THE OLD BARGE.

By Thomas St. E. Hake

CHAPTER II .- WITH THE EBB.

Meanwhile, Rotherford had stood on the ferry steps, watching Bertha's retreating figure until the twilight had hid her from view. He had then gone to his boat and cautiously rowed down stream, with the wind and rain driving up against the tide and growing rougher as the night fell. He kept close under the bank, out of the rapid current. His intention was to pull alongside Landrick's barge while there was still a gleam of light, make fast there, and remain on the alert till daybreak. And although the prospect was anything but promising, even to an ardent lover, David Rotherford would have gone through a severer ordeal for Bertha's sake. For was not this solitary night-watch on the Thames under her very window? And within doors -as he judged by the light-she was keeping night-watch too. He came up alongside the barge as noiselessly as possible in order not to disturb Landrick, and attached his boat to the stern, where his presence would not be suspected.

The tide had begun to ebb. Rotherford listened intently for the slightest noise. Al that Bertha had told him about the weird midnight voices on the river recurred to him now. The wind blew boisterously, and in the on all sides; and he frequently peered round with a strong conviction that there was noiseless figure moving about on the bargea black, crawling thing, like a huge spider, and blacker than the night. So strong did this conviction become that at last he resolved to go stealthily on board and satisfy himself concerning the dark shadow. If it existed only in his brain so much the better;

Suddenly the barge began to move-move slowly out of the creek towards mid-stream; | ing in through a leak in her side. and Rotherford's boat, swinging round, glided atter it-glided away with the ebbing tide! Rotherford could hardly believe his senses. It was like a dream—a strange nightmare. His first thought was to raise was gone from its moorings, she did not of Lord Hastings while encamped on the an alarm; but as he opened his lips the shought flashed across him that the figure -a dim moving figure now-was on the deck and creeping towards the cabin; and were he to cry out, his boat would be cut adrift. It was still in his power to leap on board the barge and go to Landrick's aid.

As the figure went into the cabin, leaving the barge to take its course with the tide, Rotherford drew alongside and crept up into the stern, advancing on hands and feet across the deck towards the little skylight. His heart throbbed loudly as he looked down. The cabin lamp, still hanging in its place, was burning brightly, and its light fell upon the dark eager visage of and hishands—no longer employed in mendsupboard over Landrick's head. The old bargeman was lying asleep in his bunk; he was enveloped in a rough coat; and over this coat was a quantity of netting. Should he awake suddenly and attempt to rise, he must become entangled in this web. This of the dark bridge brought a dreadthought Rotherford. The intention was sudden terror and despair. She felt the 1872. doubtless to throw Landrick into confusion while he completed his purpose and made his escape.

In another moment Rotherford was standing at the cabin door. Morison's arm was the floor. The man sprang towards Rotherhis escape than of showing fight; but Davy caught him by the throat, flung him down rise; he lay cringing at the other's feet, and trembling from head to foot.

The ringing sound of the iron box, or more possibly the money inside it, had roused Landrick. He started up on his elbow and stared at these two men as though he doubted whether he were awake. The Her heart beat loudly. She went down on one man, standing silently over the other under the dim light of the barge-lamp, was as startling and unexpected as any dream could be.

Davy was the first to break the silence. "Mr Landrick," said he, in a rapid mannetting off you, if you can, and get to the tiller. The tide's ebbing fast. We shall be down on Battersea Bridge and broken to pieces against the timber, if you're not quick. I'll look to this feliow : it's all his A darkness deeper than the night came work.

"Let him go, Davy!" cried the old bargeman-" let him go overboard, or I

choice. " Rotherford obeyed. He stepped back a

pace to allow Morison to rise. "You hear?" said he.

to his feet and glanced round with an air of It was just light enough to indicate objects over the river and on either bank, in dark uncertain outline. The rearest objectand it was the one that instantly caught Morison's quick eye-was Rotherford's boat at the stern. He ran afcand flung himself into it. A minute afterwards he was rowing away in the semi-darkness; and water expressed the creature's abject fright.

Old Landrick now seized the tiller and pointed down-stream. "Davy," said he, down over her. "that's Battersea Bridge yonder. Stand steady. We shall be upon her, I'm afeared, afore we can get the barge righted for shootin' between the piles. Stand steady, lad, and a sharp lookout !" he added; "ay, there's ro ks ahead.'

