

handlin' the sails on that bathtub. Up wi you and after me!"

He seized the pocketbook, which had fifteen hundred dollars in it, the remains of the money, and rushed on deck, followed by Blood.

The boat was still by the side, with two Chinamen in her. They got in and rowed the *Bertha Mason*.

Next moment they were on the deck of the *Bertha*, facing Gadgett.

"Mr. Gadgett," said Harman, "when you talked of having put down oyster spat in the lagoon, did you mean pearl-oyster spat?"

"Of course," said Gadgett, scenting vague what was coming.

"And will them oysters have pearls in them by next Christmas?"

"Of course they will," replied the other. "Not every oyster, but most of them will."

"You talked of selling the remains of the lease of the place," said Harman. "We've come to buy. What would you want for it?"