BY JAMES FENIMORE COOPER.

1769 - 1051

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OWARD the close of a fine August Emperor Napoleon. She was a three- there was no Wing-and-Wing, Captain masted lugger, spreading an enormous Jack Smith, in the British service. width of canvas as she came down wing- Captain Cuffe had arranged to put back

red beneath her channels, while her waist around a headland. was so deep that nothing was visible Two minutes, afterward Le Feu-Follet some mariner taller than usual.

and fired a couple of shots across her bow, miles to windward of the frigate. in answer to which the stranger broke out Raoul paid little further attention to his the friendly English colors. He anchored baffled enemy, for it was impossible that that none of the guns of the fort could be started, and in the meantime he was quite tain landed and made a visit of ceremony

to the vice governor of the island. have served as the model for an antique medal. Although he looked so decidedly un-English, he introduced himself as Captain Smith of the English war lugger Wing-and-Wing; and the simple vice governor, who had only a vague idea that England was an island something larger than Elba, accepted his statement without question. Had he known a little about the unmusical language of Britannia he would have observed that the stranger called himself "Jaques Smeet" and pronounced the name of his vessel as "ze

Ving-an-Ving." at" was in truth Raoul Yvard, and his lugger was the celedid. Hardly a day passed without bringing news of a daring and successful attack on shipping almost under the guns under their less, the marine tack o' ian-

To lay his vessel in the trap of the lit-

Though Ghita was not beautiful, her suffused with so radiant and noble a char- sea swell glassy without a ripple. acter, that many men less reckless than

harbor attracted their attention. They jib-stay was cut in two. ensign from her gaff.

Raoul was in doubt for a few moments. but luckily for him he had an officer aboard, Ithuel Bolt, a native of New Hampshire, who recognized the arrival. with an eye sharpened by hateful recollections, as the British frigate Proserpine. He had been "pressed" aboard of her some years before and had deserted after being flogged because he refused to fight under British colors.

The appearance of the frigate was the signal for manning the guns of the battery. The pieces were loaded and trained on her when suddenly the French colors ran down and the British ensign took its place. The lugger promptly showed the same flag. The Proserpine fetched in nearer and began to signal. The privateersmen, accustomed to expedients, replied without hesitation, but managed to do it so clumsily that the pennants were too tangled to be read.

Raoul warned the vice governor that the stranger was without doubt a Frenchman about to attack the port and volunteered to sail out and lure him to sea. The people believed him and permitted away under the promontory to wind-

The next day the Wing-and-Wing ap- but was, on the contrary, drifting down peared again and anchored in her former broadside with the tide, position as if, nothing had happened Cap- The privateess were satisfied

period in Ms coreer in fewds and suffs in come aboard with her uncle and let him aving galagonized all take her home, and he felt certain that the frigate would not return.

Captain Cuffe of the Preservine was not so easily thrown off the purslit, however. Calculating that the privateer would not have visited the insignificant harbor without an object, he lay to at the opposite side of the Island and sent an day in 1798 a fairy-like craft came officer across to Porty Farrajo. The steering toward Porty Farrajo in Englishman arrived in time to see the the Island of Elba, which was to become lugger coming in again, and he lost no famous in after years as the residence of time in convincing the authorities that

and-wing, with a sail fanning on each side to Porty Ferrajo with the evening breeze like the heavy pinions of a sea-fowl. and to look for signals. The signals were Had her immense canvas not betrayed set as soon as darkness had fallen, but her, she would have deceived even sea- the lugger's crew were alert. Though faring eyes into believing her much small- they could not see the lights on the er than she really was, for she had a low heights, they caught sight of a lantern hull painted black and relieved only by a that was raised and lowered from the end single and almost imperceptible line of of the Proserpine's gaff as she swept

above it except at intervals the cap of was gliding out of the harbor on the other side, with Ghita and her uncle The people of Porty Ferrajo, always in safely aboard. When daylight brought its fear of corsairs, received her suspiciously usual calm the privateer lay about four

close to the town, but in such a position she could get near him when the breeze brought to bear on him. Then the cap- safe, for it would have been madness to send a small boat expedition against him.