Rotherford made no reply. He bent down and kept his eyes fixed upon such dim outlines of the bridge as were indicated in

the uncertain morning light. It was a dark mass, with some dozen oil-lamps at equal distances, spanning the Thames. This wooden structure, which connected the antique parish of Battersea with Old Chelsea, was an object of dread to all who navigated "above bridge." Its history stretches back a century or more. During the severe winter of '95 the bridge had been considerably damaged by back with Landrick under Battersea Bridge huge blocks of accumulated ice, that had to examine the spot where the barge had become attached to the piles, drawing them rudely at the rise of the tide. It was

the period of this tale, that the bridge was even lighted with lamps; it was indeed the only wooden one that possessed this poor accommodation. In those days the bridge had nineteen openings, varying from thirtyone feet in the centre to sixteen at the ends; the piers were formed of groups of timber piles with a clear headway of fifteen feet under the centre span at high-water. It was towards this centre that Landrick now exercised all his ingenuity to direct the barge. No harder task could have been set a bargee in broad daylight; but it was still practically night; only a glimmer of dawn, in dasky gray, stretched across the sky beyond the openings under the bridge. And the tide wasebbing nfaster now, was carrying this old and sle der craftstraight down upon the massive pi'es; and only a miracle

could prevent a collision. No words passed between Landrick and his young companion. Each was at his post. Rotherford stood in the forepart of the barge-boat, hook in hand, and with a "fender" ready if needed to deaden the blow. The old bargeman, with a firm grasp upon the tiller, looked keenly ahead. He knew that his cabin home-his iron box that contained all his savings-his life and Davy's | arations are used. A new antiseptic has too-depended upon such skill as he possessed, such as time and tide were doing nent physicians regard as superior to the sound heimagined that he heard whisperings their utmost to defeat. A minute moreone more gleam of daylight and a slower tide-and the barge might be saved! But piles at so narrow an opening was now impossible. The barge swung round. Rotherford shouted loudly and ran aft-shouted for ordinary use and leaves the skin smooth to Landrick to let go the tiller and cling to and soft. the rope astern for his life. A moment afterwards there was a crash; the barge creaked and shivered, and began to settle down among the piles, with the water rush-

CHAPTER III.

lose her presence of mind; she kept a cool | banks of the Sind. head and acted promptly. Passing with It was then taken for a new disease and her lantern farther within the creek, and created great consternation, carrying off walking at the water's edge, she came upon | 5,000 soldiers in five days. a short oar over the stern, and screwing in | tants as a new and fearful plague. fish-tail fashion to and fro. The girl stepto work her course into the river. The 1820 it reached China, in 1822-23 Persia. direction she now began to urge the boat, Quebec and New York in 1832. where Rotherford could be. Had he not the Upper Mississippi. through?

tary sense of reassurance. For the sight demic having prevailed in Sacramento. danger; and now the gleam of daybreak self that the barge, with her grandfather on Austrian war. board, had probably sunk to the bottom of already plunged into the cupboard. As the river. And in the dead of the night ! Rotherford's shadow fell upon him he look- It was horrible to think of. But where was ed round : a gasping cry escaped him, and Davy ? The mere thought of him gave her the box dropped ringing and clinking upon courage. Had he gone for aid? He must pared to that of 1832, for the disease is unknow what had happened : he had feared doubtedly promoted by mental emotions ford, more with the intention of making to alarm her. She paused in her rowing and called to Rotherford by name: "Davy!"

But no answer came back to her across as he would have done a dog, and stood over the river-not a sound. The sense of lonehim ready to repeat the action should he liness and dread grew upon her now; and move. But Morison made no attempt to vet she persevered, screwing vigorously at the oar-hurrying on towards Battersea Bridge with the tide racing after her and upon its baleful light with dread. dancing in the dark eddies round her boat. As she neared the bridge, always listening with intentness, she fancied that she heard voices—voices among the shadowy piles. her knees and began working like a madwoman at the oar. In her anguish she again cried out : "Davy-Davy!

At last! It was his voice: it came to her from under the bridge and urged her to fresh exertion: "Bertha! we are herener, "the barge is adrift! Throw that your grandfather and I, and the barge is sinking fast. Can't you see us ?-There! Now ship your oar. I can hold the boat. -Can't you see us now?"

