## ic Skies

they will fighting they will to me. na and I

d Davidreakfast,

dropped canoes, natives. : of fine chooner, ard and a rush! ed over bawling starving r filthy baskets, til they t up a a careof the rbrook. niverse; rom an osed of excite-

## The Recruiters

ment, and hundreds of them clamoured to me to take them there.

""No,' I said, 'I cannot take so many, for our two ships are small; but I will take sixty of you in this ship, and sixty can go in the other ship. But you must pay me something for taking you to the Island of Beads, and bringing you back to Mutavat. What will you pay?"

"In five minutes they agreed to give me two thousand black-edge pearl shells and a hundred green turtle, which I knew I should never see, and did not want to defraud them of, considering that I was not bringing them back to Mutavat, and that every living soul of them meant a hundred dollars bonus to me, as soon as I landed them in Samoa. But I said that that would do, but I would only take strong young men and women —one hundred men and twenty women. Then Marina came on board with his 'usual' glass eye, which he took out, pretended to throw overboard, and replaced it by the bright yellow one with the red pupil. The Mutavat niggers looked at him with open mouths.

""We two are magicians,' I said, 'nothing can hurt us. We can take out our eyes or our teeth; we can shake off our legs or our arms, and new legs and arms will grow; we can live under the sea and become fish ghosts. We have a great mana. If a man draws bow upon us the arrow passes through our bodies, and then returns to the bowman and pierces his left eye and brain so that he falls dead.'

"As I spoke, Marina unshipped his yellow eye, and shipped the white one with the green pupil, and a