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the hidden thought in his words.

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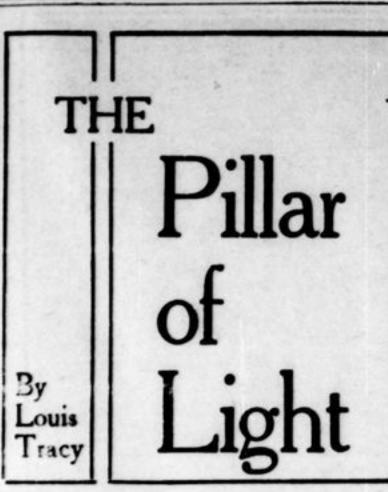
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CUADED VII

PREPARATIONS

Pyne found Enid rosy-red and inclined to be tearful. The dying light of day was still strong enough in the service-room to permit these things to be seen.

"No bad news, I hope?" he inquired though the sight of Stephen Brand, seated at his desk and placidly writing, was reassuring.

The question steadied her to an ex-

"It is nothing of any consequence," she said and darted past him. Brand looked up from his journal. He smiled, though the American

thought there was a hint of pain in nis eyes. "I am going to lose one of my girls," ne said. "Oh, no, this is not a loss by death but by marriage. If I were a

Frenchman, I would describe it as gaining a son. Enid has just received "By flag-wagging?" Pyne was na-

turally astounded. "Yes. You would not expect one of trol when he spoke again.

enterprising." "I-don't-know," said Pyne, punc- The older man looked up fiercely. tuating each word with a deliberate What condition could be imposed in

forwarded the application after an Pyne. "One of your daughters may

said Pyne, steering clear of the point. day. She is sort of in my charge, and It needs adjusting." "They have just been telling me how I can't desert her. It's hard luck, as I Indeed, a fresh gale seemed to be Miss Enid happened along. It reads don't care a cent for her. She's the springing up. The wind-vane having like a fairy tale."

and waves, yet she is dear to me as cage is gilded." my own child. I shall miss her great- Brand sprang to his feet and raced change taking place. The wind was ly-if all goes well here." "I've cottoned on to both of them

how comes it that Miss Enid is being strengthen him now. telegraphed for? Of course I can understand the gentleman being in a Druggists and hurry. I would feel that way myself lighthouse-keeper rejoined him.

Booksellers If the conditions were favorable." "I ought to have put my propo

C.P.R. Town Agent. Buy Your Tickets Here Indian when the occasion demanded

"Have they said anything to you of side of the barricade." a man named Stanhope?" inquired the

this morning. In the navy, I think. Fellow with a title, and that sort of way. Suppose we live a couple of urged the American, "and I have noth-

Stanhope, being an earl's daughter, sir. You don't mean it. You wouldn't isn't. You can't be on deck all the but his father was a knight. He has do it yourself. What about that shark time, you know. Now, just curl up been paying attentions to Enid for a the girls told me of. I can guess jus and count sheep jumping over a wall year and more, to my knowledge and what happened. He wanted the light or any old game of the sort until your to his mother's exceeding indigna- refreshment in the boat. Did you eyes close of their own accord." tion, I fancy."

have the pull of you."

"Have you? I wonder. However, "Thank Heaven, we have twenty- stance were now needed in the hospi-Lady Margaret's views have not trou- four hours yet!" murmured Brand. bled me. I will deal with her when the time comes. At present it looks have only twenty-four seconds. Let fairly certain that Master Jack has us fix it that way right now. Don't "In another hour he would have settled matters on his own account. you see, it will be easier to deceive I may be mistaken, of course. How the girls? And there's another reado you interpret this?"

He closed the journal and handed to Pyne a memorandum taken down letter by letter by a sailor as Brand colza there will be trouble. A few of read the signal:

"Mother sends her love to Enid." "Did mother ever convey her love quick, you know." to Enid before?" asked Pyne.

"Then I call that neat. I take off my hat to Stanhope. He and mamma have had a heart-to-heart talk."

Brand leaned his head on his hands, Lord help us. the lamp.

Pyne watched him narrowly. ceremony. In the States, you know rors. when the authorities want to preserve do not walk on the grass.' They put

up a board which reads: 'Keep off. We never kick. We're used to it." "My notice-board, if required, will be less curt, at any rate," replied Brand, and they faced each other. Though their words were light, no pleasant conceit lurked in their minds. There was a question to be asked and

answered, and it held the issues o life and death. "What did you mean just now by saying, 'if all goes well here?' Is ther any special reason why things shoul

not go well?" The young Philadelphian might have been hazarding an inquiry ab at was he, so smooth his utterance. But Brand had made no mistake in est. mating this youngster's force of character, nor did he seek to temporize.

"You hear that?" he said.

"It may boil that way for weeks." "So I have been told." "By whom?"

"Mr. Emmett told me."