Bertha could see nothing-hear nothing. across her eyes; her senses were forsaking her; and as Rotherford reached out his hand and brought the boat alongside the sinking shall pitch him there. Let him take his barge, the girl dropped down unconscious in the stern.

ment too soon. Rotherford had scarcely Morison had heard. He instantly sprang taken the oar and pushed the boat clear of the woodwork under the bridge, when the desperation. There was a slight gleam of | barge rolled upon its broken side and went light in the sky. The day was breaking. down stern foremost. The tide swept over it, eddying and gurgling among the piles.

"Gone!" cried Landrick with a groan. "Home and savings too, Davy, all swallowed up. I'm a ruined man.'

Rotherford answered angrily: "Come, come, Mr Landrick! What are you thinking about? If it hadn't been for Bertha, we should have been swallowed up too. the very fluttering of the sculls upon the Look to your grand-daughter, sir. Don't you see she has fainted?"

> "Ay, ay. Poor thing !" and he bent Rotherford, setting the boat's head against

the tide and getting free on the bridge, steered towards the terry steps where he and Bertha had met in the twilight on the previous evening.

Nothing more was seen of John Morison But Rotherford afterwards learned that the notorious Red House tavern in Battersea Fields—in those days a den of gamb'ers and thieves-had been his favourite resort. It time she married Mr. Sterling, of Toronto, defects that can not be remedied; but it is then became evident, even to the old bargeman, that the net-mending was a mere pretext for discovering the best means of gaining possession of the iron box which Landrick had guarded day and night in the barge cabin ever since he had taken up his moorings beside the thatched house.

sunk, they were not a little surprised to discover the old craft lying half out of wa-

that she had got caught among the piles, and had become wedged in between them so firmly that there was no likelihood of her sinking deeper if she could be recovered before the tide broke her to pieces.

The difficulty proved comparatively slight. On the following day, at low tide, the barge was bouyed up and towed back to its moorings. But it was no longer habitable; there was a great hole in the stern as well as in one side. Landrick was compelled to take up his quarters in the thatched house, and here he soon settled down, mending nets all day long, and in the evening sitting down opposite Mrs. Landrick in the chim-

floor, where it had fallen. And when David | man smoking in St. Petersburg." Rotherford had won Bertha's hand, and had become a partner in his father's firm, he phones and electric lights, and now it is stories have been told of the curious feats induced Landrick to invest his savings in the lighterman's business, where they 12 and 17 miles, respectively, in length. proved far more profitable than when lying "cabined and confined" on board the old barge.

THE END.

ABOUT THE CHOLERA.

A CHOLERA PREVENTIVE.

The chief preventive of cholera and similar diseases is absolute cleanliness, which insures the absence of disease germs. To secure this condition various antiseptic preprecently been discovered which many emiold preparations.

other familiar preparations, it is convenient

a disinfectant and preventive by the Chief Sanitary Board of Austria. It is also used

ASIATIC CHOLERA.

It is only since 1817, however, that its history has been fully and carefully record When Bertha discovered that the barge ed. In that year it appeared in the army

a little tub of a boat. It belonged to her | From this time and place it radiated in grandfather; and it was one which she had | many directions far beyond the confines of used for crossing the river since she was a India, everywhere creating terror and devchild. The boat was propelled by dropping a station, being considered by the inhabi-

ped into this boat, fixed the oar, and began and Malacca and in Siam and Ceylon. In in its new electrical power station. The en-

barge could have taken but one direction- It traveled west through Russia, Ger-

John Morison. His figure was bent forward, listened and looked about her, wondering by the Great Lakes to the military posts on

her. And even the gleam of light that whence it traveled up the Mississippi and will develop high speed service. came into the sky only roused a momen- across the plains to California, a severe epi-

was obviously the "spider's" handiwork, ful thought to her brain and awoke country since then, notably in 1868 and

Cholera prevailed in France and Italy in came to show her, like a beacon where that | 1883 and 1884. The last severe epidemic in danger lay. She could not hide from her- Germany was in 1866, during the German-

THE CHOLERA IN 1832.

