioned, and make were slowly approaching.

It lay toward the north, while the ship's self of his clothing.

At first, by a mere blind instinct, he tried to swim after the ship, as though by tried to swim after the ship, as though by the nearest extremity a black rock arose to a but the hurricane was against him, and he height of about five hundred feet long, and was forced sideways far out of the course was of such a shape that the imagination might easily see a resemblance to a coffin.

At the farthest extremity of the island was a low mound. The rest of the island was flat, turned toward the direction where that sand low and sandy, with no trace of vegetation perceptible from the ship, except a line of disaster. At first it was hidden from view

Meanwhile the captain in anticipation of a storm, had caused all the sails to be taken in,

the southwest. There a dense mass of clouds lay piled along the horizon, gloomy, lowering, menacing; frowning over the calm seas as though they would soon destroy that calm, and fling forth all the fury of the winds. These clouds seemed to have started up from the sea, so sudden had been their appearance; and now, as they gathered themselves together, their forms distended, and heightened, and reached forward vast arms into the sky, striv-ing to climb there, rolling upward voluminous cloud masses which swiftly ascended to-ward the zenith. So quick was the progress of these clouds that they did not seem to com-

As yet there was no wind, and the water was, as smooth as glass; but over the wide surface thrown him from the ship, and the greater as far as the eye could reach, the long swell of the ocean had changed into vast rolling undulations, to the motion of which the ship they should triumph over him so easily and yielded, slowly ascending and descending as so quickly. His vengeance should not be the waters rose and fell, while the yards creak. ed, and the rigging twanged to the strain upon still nerved his arm.

all obscured.

black clouds on the horizon, and all the erew were gazing there in sympathy with him. From that quarter the wind would burst, and the siland. He saw that he was being carried the island. He saw that he was being carried the siland. To be continued.

TO BE CONTINUED.

TO BE CONTINUED.

—No. Clementina, bless your impulsive the siland. He saw that he was being carried the island. The bullfinch doesn't wear horns.

no particular obstacle until her course was turned toward the Indian Ocean. Then all the winds were dead against her, and for weeks a succession of long tacks far to the north and to the south brought her but a short distance onward. Every day made the wind more violent and the storm worse. And now the season of the equinox was approach; in that one thing. A low railing ran around the quarter deck. The captain stood by the companion-winds that sweep over these seas alter their courses. For weeks before and after this season the winds are all unsettled, and it seems

known the equinoctial storms begin so early, and rage with such violence.

thought.
Suddenly a faint, fluttering ripple appeared to

tremity of Java, about a hundred miles south great distance, whose roar, subdued by dis- It was a large hen coop, capable of keeping of the Straits of Sunda. Here they began to tance, sounds faintly, yet warningly to the ear. several men affoat. Brandon clung to this

through the many isles of the Indian archipelago, uniting with the greater southern louder, and in the direction from which it more plainly whither he was going. archipelago, uniting with the greater southern streams, here meet and blend, causing great difficulties to navigation, and often bafiling even the most experienced seaman. Yet it was not all left to the currents, for frequently and suddenly the storms came up; and the washing and suddenly the storms came up; and the boiling flood advanced nearer in myriad numbered waves, which seemed now like an army rushing to the charge, tossing and suddenly the storms came up; and the drection from which it more plainty whither he was going. The sand bank lay before him; the mound at the western extremity was in front of him, myriad numbered waves, which seemed now like an army rushing to the charge, tossing on high its crested heads and its countless for he had been swept by the current abreast form plainty whither he was going.

The sand bank lay before him; the mound at the wastern extremity was in front of him, myriad numbered waves, which seemed now like an army rushing to the charge, tossing for he had been swept by the current abreast form plainty whither he was going.

The sand bank lay before him; the mound at the boiling flood advanced nearer in at the western extremity was in front of him, myriad numbered waves, which seemed now like an army rushing to the charge, tossing for he had been swept by the current abreast form plainty whither he was going. all before it.

ent, and sometimes long continued, the first olast of the storm the ship ward the stand, and there was a chance of rolled far over, the masts creaked and grouned, his being carried full upon its shore. Yet the For out of the midst of dead oalms the waves rushed up and dashed against the chance was a slender one, for the set of the

At that instant Cigole darted quickly toward
Brandon, and the moment that the vessel yielded to the blow of the storm he fell violently his fate would be decided. Nearer and nearer Brandon, and the moment that the vessel yielded to the blow of the storm he fell violently

helplessly into the sea -·——liquidas projecit in undus Precipitom."

Cigole clung to the rail, and instantly

shrieked out :
'' Man overboard!'' The startling cry rang through the ship. The captain turned round with a face of

"Man overboard!" shouted Cigole again. "Help! It's Brandon!"

He then looked aloft and to the south with eyes of despair. He could do nothing. For now the storm was upon them, and the ship

Beyond this point was another a was plunging furiously through the waters with the speed of a race horse at the touch of the gale. On the lee side lay the sand bank, now only three miles away, whose unknown shallows made their present posi-

was any hope of avoiding that lee shore.