The Englishmen, however, were not The sailor was a tall, athletic man of idle. A boat sliped quietly away from her about 28. He was attired in an undress and entered the harbor. Soon afterward a naval uniform, which he were with a felucea came out and stood across the smart air. His eyes were coal black, his bow of the warship. The latter, still flyskin swarthy and his chin was hidden by ing French colors, promptly lowered boats a beard as black as his hair and eyes. His in chase. These soon gained the felucca, face was classically perfect, and might which was barely crawling before the wind, that was too light to stir the friprivateer, as if for protection.

The ruse was well planned. Had Raoul The ruse was well planned. Had Raoul not been positive that the frigate was Brill not been positive that the frigate was link in the capital not been positive that the frigate was Brill not been positive that the frigate was link in the capital not been positive that the frigate was link in the capital not been positive that the frigate was link in the capital not been positive that the frigate was link is shapely yawl apparently as not in his shapely yawl apparently has the could delay no more. He capital not help his countrymen. The frigate was left in the capital not help his countrymen. Ship, the Foudroyant; and there, with a haste that even his enemies acknowledged to be indecent, he was senting.

At last he could delay no more. He was left in the symbol and nothing to de watching him. It was Ithus Bott, and in the glow as held in the capital not in the privateers now had nothing to de watching him. It was Ithus Bott, and in the ground his countrymen. The feduces was need in the capital not in the privateer. As her men thronged that the could delay no more. He was need in the capital not in the privateers now had nothing to de watching him. It was Ithus Bott, and in the ground his countrymen. The feduces was need in the capital not in the privateer. As her men thronged that the could delay no more. He was need in the except the privateers now had nothing to de watching the p dently than before that it was the Pros-

miral more than many a French frigate pounders, heavily loaded with canister. English boats dashed a sund her bow men to veer out cable for their lives. and stern and made for the lugger. A The lugger took the cable that was given around La Minerva, which ship had been enemy.

and Le Feu-Follet spread her wings.

face was so winning and attractive, and wind died away again, leaving the long persistent enemy. brave as they were, had no intention of and the girl had confessed her affection another breeze started. The privateer was dawn. to him; but he was a true son of the mad ready for it, but so was the frigate. As

institutions of man but the institutions of gather way. Captain Cuffe knocked his were looking around vainly for a vestige trousers terminating at the knee of the God. He believed neither in a church nor ship round off. For a moment her broad- of the privateer, Le Feu-Foliet lay snugly a deity, while Ghita was a devout Cath-side bore on the fleeing lugger. Every gun at anchor in Bastla in the island of Corolic. Deep and true though her love was, of the great starboard batteries went off sica, protected by French batteries. Before before she recognized the boatman as dove came down to where the Proscrpine at the instant. Twenty-two round shot evening she had stepped a new mainmast Raoul. He made a sign for silence and lay waiting. They brought orders from He had ventured in to press his suit stormed through the little lugger's dainty once more. Alarmed though she was at rigging. The jigger mast was cut in two the danger of her lover, she refused again. like a reed. The mainmast was cracked. While he was with her a bustle in the Six shots tore both lug-sails to rags. The

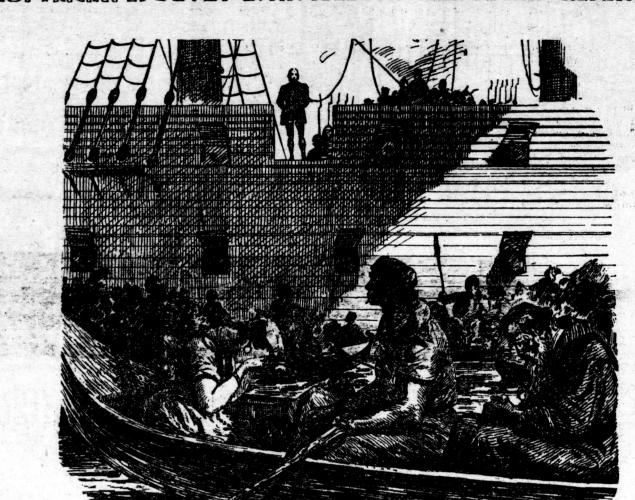
saw the shape of a tall ship approaching | Luckily for the Frenchman, the wind, alowly before a light air. When she had though strong enough to give the lugger come within a league of the port the pri- way, had not sufficient power to strain wateer's keen eyes saw that she mounted the enfeebled rigging. Her men were at thirteen guns to a broadside. A few sec- work at once, replacing and strengthening onds afterward she broke out the French wherever possible. The frigate bore astern, working both bow guns. Raoul kept his ship immediately before her, thus diminishing the danger of shot striking, as the bow guns of the cruiser could not readily shoot straight ahead.