It is an encouraging sign that popular dread of the cholera can not now be comand fears. In 1832 people throughout the country were absolutely panic-stricken. The announcement of the approaching appearance of Halley's great comet was coupled by the superstitious, and that class included well-nigh the whole population, with pestilence and impending evil. Men looked

The most terrifying feature of the disease was the suddenness with which it came and with which it frequently terminated in in Great Britain to examine the subject of allaying the panic by assuring the people an exceedingly interesting report. They In a moment old Landrick had stepped | consider our improved surroundings, the | matches for certain test colors.

BOLD EIDNAPPING.

Napsleon Wells Snatches His Child from the Side of His Grandmother.

Wells kidnapped his little son and made good his escape in a coupe behind a gallopbe an unhappy one, and Mrs. Wells secured movement of trains and water craft. a divorse and the custody of the son. They and her mother came to Detroit. In a short | ber of instances it proceeds from congenital and yesterday when the kidnapping occurred they were in Toronto arranging to move there. The coupe which contained Wells met Mrs. Booth and the little son on First street. of their inability to distinguish colors. Wells shouted to the driver to stop, and in an instant he had seized the child. The old lady also held is him, and Wells thereupon At low tide when Rotherford rowed pushed her to the ground. In another instant he was in the coupe and out of sight. The officers cannot locate him.

not until the end of the last century, about ter. Upon closer inspection, it was found workingmen earn less than \$150 per year.

WITH THE ELECTRICIANS.

The invention of a self-lubricating gear for trolleys by a Canadian is said to meet a want in electric railroading.

It is said that the English electrical manufacturing concerns do not respond to the proposition for a representative exhibit at the World's fair.

The stability of electric locomotives at high speeds is said to be much greater than that of steam locomotives, and there is less danger of derailment.

Telephotography is now interesting Parisians, and causes the Figaro to predict that The iron box was found upon the cabin | "soon may be seen in Paris the image of a

proposed to build two electric railways of of ventriloquists, and the astonishment

Work on the New York & Chicago longdistance telephone line is being rapidly pushed by a large construction force working in three sections. It is predicted that in the early fall not only New Yorkers, but Bostonians, can easily talk to their friends in Chicago.

In the new electric station in Springfield, Ill., the lightning arresters are so placed that, in case of the formation of an arc by lightning, they can be enveloped in live steam. Experiments have shown this to be a most effective means of extinguishing elec-

A device has just been patented intended to be used in signalling along a length of Lysol, the new preparation, in one per- fire hose. Wires are carried in the hose cent. solution, possesses high antiseptic and insulated therefrom so that by making that could not be: to shoot between the powers and is sure death to cholera and battery connections, a fireman from one end other disease germs. Unlike carbol and of a line can send signals to the other without leaving his post.

French Transatlantic Company has taken squall, the old gentleman storms about the Its use has been strongly recommended as up again the project relative to ocean lights, room calling for the omelet that his valet is which was abandoned a few years ago. The seen quietly tasting in the corner of the proposal is that lightships, connected by as a surgical antiseptic with marked success. | telegraph cables, be stationed at intervals of 300 miles across the Atlantic.

director of Harvard University, has devised | ers that he could in a moment so alter his an electrical machine with which to measure | face and figure as to deceive the most criticthe speed of the prize-fighter's fist in de- al judges. On one occasion, while the guest livering a blow. Of Sullivan's blow, it was of Sir Walter Scott, at Abbotsford, with on travelling, it would make a mile in about | sculptor for an absent friend, much to the three minutes.

What is said to be the largest contract for stationary engines ever awarded in the world has just been secured by a Milwaukee | sculptor firm. The contract calls for 14 engines with an aggregate of 20,000 horse power, to be It soon made its appearance in Burmah used by a Brooklyn street railway company gines will cost over \$440,000.

York, and in 1848 it was again introduced to the mile, and when operated at a voltage cries, he savagely threw it in the hot over The deep silence on all sides troubled into the country through New Orleans, about double that now used on trolley roads, He then tried to escape but was caught

A street announcer for electric street railway cars has been patented recently. We have had several epidemics in this It is described as a device contained in a box about one foot square, to be placed inside the car over the door opposite the passenger indicator. On the span wire which supports the trolley wire, and very near the latter, is placed a knob, which a small arm projecting from the trolley wheel standard strikes in passing. The contact allows a momentary electric current, which rings a nightly to his entertainments. bell, calling attention to the name of the street next ahead, with its adjacent number, or public building, just appearing in the box; as this street or building is passed the name displayed drops automatically, and the name of the succeeding street appears in its place.