"Ah! He and I have discussed the matter already. Yet I imagine that

neither he, nor any other man in the pairs, Cement Curbing or place save myself, grasps the true meaning of the fact.' "I've been theorizing," said Pyne "It occurred to me that this light isn'

He looked up at the lamp an wasted a lot of time in hard thinking." George Whitmore smiled. The pillar, in those days Brand had to scheme that night to must have been a haunt of illusions reach the store-room unobserved.

6 to tale last care to be and at

for Brand, like Constance and Pyn | The Falcon, steaming valiantly to her himself in the case of Mrs. Vansittart observation post near the buoy, aided thought he caught an expression fa him considerably. He permitted the miliar to his eyes long before he had night watch to gather in the serviceseen that clear-cut, splendidly intelli room whilst he supplied the men with

But there was no time for idle spec the gallery to observe the trawler in ulation. He glanced into the well of case she showed any signal lights. the stairs to make sure that no one | Since the attempt on the lock Conwas ascending. Then he approached nearer to Pyn after each visit. For the rest, the in-

and said in an intense whisper: I have reasoned this thing out an stance and Enid, utterly worn out now I will tell you what I have de with tatigue, were sound asleep in the cided. I will take the watch from kitchen, and the tears coursed down eight until twelve. At twelve you wil the man's face as he acted the part reneve me, and I will go below to se of a thief in securing the measured to maintain the lives of my daughters | ...al. The diet of one hungry meal you and myself, for a few hours long for eighty-one people gave twentyfollowed the rules I have promised to begit to have taken more, but he set obey, I alone should live. That is im- his teeth and refused the ungrateful possible. A Spartan might do it, but task. I cannot abandon my girls and yet I must have a confederate. If the follow it. weather does not break before tomorrow night we must barricade the

stairs-and tight-if necessary." His face was drawn and haggard his eyes blazing. He shook as one in the first throes of fever. He seemed to await his companion's verdict with an over-powering dread lest any attempt should be made to question the justice of his decree.

"Yes. I figured it out that way, too," said Pyne. "It's queer, isn't it, to be in such a fix when there's all sorts of help within call, so to speak. We might as well be in a mine closed up by an explosion. And, I'll tell you what-I'm real sorry for you."

sank into a chair. "to condemn so many men, women safely stored away.

and children, to such a death." A spasm of pain made Pyne's lips tremulous for an instant. He had for- fierce cry. gotten Elsie and Mamie But his voice was fully under con

the people from the Chinook to be so "You can count on me in the deal in all but one thing," he said.

the fulfilment of a duty so terrible? "Well, in any case, I would not have "I am here by chance," went on

acquaintance of eighteen hours," ob- have told you that Mrs. ansittar served Brand, with equal delibera- came from New York to marry my "you deserve to win through, uncle. Anyhow you would know sh "They're two powerful fine girls," was dear to him by his message to- tered Brand. "But look! The lamp "She was given to me by the winds ating, bird-like creatures-when the not until a burst of spray drenched

up to the trimming-stage. When his backing round towards the north. hands were on the lamp he felt surer The barometer fell slightly. It porsomething wonderful. But, if I am of himself. It gave him strength dur- tended either more wind and dry not intruding into private affairs, ing the hurricane and it would weather, or less wind accompanied by

said harshly. Pyne waited until the all things seemed to be the ungovern-

Pyne could be as stolid as a red before you first and made a speech after the fall of the tide, Pyne promit. Brand found no hint in his face of Enid will join you here when you say Brand would endeavor to sleep until

lighthouse-keeper, resuming the entry have no right to thrust away the too long maintained, and a time was in his diary after a sharp glance up- chance that is given you. You saved coming when he would need all his all these people once. Why should strength, mental and physical. "Y-yes. They pointed him out to me you die uselessly?"

scoot back when you saw his fin? Brand yielded. He lay on the hard "That is where we on the other side I'm a heap younger than you, Mr. boards, with a chair cushion for pil-Brand, but that bluff doesn't go."

"It will be all the same when we sound asleep. son. Barricade and shoot as you like it will be a hard thing to keep three-

score desperate men boxed up down below. When they begin to diet on

Brand closed his eyes in sheer affright. In that way he tried to shut

with clenched fists covering his ears. It was the responsibility that mas- the thread of events, and his first There was a period of utter silence un- tered him. Judges on the bench often words showed how pleased he was til the lighthouse-keeper rose to light break down when they sentence a that someone of authority in the lightcriminal to death, but what judge, house service should be in active comhumane, tender-hearted and God-fear- munication with him. "I may be trespassing on delicate ing, ever pronounced the doom of Through his glasses he distinguishare not the sort of man to stand on merci. death to be steeped in hor- steamer, standing by the side of the

a park section they don't say: 'Please The knowledge that the path of duty but near Stanhope was a tall elderly lay straight before him cheered his man, unknown, and certainly a stran tortured soul. No man could say he ger in Penzance. the Trinity.

der, for this youngster had become

"Had I a son," he said, "I should wish him to be like you. Let us strive to forget the evils that threaten us. Brooding is useless. If need be, you will take charge of the lower deck. There is starvation allowance for three more days at the worst. But I a matter of trivial interest, so came hate the thought of starting the new scale to-morrow.'