Crippled as he was Captain Yvard dared not stand chase too long, as a fresh breeze cut the chase off from all chance of get- God punishes me sufficiently for the would be certain to test his spars with ting to sea, Le Feu-Follet shot into a nar- wrong I have done her in letting me thus fatal results. He bore off and ran for the row opening between a rocky island and know her worth when it is too late." mouth of the Golo, knowing that the the mainland. The heavy cruiser dared He kept her with him till the Foudroy. shoals of that river would make an effec- not follow, and by the time the privateer

tual bar to the frigate. "There she goes, into the breakers," exclaimed Captain Cuffe when he saw the privateer head straight for a rocky promontory and apparently with her bow in the very curl of a breaker. But she went on as swiftly as before, and by sunset anchored in the mouth of the river, while a greater happening was occupying Nel-

anchored two miles outside. lit night succeeded. Both the cruiser and ly allied in their common cause against the privateer seemed wrapped in slumber. Beside these two, the only objects in sight were two coasters which had been stopped by the frigate and released, and were now crawling slowly into the river.

Three hours passed thus. Then Ithuel him to clear from his moorings and stand Bolt called Raoul and pointed out to him across the harbor under their guns. The the fact that one of the coasters, a felucea wind that barely moved the frigate gave had been drifting down on the lugger for the lugger abundant headway. She slipped some time, though she had sufficient wind to cross her bows. They got a line of chase it was hopeless from the first. In isfied themselves that instead of bearing an hour the lugger had disappeared and ahead, which she should have done with shadow backward over the fair fame of body was taken out to sea and cast into the cruiser came about and sailed in the that breeze, she was making no headway apposite direction down the coast. of the at all, though her sails were gently full,



The Hanging of Prince Caraccioli.

"A fire-ship! A fire-ship!" shouted the their heads and openly wished that his feluces with a half-hitch. In half a min- in the result of the trial.

shot from the leading launch brought her to her at once, and rapidly receded from selected to serve as the place of punisharose from the on-coming enemy. But tion by the lugger's own anchor. The Le been pressed into service, and the lowest of the lugger off the harbor. Raoul antern had vanished to windward like a even as they came on a breeze started up Feu-Follet dropped astern, fathom after as well as the highest of the city were on swered ingenuously, giving them a reply

British cruisers was an act so daring bore down on them, but chivalrously rethe spectacle from the sea with interest and her uncle to the Foudroyant. They the tables were turned unexpectedly. that only an Tvard would have done it. frained from firing at the retreating boats. mixed with regret. From their station the were admitted to Nelson's presence, where . Two men came on deck. As soon as he Even he had gone a little beyond his usual Instead, though the frigate was approach- two vessels seemed to be close together, Ghita told him amid tears that she was saw them the Frenchman perceived that effrontery, but he had an excellent ex- ing with the freshening breeze, the pri- and no doubt existed in their minds that the Prince's grand-daughter, though he he was in a plight. They were the Vice cuse in the object that had brought him, vateer ran down to the lugger, laid him their stratagem had been successful. Their had never seen her, as he had cast his Governor and the podesta of Elba, whom aboard, and having ascertained that no brave tempers would have preferred to son off for marrying her mother. was waiting in the little port for a sail- men were left on her, set her afire. By fight the lugger and take him fairly. But In the days of his pride and power she the time this was done the frigate had they feit cheered, none the less, at the and her uncle had advanced no claims. not fail to recognize a person with such come nearly into gunshot, and the fitful fact that they had at last removed their Now, with his estates seized and a shame-striking features as those of Racul Yvard.

and repaired all other injuries.