All on board shared the captain's despair. for all saw that nothing could be done. The ship was at the mercy of the hurricane. To own lives now it would be as much as they could do.

height; the ship could not maintain its pro-per course, but yielding to the gale, fied to the northwest far out of its right direction.

CHAPTER IV.

SINKING IN DEEP WATER. Brandon, overwhelmed by the rush of waters, half suffocated, and struggling in the successfully. rush of the waves, shrieked out a few despairing cries for help, and sought to keep his head "That's the name an old sea captain gave it, and tried to get the admiralty to put it on were borne off by the fierce winds, and the the charts, but they wouldn't. But this is it ship as it careered madly before the blast was

Brandon looked earnestly at the island which they which the captain mentioned, and which they and wave that he dared not stop for a more slowly approaching.

which he was trying to take. At last the full island lay which had been the cause of his reach. Then all hope left him. dingy green under the rock, which looked like by the swell of waves that rose in front, but soon rising upon the crest of one of these he perceived far away the dark form of the coffin

and stood anxiously watching the sky toward impelled him.

But the rock was far to the right, and it might be that the island did not extend far enough to meet him as he neared it. It was about five miles in length, but in his efforts the might not be able to reach even the western extremity. Still there was nothing else to do but to try. Resolutely, therefore, though half despairingly, he put forth his best strength, and struggled manfully to win the shore.

That lone and barren sand-bank, after all,

offered but a feeble chance for life. Even if he did reach it, which was doubtful, what could be do? Starvation instead of drownthough all the air suddenly condensed its master and made it visible, in these dark masses. land, the thought of the villain who had villain who had sent him out on his murder-ous errand. He could not bear the idea that

Every moment the sky grew darker, and as gloom gathered above so it increased below, till all the sea spread out a smooth ebon mass. Darkness settled down, and the sun's face to Darkness settled down, and the sun's face to Darkness settled down, and the sun's face to the island, but his strength was almost exponentially the sea spread out a smooth ebon mass. The waves, and clinging to him, confined the by moving in an oblique direction he could A half hour's struggle, which seemed like was thus obscured, and a preternatural gloom | free action of his limbs, and lent an addition | gathered upon the face of nature. Overhead | al weight. Another half hour's exertion might | At len vast black clouds went sweeping past, cover- possibly bring nim to the shore, but that ex- lers were of less dimensions. His progress ing all things, faster and faster, till at last far ertion hardly seemed possible. It was but down in the northern sky the heavens were with difficulty now that he could strike out. But amidst all this there was yet not a overwhelm him, and it was only by convulsive where the mound was, protected it from the

trasted with the stillness below made the latter not consoling but rather fearful, for this could be now other than that trasherman. For a quarter of an hour longer he had contained by now other than that trasherman could be none other than that treacherous stillness which preceeds the sudden outburst so near that a quarter of an hour more might and t'en fell down exhausted upon the bring him to it. But even that exertion of ground.

strength was now no longer possible. Faintly He could not move. It was late; night of the huricane,

For that sudden outburst all were now looking, expecting it every moment. On the side of the ship where the wind was expected the ly-throbbing heart, he toiled on, until at last the fell into a sound sleep. captain was standing, looking anxiously at the any further effort seemed impossible. Before

gle on he might be borne helplessly past the

him. Brandon was nerved to new efforts by the and rage with such violence.

Opposed by such difficulties as these the ship made but a slow passage—the best routes had not yet been discovered—and it to be ship made but a slow passage—the best routes had not yet been discovered—and it to be ship made but a slow passage—the best routes had not yet been discovered—and it to be seen as the southward; it came quickly; it seemed to sight of this. He turned and exerted the ship made sight of this will last remnants of his strength in order to the ship and sight of this means of safety. It was more reach the means of safety.

of the Straits of Sunda. Here they began to encounter the China fleet which steers through this strait, for every day one or more sais were visible.

Here they were borne on helplessly by the ocean currents, which at this place are numers out and distracted. The streams that flow gazing at the island.

At the first touch of the ten.pest, and the menacing voice of its approach, not a word was spoken, but all stoo i mute. Brandon dung to this and at last had rest. Every minute of respite was spoken, but all stoo i mute. Brandon dung to this and at last had rest. Every minute of respite was spoken, but all stoo i mute. Brandon dung to this and at last had rest. Every minute of respite was spoken, but all stoo i mute. Brandon dung to this and at last had rest. Every minute of respite was spoken, but all stoo i mute. Brandon dung to this and at last had rest. Every minute of respite was spoken, but all stoo i mute. Brandon dung to this and at last had rest. Every minute of respite was spoken, but all stoo i mute. Brandon dung to this and at last had rest. Every minute of respite was spoken, but all stoo i mute. Brandon dung to this and at last had rest. Every minute of respite was spoken, but all stoo i mute. Brandon dung to the surface was proposed in the strength to a greater degree. He could now keep his head high out of the was transfer or minute of respite was spoken, but all stoo i mute. Brandon dung to this and at last had rest. Every minute of respite was spoken, but all stoo i mute. Brandon dung to this and at last had rest. Every minute of respite was spoken, but all stoo i mute. Brandon dung to the strength had last had last had last had last had last had last had rest. Every minute of respite was spoken, but all stoo i mute. Brandon dung to the strength had last had last had rest. Every minute of respite was spoken had last had rest. Every minute of respite was spoken, but all stoo i mute. Brandon dung the last had rest. Every minute

being carried past it. Still there was hope At last the tornado struck.