COLOR BLINDNESS.

The Plan of Examination in England-Causes and Dangers.

The Parliamentary Committee appointed death. The physicians of the country did color blindness, particularly in its relation noble work. Their efforts were directed to to marine and railway signaling, have made that with proper precautions there was little | find that in the male population nearly to fear. They issued public notices warn- four per cent. are either partially or ing against eating fruit, against dosing them- wholly deficient in the ability to disselves with medicines and nostrums, above all | tinguish rightly the primary colors of things insisting upon having the surround- the spectrum. The tests were made with ings of dwellings clean and pure. Before great care, under the guidance of specialists the disease broke out in Maryland many | whose scientific knowledge afforded a guarphysicians went to New York to study it, antee of accurate and trustworthy investi-The popular treatment during a portion of gation. Because Berlin wool presents to the time of the epidemic was external hot | the eye a rough and non-reflecting surface, applications and mustard plasters, with the colors of which are not heightened nor doses of calomel and opium. Whatever | dulled by the light in which it is displayed, complaints we may make of the uncleanli- that substance was selected for testing the ness and bad drainage of cities and towns eyes. From a miscellaneous heap of skeins now, the condition is unspeakably superior of various colors the person submitting to a to that of sixty years ago, and when we test was required to select approximate

into the boat and Davy too, but not a mo- increase of medical skill and the improved It was found that blindness to red was intelligence of the people there is no oc- the most common form of deficiency; blindcasion for us to disquiet ourselves in vain ness to green was next in frequency. Since over expected epidemics. Let everybody experiment has proven that red and green keep his premises clean, and let the city | are the two colors found to be most trustauthorities do their duty and there is little | worthy for signaling purposes, on account of their superior luminosity and their visibility at considerable distances, the fact that these are the two colors which colorblind persons are most apt to mistake is a

matter of the first importance. The committee found that persons in re-A Detroit despatch says :- Napoleon sponsible positions in the marine and railway service, where accuracy in determining color is essential to safety and efficiency, ing horse. The high-handed affair occurred | could not be trusted to read the signals corat the corner of Howard and First streets rectly. This condition of things possibly last evening, when the streets were full of furnishes the explanation of many disasters people going home from work. The story on sea and land which have hitherto been is that Wells, who travels for a San Fran- deemed mysterious; and it certainly indicisco tobacco house, married in England a cates the necessity for a thorough test daughter of Mrs. Booth, who now lives at of the eyes of engineers, pilots, signalmen, 50 Howard street. The marriage proved to and others who are intrusted with the

As to the cause of color blindness the lived at Cincinnati, but last May Mrs. Wells | committee report that in the greater numfrequently the result of excessive use of tobacco. This is a hint worth remembering on the part of those who may become aware

As every day in the year thousands of lives and millions of dollars' worth of property are dependent for safe keeping upon the accurate reading of colors by persons employed upon steamers, ships and locomotives, the knowledge of the risk involved I ticular to have defective eyesight.

FAMOUS VENTRILOQUI

Stories of Some of Their Curior Sugg and the Baby

Although the earliest venty whom we have any definite kn wledge is Louis Barbent, valet to Francis I. of France. ventriloquism is a very ancient art, as it is thought that many of the responses of the Greek and Roman oracles were due to ventriloquial trickery. The Greeks generally ascribed ventriloquism to the operation demons. The uses to which it has been put in modern times, however, have been ent tirely innocent, and for the most part amusing. As a means of entertainment ihas been very popular in the past, especially among the French, who have attained Japan is fairly well supplied with tele- the highest perfection in the art. Many they have caused their puzzled audiences.

One of the most wonderful ventriloquists that every lived was Alexandre, a Frenchman, who met with great success in London in 1823. His most clever trick was to play the part of the roguish valet; he would imitate his master coughing, and raging at his servant for the latter's tardiness in preparing him an omelet. Alexandre imitated, by means of his ventriloquial powers, the sounds of the breaking and mixing of eggs, and

THE SAWING OF WOOD

preparatory to making a fire. A chimneysweep is distinctly heard by the audience singing a pretty French song away up at the top of the chimney, just before coming down. After the fire is lighted, the eggs begin to fry, and then are heard the stifled cries of the poor little sweep, as he is met by the smoke and heat in descending the chimney. Then, in an instant, the whole A dispatch from Paris says that the house is in an uproar-dogs bark, babies room before taking it to his master.