Captain Cuffe wrote his report to Nelson, saying that Le Feu-Follet appeared admitted immediately on showing the to have been absolutely annihilated. He order of the British A. airal. had the report in his pocket next day when the frigate was slowly drawing past Prince Caraccioli, almost seventy years Elba on her way to the fleet. The look- old, was making his peace with the world out reported a lugger in shore and the when the girl was announced. He did frigate stood about to chase. As soon as not know who she was. When she told

that she had tricked him again. emerged at the other end of the strait it was useless to pursue.

course set for Naples to rejoin Nelson's execution. He put Ghita away from him fleet, his mind filled with unpleasant fore- gently and bade her leave the ship while bodings as to his reception. He was spared the expected reproof, however, for Turkey and England. On St. Elmo, the

she still held the fort. excitement that was not caused by the fahad been placed over a gun, the rope was
set.

That night the three warships sighted deck fell into a bissful state of dreamithat might as well have been sleep. Lord Nelson.

Prince Caraceloli, the famous Neapolitan

gate or even the lugger. The men on the she had drags astern. Hardly had they few ships he had opposed the landing of running this fresh danger. In reply Raoul felucca, garbed in the striped shirts and assured themselves of this before the ves- the British and Neapolitans. When Ruffo again begged her to marry him, and again begged her to marry him begged her to marry him again begged caps of Italian sailors, betrayed all signs sel fell broad off and came down on the finally took the town Caraccioli was cap- she refused, as gently and yet as firmly surgeon, asking the minimum of time a were protected from direct attack by a of alarm and headed straight toward the lugger's bows. "All hands to repel board- tured and tried by a junta of his country- as ever. ers," yelled Raoul, springing to the cap- men on the charge of treason. The trial He rowed swiftly and soon reached a with the idea of ordering the prisoner on tween them and the direction from which stan. The felucea swung around and fell was held in the cabin of Nelson's own lonely part of the harbor, where a fisher- deck at the last moment possible.

Ithuel Bolt, however, swore more confiboats could be seen darting toward the Nelson had indorsed the proceedings of the harbor, where Ghita and her uncle ordered to lay hold of the line and stretch Deeply as his officers loved him, they shook were to be disembarked. Therefore the privateer was prepared men, Raoul sprang aboard the craft, which hands had remained free from all conbrated French privateer Le Feu-Follet. for the unmasking, which came as soon now resembled a floating torch. He tested nection with the matter. On every ship full sail, bound out. She made a sheer ask if they can see any signal!" She had earned her name, which meant as the felucca had drifted near enough to his cable and found that, as he had sup- men deplored the dark influence that cast towards the small boat. An officer halled,

Will o' the Wisp, so thoroughly that all the lugger to shelter the advancing boats. posed, the fire-ship had grappled it. Im- a scandal over the whole navy—Lady asking who they were. Raoul answered top man answered in a low voice that he of Lord Nelson's captains were on the Le Feu-Follet's sweeps were run out, she mediately he passed down it as far as Hamilton who was accused, rightly or that he was a fisherman of Capri, and was saw nothing. he could climb and fastened it to the wrongly, of having played no small part ordered aboard. The sailors threw them a full into the smaller vessel. At once the ute he was aboard again and ordering his On the day set for the execution the Bay dragging astern, while Raoul, trusting of Naples was filled with boats that hung fearlessly to his garb, climbed aboard his main-yard down by the run. A cheer the fireship which was held in her post- ment. Every craft that could float had ceeded to ask him if he had seen anything

fathom, until she lay more than a hun- the water awaiting the dreadful ceremony, that would send the frigate on a wild The English, perceiving that their at- dred yards distant from the flery mass. A little before the hour set for the Ad- goose chase. All was going well, and he tle port which was visited frequently by tempt had failed, sheered off. The lugger The people of the Proserpine watched miral's death a shore boat brought Chita was enjoying the trick immensely, when Captain Cuffe had picked up at Naples.

