## THROUGH THE KEEP-IT-DARK CONTINENT;

fold up on the *gibus* principle, or to take to pieces at a moment's notice, and be stowed away in the smallest possible pocket ship's compass. Nothing could be more perfect for its particular purpose, and Mr. Hankey might get a hint from it for his model lodging-houses arranged for flats.

The order for victualling I sent to Messrs. Loois Loois & Co. (the Unlimited Loo-is Co.), who had furnished the excellent provisions for my will. This firm also supplied me with whatever I wanted in the shape of draughts. Coals were a necessity, as, though on a visit to the Black Country, if the natives were inhospitable, and unwilling to trade, we should be in a pretty considerable hole—a pretty considerable coalhole; and so the order for scuttling the ship I entrusted to an eminent Sea Captain, whose name was on the Black Books at Lloyds, and who had the still further recommendation of being well known to the Police.

In order to amuse and interest the natives, I laid in a large store of Dominoes and Black Draughts.

Having in view the conversion of the various tribes, I took out a second-hand edition of Mudie's Circulating Library Hymns, arranged by a noted Dry-Psalter. To secure their due and impressive rendering, I secured the services of a Quire, in twenty-four white sheets, which I called my "Surplice Population," and stowed 'em away as best I could in the Arkadia,—which was the name of my new and original vessel. In my spare moments I invented a Rock Harmonicon for the sea-shore; and for full orchestral service at sea, I devised a floating musical-box, with three hundred tunes in separate barrels, which, firmly