

somehow or other. I could put a watchman in over 'em, but how do I know they wouldn't do *him* first jiffy he batted an eye?"

"Dominguez was plainly dubious, too, and he shook his head slow and worried, like a mule with a bull-thistle under his tongue. But when we'd all about thought ourselves bug, suddenly he throws out his hands and shoots his shoulders up under his ear, and shouts,—'Ha, senior, I know heem! Let a *sobmarino*—(meanin' one of us divers)—een the coat and hadt-a of the *sobmarino* mek guard-a ad the door. They nevra pass or toach-a heem!'

"And it didn't take old Isaac fifty years to see the entire likeliness of that.—For the next three weeks Andy and me spent triple time in armor, and four hours out of six we were spellin' each other on sentinel go in the fo'c'stle!

"The salvin' of the *Dundern* palm-oil I'll pass over rapid. Excep' that it was rackin' hard work for fifteen men, and was as profitable as it was hard, it was nothin' out of ordinary. As for our divin' part of it, that turned out a good deal easier than the average under-sea derruckin' job. It was a trifle risky, for of course only one of us could be in the *Dundern* at a time; and if he'd got his lines fouled and cut, he'd have had to whistle for long enough before the other'd been able to come and help him out. But no accidents happened. It was just slow, even-runnin', straight-away hoistin', and we coined money for the Company, day in day out.

"Yet us two kind of lost interest in that end of our work, comparin' it with the job we had in the fo'c'stle of the *Eliza*; for that was somethin' altogether new and unique, and on it we could get in frills and fine work. Old Isaac reversed the mast-head jack hopin' the mutiny-call might be seen by some Free-town-bound craft that'd take his blacks off and home for him. But *mutiny* wasn't the right word; it wasn't even *just* to that daffy-house of Kru-boys. For under our managin' they walked Spanish, and mighty circumspect at that. Do-

minguez had guaranteed that if we slung our hammocks and slept outside the fo'c'stle door, and stood our helmets on our sea-chests to keep an eye on the rascals between times, two or three hours a day a-piece would be ample and sufficient. And in the main we found he was right.

"Weights, I needn't say, we discarded altogether. Yet when we went further, and counted on the armor alone bein' enough without the hose and air-pump, we figured wrong. Not doin' anything but just hold ourselves planted at the door like them old knights, you see in museums, might suit *us* all right; but we soon found that them Krus was gettin' used to it, they was losin' their rightful awe and fear, and was in danger of becomin' entirely too familiar and free-and-easy. Ahead of us there was three weeks more of it at least, and we had to make up our minds that if we were goin' to keep them from growin' altogether contemptuous of us before the job was through with, we'd have to make use of all our machinery,—yes, and keep chillin' off their blood with new acts and turns of devillin' all the time as well.

—"Unless you'd seen it you couldn't 'a' believed what willin' spirits and helpers at the pump that understood their business got out of them two ordinary 'S. & C.' divin' suits. From the first week on, we give a regular 'continuous performance'; and I'm safe in sayin' that no vaudyville or variety theatre ever give a better. It didn't only keep the Krus out of mischief; it was free entertainment to all on board. The men used to come near fightin' for the privilege of pumpin' for us. And the things they said about the stunts we thought up,—well, it ain't in modesty to repeat them.

"Only old Isaac, who didn't think of nothin' but the double time it was takin' to derrick out the palm-oil, and Hutchins, who was a most ugly-natured man, anyway,—they were too grouchy mean to own up to their admiration. And they must have felt it, too, and that a whole lot stronger than the crew, along of their being better eddicated and more refined,