ful end before him, they implored his life. The privateer was alert and quick to ex-It was natural that after the flame had Sternly Admiral Nelson shook his head. tricate himself from unpleasant situations; For some hours the enemies lay without died down the watch on the frigate should He granted them permission to visit the but this was one that presented no loop-Raoul Yward might have been willing to motion. There was nothing to do except relax. Nobody on board perceived the dim, prisoner, but no more. Sobbing bitterly hole. He was taken below, a prisoner, and risk their necks for an opportunity to see wait for the evening wind, for the British, ghostly form that glided wing-and-wing Ghita was led to the side of the ship by a few moments afterward the yawl was before the land breeze and passed to sea an officer, who looked around for a boat hauled on deck, with the result that Ithuel Raoul was desperately in love with her sacrificing their men. Suddenly, however, a mile away in the darkest hour before the to convey her to La Minerva. In answer was recognized and clapped into irons to his hail a boat shot alongside as if it promptly. Ghita and her uncle were taken When Captain Cuffe and his first officer had been waiting there. Its occupant was respectfully into a private cabin, and a French Republic that defled not only the Le Feu-Follet ran across her bows to were rowed up the Golo, and while they clad in the Phrygian cap and the cotton

Ghita had hardly entered the craft rowed her through the maze of other craft to the Neapolitan warship, where she was

It was a sad and dramatic meeting. she approached close enough to make the him and he learned that this, his near smaller craft out fairly Cuffe quietly tore kin, had come to him in his disgrace to up his report. There could be no doubt of be near him he was affected far more have a start and chase him around the and now rowed calmly along in the wake studding sells and etay sells the cruisers. the fact that this was Le Feu-Follet, and deeply than by his impending death. He Mediterranean, rather than to hang him. of the searching sailors till they neared studding sails and stay sails the cruisers folded her in his arms and said to the But the case was plain. Besides, priva- land, when suddenly several gigs seemed drove after Le Feu-Follet. Even in spite She tricked them even then. Just as the priest: "And this being, holy father, is frigate had assumed a position where she made known to me an hour before I die!

local boatmen.

lant's bell struck one and all the surrounding ships repeated the stroke. Then he knew that he had only half an hour The Proserpine's captain ordered her left to live, five o'clock being set for his he prayed with the priest.

Raoul received her on board again and pulled his boat to within a third of a that disliked the practice of pressing the Proserpine, distrustful of the shoals, son's mind. The Bay of Naples was cable's length from the British Admiral's Americans. In their hearts they were concrowded with armed ships of nations that ship. A solemn and expectant silence fell vinced that Bolt was an American, and, The sojemn, breathing stillness of a star- had sunk their enmittes and were strange- on the great bay. The seamen gathered to the sides of the ships. Every part of not blame him for deserting, and they the French. Two-deckers, frigates and the marine amphitheatre appeared set with sloops lay at their anchors in front of the watching eyes. And over all these watchtown, flying the flags of Russia, Naples, ers seemed to lie an expression of gloom. Suddenly a gun was fired. Before the to duty. citadel that crowned the heights, flew the smoke drifted past a yellow flag ran up flag of the French Republic, showing that the mast of the Minerva. The Prince, with The same evening it was returned ap- that season could be depended on absohis arms bound, appeared above the ham- proved, with orders to carry the sentence lutely. There was little occasion for

was to be enacted soon in that glorious hauled swiftly and Caraccioli was dragged Le Feu-Foliet and closed in on her, as ness that might as well have been sleep. and though the King's ship made sight on her by the jib-stay, and soon sat- bay, and it seemed to cast a forbidding aloft to the end of the yard. There he they thought; but when morning came He was startled out of it just before shadow ahead as it was to cast a gloomy was left hanging till dark, after which his they had only an empty space of sea dawn by the cry of his helmsman. But it Ghita hid her face and prayed as her