At the first blast of the storm tho ship ward the island, and there was a chance of tide rather carried him beyond the line of the

against him. Before Brandon and noticed he came, still clinging to the hen-coop, and the storm or had time to steady himself he making no efforts whatever, but reserving had pushed him headlong over the rail and collecting together all his strength, so as helplessly into the sea—

But as he came nearer the island appeared to move more and more out of the line of his approach. Under these circumstaces his only chance was to float as near as possible, and then make a last effort to reach the land Nearer and nearer he came. At last he was close by it, but the extreme point of the island lay to the right more than twenty

vards. This was the crisis of his fate, for

ow if he floated on any longer he would be "Help! It's Brandon!"

"Brandon!" cried the captain. "He's lost! O God!"

He took up a hen coop from its fastenings and flung it into the sea, and a couple of pails strength of the captain. The shore was here low but steep, the waters appeared to be deep, and a heavy surf dashed upon the island, and threw up its spray far over the mound. He was so near that he could distinguish the pebbles on the beach, and could see beyond the mound along,

Beyond this point was another a hundred yards away, but farther out of his reach, and affording no hope whatever. Between the two points there was an inlet into the island showing a little cove : but the surf just here became wilder, and long rollers careered one past another over the intervening space. It tion perilous in the extreme. The ship could not turn to try and save the lost passenger; it was only by keeping straight on that there chance.

Brandon made up his mind. He let go snip was at the mercy of the hurricane. To turn was impossible. If they could save their own lives now it would be as much as they point, and the waves dashed over him more Away went the ship -away, farther and quickly and furiously than before. He was arther, every moment leaving at a greater swept past the point before he had made half farther, every moment leaving at a greater a dozon strokes; he was borne on still struggl-dietance the lost man who struggled in the ing: and now on his left lay the rollers which he waters.

At last they had passed the danger, the is. land was left behind, and the white sea lay all around.

But by this time the storm was at its The fifteen or twenty minutes of rest and of breathing-space which he had gained had been of immense advantage, and he struggled with all the force which could be inspired by the nearness of safety. Yet, after all, human efforts can not withstand the fury of the elements, and here against this strong sea the strongest swimmer could not hope to contend

He swam toward the shore, but the wind striking him from one side, and urging on the scon out of hearing.

He was a first rate swimmer, but in a sea made, but the force of the waters was sea, drove him sideways. Some progress was "Well he thought that rock looked like a coffin, and it's dangerous enough when a fog comes to deserve that name."

"He was a first rate swimmer, but in a sea like this it needed all his strength and all his ful, and for every foot that he moved forward he was carried six feet to leeward. He him-comes to deserve that name."

Encumbered by his clothes it was still more self-saw this, and calculating his chances he rate there was no possibility of gaining the

farther point.

forward.

him, dashing over him now more wildly. since he was exposed more than before to their full sweep. Already the rollers lay close beside him on his left. Then it seemed as though he would be engulted. Turning his head backward with a last faint thought of trying to regain the hen coop, so as to prolong life somewhat. he saw it far away out of his He was now at the outermost line of rollers.

Already the waves leaped exultingly about

At the moment that he turned his head a huge wave raised him up and bore him for-He struggled still, even in that time shaped rock. Here then before him lay the They bore him onward, however, none the less helplessly, and descending carried him with them.

But now at last, as he descended with that

wave, hope came back, and all his despair vanished, For as the wave flung him downward his feet touched bottom, and he stood for a moment erect, on solid, hard sand, in water that scarcely reached his knees. It was for a moment only that he stood, however, for the weep of the water bore him down, and he fell forward. Before he could regain himself another wave came and hurled him farther

By a violent effort he staggered to his feet. In an instant he comprehended his position. At this western end the island descended gently into the water, and the shoal which it ormed extended for miles away. It was this shoal that caused the long rollers that came over them so vehemently, and in such marked ontrast with the more abrupt waves of the sea behind.

In an instant he had comprehended this,

and had taken his course of action.

Now he had foothold. Now the ground heneath lent its aid to his endeavor; he was no longer altogether at the mercy of the water. He bounded forward toward the shore in such point that stretched out was now within

At length he reached a place where the rol-It was but became more rapid, until at length the water became exceedingly shallow, being not more Often the rush of waves from behind would than a foot in depth. Here the first point, breath of wind. Far above the wind careered in a narrow current, which did not touch the ing billows and regain his breath. surface of the sea but only bore onward the clouds. The agitation of the sky above con haustive to be long continued. Nature failed, him. He had but to wade onward to the had noticed. The water was all white with

That shore was at last attained. He stag-