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by the way in which he performed his duties.

Before the steamer put in at London, the doctor made arrangements by telegraph for the reception of Captain Hayman at a private hospital in the west-end, and the Tertius was no sooner berthed than he set out in a cab for his destination.

Chapter III.—The Deepest Depth.

On the day following our arrival, Captain Hayman underwent the painful operation which the ship's doctor told me was the only chance the old man had of remedying his defective vision. Before the Tertius started on her next run I went out to the hospital to learn how the patient was progressing. I was not permitted to see him, however. The strain had been too great for even his vigorous constitution. Doubtless the worry consequent upon the ill news which Brimlow's note contained was in some degree accountable for his complete prostration. I was assured, however, that the operation had been eminently successful; so far, at least, as it was possible to judge at that early stage.

Contrary to my expectations Matt Grimm did not return to the Tertius. Considering that he had expressed his determination to follow the sea, and that he would have had no difficulty in securing his berth, I thought this rather strange. Burgin seemed specially disappointed, and blamed himself several times for having lost sight of the "kid." For my part I concluded that Matt had had enough of the sea, and that perhaps it was London that had lured him after all.

mate of the captain's I resolved to look him up on the mere chance of receiving a suggestion as to where I might prosecute my inquiries. The commission agent was working industriously at his desk when I entered. I told him my errand at once, and frankly admitted my fears regarding the old man's physical and financial state, thinking, thereby, to stimulate his sympathy to the extent of some pecuniary assistance.

"Good heavens! man!" said he, catching my drift at once. "Captain Hayman is not in need of anybody's help—you take my tip for it. He holds a considerable number of shares in the most remarkable venture that has been heard of 'change for many years. I wrote him full particulars last mail, so that, if the newspapers have not already supplied him with details, he will have them in his possession by the time you arrive home. Some years ago I induced the captain to invest heavily in a tobacco plantation. But it was an unmitigated failure from the very start. Indeed, things came to such a pass in May last that we resolved to go into liquidation. Before any action was taken, however, I received a visit in this office from a mining engineer named Gilbertson, who had been over the estate with a friend. After binding me to one or two promises, he told me that one of the chief reasons why our Koolenben tobacco venture had failed was the fact that the soil was so saturated with oil that plants could not possibly thrive in it. If we would sink a well or two, however, he had not the slightest doubt that we could not only recover what had been lost, but make a handsome profit into the bar-

An Editor's Appreciation of the Western Home Monthly.

The Editor, Western Home Monthly,
Winnipeg.

Sir,

Your magazine is a splendid one, brimful of valuable information, and we assure you that we appreciate it greatly.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss) RALPHIA STILL,
Editor, Woman's Department,
Dipper Office, Ottawa.

On our return home again, I found that Captain Hayman had remained at the hospital till only a day or two before our arrival. From what I could gather, the operation had, after all, failed to effect even the slightest cure and he had passed out with the assurance that nothing more could be done for him. Knowing his circumstances as I did, there was something distressingly pitiful, I thought, in this announcement. He had talked of going to some place in Cornwall, but just exactly where nobody had thought it worth while to inquire. As he had sold the little cottage in Penzance in which his wife resided before her death, it did not seem at all likely to me that he would go there. I knew he was not the kind of man to court his acquaintances in time of trouble. I was left, therefore, without further trace of him.

On the next run to Sidney my mind was so much exercised with the old man's unhappy position, that I resolved to call upon Brimlow and inquire if he had any knowledge of the captain's movements, or if he could suggest where he was likely to be found. But he was unable to give me the slightest clue. He was good enough to inform me, however, that I might draw on him for £50 should I find the skipper in need of assistance. This naturally had the effect of making me more anxious to trace his whereabouts. Indeed, I promised the agent to do all I could on my return.

As chance would have it, we called in at Singapore on the run home. Remembering that one Schofield, of this city, was like Brimlow, a former ship-

gain. I called a special meeting to consider Gilbertson's proposals. But it didn't take much talking over. We were already so deeply involved that another hundred pounds or two didn't seem to matter. Well, the upshot was that in little over six weeks we struck oil. Since then we have sunk several shafts, the oil is already on the market, and the shares are being quoted at sixty above par. I was going over the dividend returns for the first quarter when you came in. At the very lowest estimate these will go out at fifteen per cent. By all means, then, Mr. Officer, make inquiries about Captain Hayman as soon as you get back, and advise him to hold on to his papers, for this is something that is going to make all kinds of money for us."

I returned to the ship highly delighted with the news I had received, and determined, even more than ever to find the captain. To think of him hiding away in some corner, blind and helpless, and living in the belief that he was a ruined man, was pitiable in the extreme.

On reporting myself at the office of our company in London, I inquired whether Captain Hayman had been heard of lately. For answer, the cashier pointed to several letters and newspapers which were waiting for him. Among them, of course, was Schofield's, so that it was quite apparent the old man had not heard of his own good fortune.

We were ten days in port on this occasion, and I spent every spare hour of it in my search. I advertised in the Times and the Telegraph. I looked in at every likely and unlikely place in