THE GOLD MINE OF THE VASSK.

"Well," said Will, in his carnest way when interested, "as you know, the sandalwood is cut away in the bush, from sixty to a hundred miles from the shipping station at Bunbury. It is cut by ticket-of-leave men. From them it is bought by speculalors, who team it to Bunbury; and from these fellows, who manage to control the wood, your agent buys it at the wharf, paying whatever price is asked."

"You would have hin do more?" asked MacKay.

"I would change the whole plan, sir, if it were my concern. First, I would lease all, or as much as I could, of the sandal wood land direct from the government, then I would set my hired cutters to work, and then carry the wood in my ome teams to the wharf. The original cost can be decreased at least fifty per cent. And, besides this, there are other valuable substances, such as gun, tan-bark, and akins, that could be carried and shipped at the same time."

The merchant listened attentively to the broad outline of Will's plans, which he spoke about quite freely, as one out side the matter, but familiar with it.

"Mr. Sheridan," asd Mr. MacKay at length, "our company has decided to change our agent in Western Australia, and it gives me great pleasure to offer you the position. I will see," he added, interrupting Will's suprised exclamation, "that you shall have sufficient power at your disposal to carry out your ideas with regard to the extension of the trade."

Will hardly heard another word for the rest of the evening. His mind scarcely took in the change—from the por unknown sailor, at one step, to a man of large influence and position, for such would be the Australian agent of owealthy a company.

When he returned to whe ship his face framed with excitement as he related the worderful story to his old friend Capthia.

"On't go said the woodcutter. "A man can come and go as he pleases, and low to make the come of the bardany price with the source of the part of the proposal to carry out your ideas with regard to the extension of the trade."

Will hardly heard another word for

were beginning to see
last," and that "no man could do land
business so well as him who was trained
at sea," and divers other sentences filled
with wisdom drawn from personal pride
with wisdom drawn from personal pride
Scotty's friends.
"Because I'm going to drive that
"aid the six-foot Australian,"
"aid the six-foot Australian,"

scotty's friends.

"Because I'm going to drive that team," aid the six-foot Australian, wheeling his seat with an ominous velocity.

"Ho, ho! ha, ha!" roared the big woodcutter, enjoying the fallen crest of the bragart; "but you can't have that team, Maguire; Scotty will make ribbons of you."

And the man with the axe heavily Sharidan had assumed the sandal wood agency. The speaker was a toket-of-leave man, a wiry, red-eyed fellow of middle age, whose face had the cunning ferocity of a ferret. His auditors were a shaggy crowd of woodcutters and exconvict teamsters, the latter group sitting with him at a long table.

"Don't talk so loud, Scotty," said a rough-looking man of inmense stature, with an axe strapped on his back, who leant smoking against the fireplace; "don's shout so, my friend, or Agent Sheridan will hear it, and kick you out the team he gave you for charity."

"Kick me out!" retorted Scotty, with an oath; "the daren't touch me. Curse his charity; he gave me a team for his own interest."

"Bah!" said a big woodcutter, without.

"Bah!" said a big woodcutter, without.

"Bean" is all the six-foot Australian, wheeling his seat with an ominous velocity.

"Ho, ho! ha, ha!" roared the big woodcutter, enjoying the fallen crest of the braggart; "but you can't have that team," add the six-foot Australian, wheeling his seat with an ominous velocity.

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"Ho, ho! ha, ha!" roared the big woodcutter, enjoying the fallen crest of the braggart; "

"Bravo!" cried toe Dardanup men, who were just as ready to drink as fight. The bottle was passed roune, and every man drank with Scotty, except the big woodcutter; and, like the hounds you always were, you have no thanks in you."

Though the gang so broadly referred to were at the table with Scotty, no one resented the woodcutter's epithet, though dark looks were flung at him.

"Bravo!" cried toe Dardanup men, who were just as ready to drink as fight. The bottle was passed roune, and every man drank with Scotty, except the big woodcutter. Scotty handed him the bottle and a glass, noticing that he had not tasted. "No, thank you," said the big man, with a shake of the head, "none of that for me."

A few moments afterwards one of the

another table struck the board in approval.

"No, you ain't any better than chaingang men, that's true," said the brawny bearer of the axe, still quietly smoking "nor you never were. There's where the whole boiling lot of you ought to be still. You talk of ruining poor men," he continued, slightly shifting his position, so as to face Scotty, "you darned fox 1.1 know you—and these men known you," pointing to the group of wood cutters. "Before this new system came with this new agent, you and your rats there had the whole trade in your hands. You bought from the cutters at you own price, and you paid them in rum. You have the form the cutters at you own price, and you paid them in rum. You have the form the cutters at you own price, and you paid them in rum. You have the form the cutters at you own price, and you paid them in rum. You have the form the cutters at you own price, and you paid them in rum. You have the form the cutters are the composition at once, rather than wait for its bursting.

A Youte in the two modeutter was a partaker. Powerful and hearty fellows, full of good nature, but dangerous men to rouse these young Australians, and their strong blood was excited by the new enterprise they had undertaken.

A combination had been made among the ticket-of-leave teamsters and buyers against the new agent of the sandalwood system. It had come to a serious pass with the business, and Agent Sheridan, where the power is the power in which the woodcutter was a partaker. Powerful and hearty fellows, full of good nature, but dangerous men to rouse these young Australians, and their strong bood nature, but dangerous men to rouse these young Australians, and their strong bood nature, but dangerous men to rouse these young Australians, and their strong bood nature, but dangerous men to rouse these young Australians, and their strong bood nature, but dangerous men to rouse these young Australians, and their strong bood nature, but dangerous men to rouse these young Australians, and their strong bood nature, but dan You bought from the cutters at you own price, and you paid them in rum. You cheated the woodcutters and swindled

Scotty and his ill-looking crew realized that the woodcutter "had got the drop on them sure."

A stamping and tramping in the outer room or store suggested new arrivals, as the place was a kind of inn. All eyes were turned on the door, where entered, one after another, about a dozen powerful fellows, in the picturesque garb of atockriders, who noisily but good-humor.

"No Physic, Sir, in Minet" A good story comes from a boy's box on source was a kind of inn. All eyes were turned on the door, where entered, one after another, about a dozen powerful fellows, in the picturesque garb of atockriders, who noisily but good-humor.

MOONDYNE. edly sat them down to the large central table, and called for something to eat

and drink. The interrupted discussion was not resumed, but a whispered and carnest comment on the new-comers began

resented the woodcutter's epithet, though dark looks were flung at him.

"This agent has ruined the sandal wood trade," said Scotty, addressing himself to the aroused woodcutters.

"Before he came here, a poor man could earn a few pounds; but now we ain't any better than chain gang men,"

A murmur of approval from the teamsters followed the remark, and Scotty felt that he had struck a popular note. Even one or two of the woodcutters at another table struck the board in approval.

the dealers, till the wonder was that some day you weren't found chopped to pieces for your villainy."

"That's true as Gospel," said one of the woodcutters who had lately applanded Scotty. "You're an infernal set of application of the woodcutters who had lately applanded Scotty. "You're an infernal set of applications of the woodcutters who had lately applanded Scotty. "You're an infernal set of applications of the woodcutters who had lately applanded Scotty. "You're an infernal set of applications of the woodcutters who had lately applanded by the woodcutters who had lately applanded b



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