"It may not be necessary." "Candidly, I fear it will. I know the Cornish coast too well. He extended an arm towards the bad weather sets in from the southwest at this season it holds for a week at the lowest computation."

> ing be done out there?" most experienced of engineers have a full explanation that instant. striven for half a century to devise some means of storm communication with a rock lighhouse placed as this

is. They have failed. There is none." "That's good," cried Pyne quite pleasantly. "Where is your pouch? I feel like a smoke. If I hadn't fired that question at you I should have

tobacco, and stationed the officer on

stance gave the key to her father mates of the pillar were sunk in the "It is folly to waste words with you lethargy of unsatisfied hunger. Concure provisions and water sufficien allowance of flour and bacon for one er than the others. By right, if I seven hungry meals for three. He

it is oft-times easy for a man to deretain my senses. I trust you because cide upon a set course, but hard to

"A week!" he murmured. "Perhaps ten days! That is all. Pray Heaven I may not go mad before they die!" Pyne, watching the light, knew that

Brand had succeeded. The Falcon went; gradually the watch dispersed. "Where is the hoard?" asked Pyne, making believe that they were playing some comedy.

"Hidden in the kitchen lockers. could obtain only distilled water. You must persuade the girls in the morning that something went wrong with the apparatus." As opportunity offered, Brand trans-

ferred the tins to the lockers of the Brand, collapsing under the strain, service-room. Pyne, who missed nothing, shook his head when it became "It is an awful thing," he moaned, evident that the last consignment was

"Not much there," he commented. "I will take no more!" was the

"You ought to." "I refuse I tell you! Don't torture me further.'

"Any chance of a row in the morn-The purser and Mr. Emmett mount guard when the store-room is "I acted my role well. I built up the

vacancies with empty tins." "My sakes!" cried Pyne pityingly "I think my heart will break," mut-

kind of woman old men adore—fascin- gone, the index was useless. It was the lantern that Brand knew of a

rain. Who could tell what would hap-"There can be no exceptions," he pen? Fair or foul, hurricane or calm,

able blundering of blind chance. "I ought to have put my proposition When the rock was left in peace afterwards," he said. "Constance and ised to keep the light in order if the word, but I will be on the other day-break. Rest was essential to him. He would assuredly break down "Nonsense!" cried Brand. "You under the strain if the tension were

"Here have I been snoozing in odd "What! Suppose it pans out that corners ever since I came aboard." weeks and escape. Am I to face the ing to do but starve quietly. It's ri-"No. His mother is Lady Margaret old man and tell him—the truth? No, diculous. My funeral is dated; yours

low; all the rugs rescued by Con-

"That was a close call," mused Pyne cracked up. He's a wonder, anyhow. The lighthouse-keeper slept until long after daybreak. Pyne refused to allow anyone to disturb him.

Soon after seven o'clock the watch eported that two vessels were approaching from the Bay. One was reported that two vessels were apus, ready to take chances, will be help- proaching from the Bay. One was ful. Some of them may have to die he Falcon, and the sailors soon made out that the other was the Trinity ender from Plymouth.

When they were both nearing the buoy, Brand was aroused. It was evident that the brief rest

"Be it so," he gasped. "May the had cleared his brain and restored his self-confidence. Instantly he took up

inspecting-officer of the South-Coast At last his iron will predominated, lights. Other officials were there,

erred in trying to save his children. The Faicon was now chartered by That was a trust as solemn as any press-men, so the civilian on the officonferred by the Elder Brethren of cial boat was evidently a person of consequence. Indeed, Brand imagined He placed a hand on Pyne's shoul- long before Pyne was able to verify the impression, that the newcomer was Mr. Cyrus J. Traill, whom he had failed to notice in the poor light of the previous evening.

He knew quite well that the experlenced chief of the lighthouse service would appreciate fully the disabilities ander which he labored, with eightyone mouths to feed from a stock a!ready far below the three months'

The first telegraphed question betrayed the prevalent anxiety. "Hope all is well?"

What was he to say? Was it not best to speak boldly and let the men know the truth, not alone as to their present desperate plight but revealing "Is there no other way? Can noth- the measures he had devised for the protection of the light? He could not "Able men, the best of sailors, the make up his mind to launch out into So he signalled:

"Everyone alive, but many cases of grave collapse."

Stanhope was again the signalerevidently he had arranged matters with the Admiral at Portsmouth-so Brand expected the prompt reply: "How are Constance and Enid?" "Quite well and cheerful."

The tall man near Stanhope bent

Continued on page 9.

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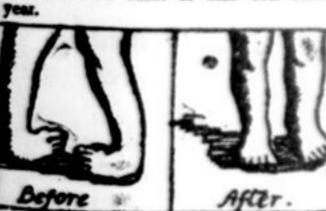
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