line. In another moment the yawl was

The officer offered him a ducat, and pro-Thick witted as they were, they could

The next morning at dawn the Ternsi-

Nelson to hold a court for trying Raoul Yvard on the charge of being a spy and Ithuel Bolt on the charge of being a deserter. This court was convened at once. orders to watch the prisoner closely. The that his errand in the Bay of Naples and among the fleet had been not to spy but to meet Ghita, who confirmed his testimony with a simple truthfulness that convinced every one of the officers in the court martial. They would have been glad to give their enemy his lugger, let him They had muffled their own oars hastily teers were known to be fonder of their to come toward them at frightening ve- of her lack of ballast the wonderful craft own skins than of their shipmates. It was locity. Lustily as the privateersmen rowed was making good her escape and night set

sentence would be commuted by Nelson. Therefore after an hour's deliberation the court returned with its sentence of death by hanging at the yardarm of such ship as the commander-in-chief might designate after approving the sentence.

Bolt was not tried. Nelson's orders con cerning him left some discretion, and the therefore, unjustly detained. They could ger's deck. certainly did not propose to hang him for it. Therefore Captain Cuffe took advantage of his latitude and restored him

The finding was dispatched to Nelson. On all the ships was an air of unusual mock cloths. He mounted the grating that out the next day between sunrise and sun-

before them. Despairing of catching the lugger without knowing something of her heavy ground swell. settled down to pray the control of her heavy ground swell. settled down to pray the heavy ground swell settled down to pray the heavy ground aiding places Captain Cuffe invited Raoul shock and stopped, tight on a cradle of dmiral, affronted by the King of Naples, grandfather struggled his last, and Raoul to his cabin and hesitatingly—for it was a rook. aid entered the service of the republic de- lost no time in pulling away. When she disagreeable task to the honorable gallor- Racul was on deck in a moment. As he

could be captured.

an honorable service should think long Thus, by the time the sunlight shone on before he tempts a man to an act like the sea and betrayed their plight to the this, But, I repeat, monsieur, I forgive people on shore, Raoul Yvard had already you if you can forgive yourself."

vinced that Raoul was no spy. He told the lugger to lighten her.

from having a hanging aboard, as it had deck under for want of ballast. service as gallows.

the silence that pervaded the sea, from only. reath.

on deck.

Captain Cuffe said huskily to his first officer, "Hall the foretop once more to

Another minute elapsed. Captain Cuffe was in the act of raising his hand when visitors in a part of the ruins where misthe dull report of a distant gun sounded in the direction of Naples. "Stand fast!" shouted Cuffe. "Two more guns, Winchester, and I am the happiest man in

Nelson's fleet!" A second gun sounded even as he spoke. Thea came the thick

The captain waved his hand in triumph. The rope was cast from the prisoner's neck and he was led below between a row of smiling faces. It fell very dark that night. The frigate moved along slowly until she was off the isles of the Sirens, where it was proposed to lower the yawl ir order to set Ghita

and her uncle free, they having indicated that part of the shore as their destination. Raout heard the boatswain's whistle pip ing to lower away and then the gentle splash as the light craft took the water The next moment a voice whispered his name at the gun port opening into his cabin. It was Ithuel Bolt. Quickly he was informed that Ghita would hold the boat and thus dissipating the privateer's fire. alongside for an instant, trusting to the darkness to hide what was going on. Raoul needed no more. In an instant he was out of the port and, guided by Ithuel. he dropped softly into the yawl. The American followed. Ghita tossed a cloak chore frigate and the sloop of war Ring- over them where they lay on the bottom. The vawl deftly rowed by her uncle, sheered off and in a moment was lost in the night.

The escape was discovered almost at once as a sentry had been posted with Raoul defended himself by explaining yawl had hardly dropped astern before the noise of the boatfalls was heard as rock. The officer of the privateer realized boat after boat dropped from the ship that he could not hope to save his comamid hurried orders. Soon oars were mander. He slipped moorings and set sail, sounding in all directions, but they served followed by Ithuel in the felucca. rather to guide the refugees than to alarm them.

believed that Raoul, confronted with death, they could not hope to outrow the well- in with the ships losing ground. But then would be willing to betray the where- manned gigs; but at this moment, when suddenly a squall bore down and the abouts of Le Feu-Follet, in which case his all seemed lost, Ghita's uncle steered sud- Proserpine managed to fire four guns full denly straight at some perpendicular cliffs. at her. Raoul thought the craft was about to be smashed, when it glided into a grotto and toppling spire. A last gleam of sun shone in a moment lay in a hidden basin, safe on the sea. There was nothing in sight from all possible search.

