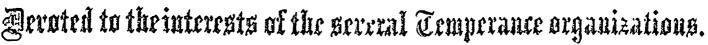




Visiton.



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CHAPTER' XXXIII.

MY LIFE IS SAVED BY AN ENEMY

'HIGHER up, higher; 'tis the only chance we've got; give me your hand, my man, there that's hearty.'

We were in the rigging-Ned and I, for horror-struck with the scene I have just described, as well as driven to seek a respite, if even only of a few minutes, from what appeared to be certain destruction, we had left the deck and ascended the fore-shrouds, and my companion had reached the cross-trees.

'Higher up'-and Ned gave me a hand and placed me beside him. On the rigging of the main-mast we could dimly see three others of the crew, the sea had swallowed up the rest.

We must lash ourselves to the sticks somehow,' said Ned, when we had secured our footing, 'if we don't, we shan't be able to hold on;' ill-fated ressol.

strangely with his former brutal manner. Per- 'Yes, there was.

haps the death of the captain, vile as he was, had cowed him. I supposed it might be so.

cest my oyes around and below, but no comfort or hope of escape could be obtained from the prospect. All around, as well as I could jindge, was a raging, boiling sea, beneath us if you do, you won't wake agin." was the hull of the vessel, now completely subinto the treacherous sand-bank-'sucked in, as I had begun to feel drowsy. the Good's Sands always doos-always,' he

mo, that in the way we had struck, the vessel ful scene, and what did you mean? was nearly in an upright position and was sinking so, there was not much danger of her heel-rouse myself to speak. over, therefore, and if we could live through the night, and keep above water, we might be eavingtaken off in the morning. But he spuke as though there was not much hope. We should because it is for you and me and everybody, be froze to death long before daylight, he said, and you ought to know it if you don t. And he said it with reason. In a quarter of an hour, thus exposed to the bitter wind and unto God by him. That was just it, Ned, the snow-storm, which had again set in with word for word." increased violence, I felt as though life was fast

And let me say, though not boastingly, that and he set to work, first securing me, and then I felt at that time no strong desire for life. asked. Didn't he know the Lord Jesus Christ himself, so that while our arms were at liberty Perhaps the troubles and hard struggles through had come from heaven to die for sinners, and it was impossible we could be disloged from our which I had already passed in my short exist, that he rose again from the dead and went to refuge except by the entire breaking up of the ence, and the small prospect I had of any heaven to carry on there the work of salvation softening of my condition in life, might have which he had begun on earth? All this and Astonishment kept me silent; the man who, reconciled me to the thought of an early death, more, I said to Ned. of all the crow, had had the cruckest designs, But was there not something else which at that Well, to be sure, he had heard of Jesus towards me, seemed now to be as solicitous time, calmed my mind, and enabled me to say, Christ, there was once a man whom he had for my safety as for his own, and spoke to me, Into thy hand I commit my spirit, for thou sailed with who had had something to say about with a tremulous kindness which contrasted hast redeemed me, O Lord God of truth? Jesus Christ, but he (Ned) hadn't heeded.

I was roused from these thoughts by the voice of my poor fellow sufferer, speaking low When securely tied, as I have described, I and quiveringly, and calling me by name.

'Roley, you are not gone off year'

' No, Ned.'

'Don't ye tumble to sleep, whatever ye do;

'I'll try to keep awake,' I said. In truth, merged, and still, as Ned told me in a hoarse however, I found it would require an effort to whisper, sinking, sinking deeper and deeper do this. The cold had already numbed me and

Boloy, what was that you said to the skipper just now?' he maked, shuddering as he It was something in our favour, he also told spoke, evidently at the recollection of the dread-

What did I say, Ned? I asked, trying to

Don't you know? About Jesus Christ

Oh yes, Ned, Ill tell you what I said, Ned, is able to save them to the uttermost that come

'Yes, that was it, said he eagerly, 'but what does it mean?'

Mean! Didn't he know what it meant? I

'Tell me about it, Roley,' he went on.