Monsieur Alexandre was not only a remarkable ventriloquist but also a good act-It is said that Dr. Sargent, the physical or. He possessed such great mimetic powfound that if his fist left the arm and kept | the aid of only a wig, he actually sat to a delight of the "Wizard of the North." It was only when he threw off the wig and resumed his own expression of face that the

DISCOVERED THE DECEPTION.

Ventriloquists have been known in the last century to play tricks on the public in such a way as to draw the attention of the police authorities, and then having explain-In a recent address before the Electric ed the matter to them satisfactorily, use the down-stream with the tide. And in that many and reached England in 1831 and Club of Chicago it was stated that within a incident to advertise their entertainments. year there will be in operation five electric | An English ventriloquist named Lee Sugg, making but slight noise with the oar. She From Quebec it followed the line of travel locomotives of from 700 to 1200 horse at Kew, once successfully accomplished this power, and weighing from 45 to 80 tons. by rushing into a baker's shop, holding Such machines would haul trains of 450 tons | what appeared to be a crying baby in this ing nets-were busily occupied in opening a promised her that he would watch the night In June, 1835, it again appeared in New at 30 miles per hour up a grade of 26 feet arms. Apparently very angry at the child's and immediately presented before the town magistrate. The charred remains of a rag doll were produced as that of the burned baby, and both it and the situation looked black indeed for poor Sugg, until he astonished the judge and set the spectators in a roar by making the child cry in the baker's own pocket, and perform other unnatural antics. Of course the sagacious ventriloquist could not find after this, a hall big enough to hold the people that crowded

A Cattle Pest.

The Texas or horn fly, as already stated,

has made its apppearance in considerable numbers in Ontario, and farmers report it has done much injury to their cattle by worrying and annoying them, and thus preventing them from receiving proper rest and food. Most alarming and exaggerated accounts have been published of the ravages committed in different parts of the American Union. One report says that the flies bored into the horns of the cattle and deposited eggs which hatched out maggots that consumed the substance of the horns, so that they would early break off. This is very improbable, as Mr. Jno. M. Denton, of London, the well-known entomologist, who has made a careful examination of the horn fly, reports that the eggs are deposited upon manure and hatched into footless maggots. This altogether contradicts the report that the flies bore into the horn and deposit eggs. The technical name of this Texas horsefly is Hematobia Serrata, and is an imported insect well-known in southern France since 1830. It is a little more than one-sixth of an inch in length, of a dark ash-gray color, with a faint yellowish tinge, though to the ordinary observer they appear black. They bite thin-shinned cattle by piercing them with their proboscis, which somewhat resembles that of a mosquito, and through which the blood of the animal is sucked up and transferred to the stomach. When the flies are numerous they are extremely annoying, and cause a shrinkage of milk and flesh. The eggs are deposited upon manure heaps and fresh cow manure, and hatch into little footless maggots about three-eighths of an inch long when mature, and of a dirty vellowish white color. The eggs hatch within two or three days, and the insects make the full round of life from egg to mature fly in two weeks. Prof. John B. Smith, of the New Jersey Experiment Station found tobacco powder sifted into the hair between the horns, along the back and at the root of the tail, would kill the flies as they enter the hair to bite. Also that fish oil with a little carbolic acid mixed with it is excellent as a preventive, the oil to be rubbed lightly over the animal with a sponge so as to moisten the ends of the hair. But the best preventive is to destroy the eggs by spreading the fresh droppings of the cattle so they will dry. This should be done as often as every second day. The eggs cannot hatch or the young maggots live except in moist substances. Manure in stables should be sprinkled freely with land plaster, which will destroy the maggots, and add to the value of the manure. Like many other pests it can only be exterminated by the united action of all stable owners in a country where it exists.

E. F. Scott, one of the wealthiest negroes in Virginia, went to Clifton Forde several years ago without a dollar. He now owns eighteen houses and lots, a hotel and la should lead to thorough examination and large amusement hall and is putting up (a In Saxony about seventy per cent. of the the weeding out of those found in this par- large building on Main street. He also runs a wood and coal yard.