for it was not only near Ghita's home but ger, people and all. The only vestige of also near the spot where Le Feu-Follet her was her flag that was washed upon officers of the Proserpine were of the class was to look for her captain. As soon as the Ringdove's bow, a flag that showed the sailor had seen his sweetheart to her two large wings with beak of a galley house he returned and put out again with between them. Bolt. Before dawn they were on the lug-

> A favoring wind was blowing and the privateer had little trouble to evade the British cruisers, knowing as he did where they lay. As soon as the vessel had made her offing he retired to rest. The sea was tranquil. The wind was steady, and in Chita felt an action watchfulness on Le Feu-Follet that night.

clered by the French inveders. With a recovered a little she represented him for offered to interceds with Nelson for his appeared the guilty officer cast himself

life if he would tell where the lugger into the sea and sank. Raoul hards looked. He ordered the sails down an Raoul's first words were enough to show the pumps sounded. Then, seeing Captain Cuffe that he was not dealing felucca coming in the gray light, he sem with a privateersman of the common a boat's crew away to selze her, while tha stamp. "I pardon you if you can pardon rest of the men were set to work lightenyourself," said he, rising. "An officer in ing the ship of its armament and ballast.

taken great steps toward retrieving the Captain Cuffe's face flamed. He could disaster. A kedge anchor was carried cut hardly speak. When he gained some self- to deep water and men began work to control he begged Captain Yvard to forgive heave the vessel off. In the meantime, as him, and shook the hand which the gen- he knew that the British cruisers would erous privateersman tendered to him im- hear of his predicament before he could mediately. A tear escaped from his eye. get his guns back on Le Feu-Follet, he As soon as he had seen the prisoner back prepared to fight them off where he was to his cabin he sent for his master's mate | Some ruins on the rocky islet on which and ordered him to sail post haste to they had struck offered him a spot for a Naples with a letter in which he informed battery, and there he planted most of the Nelson that the entire court was con- guns as fast as they were taken out of

the mate to beg Nelson to fire three guns By this time the captured felucea was as a signal to suspend the execution if alongside of the rock and more carronhe acceded to the request in the letter. Ades were placed aboard of her. These During the long day that followed a gen- preparations were completed before the eral gloom settled on the ship. Apart privateer began to move in answer to the from the wish to save a brave enemy strain that the men were putting on the from an ignominious fate, there was the hawser. She stirred, slipped and suddenly general desire to prevent the Proserpine shot off into deep water, rolling nearly

been the boast of officers and crew that While she was still rocking the first Brither yardarms never had been degraded to ish boats appeared around the cape at the entrance to the bay. Yvard saw that there As the evening approached a great were three launches, mounting carronades, silence settled on the ship, intensified by and four boats containing small arm men

which every ripple had fied with the They had some distance to go before they dying down of the wind. Captain Cuffe could come to close quarters. In that time delayed preparations as long as he could, the lusty privateer's crew, which conbut at last, when it wanted only half an sisted of more than sixty men, managed hour before sunset, orders were issued al- to get two guns in place on Le Feu-Follet, most in a whisper and the foretopmen and even some of her ballast, though not began to reeve a rope at the foreyard- enough to make her steady enough for arm, while others rigged a grating under- fighting. She was moored near the felucca in such a manner that the guns of both Minute after minute passed. The cap- vessels combined would command the apman might live after being suspended, ledge of sunken rocks that stretched be-

the enemy was coming. the rock shead of them. It contained Ghite

Raoul besought her to leave him, but she would not. "We will remain, Raoul," said she firmly. "There may come a moment when you will be glad to have the prayers of believers. We will stay to look to thy eternal welfare amid the noise of war." Seeing that he could not induce her to siles could not enter, and where the privateer's surgeon was already making his alarming preparations. Hardly had this been done before the cheers of the British were heard as they dashed in close.

Assallants and defenders loosed cannon and small arms simultaneously. Almost immediately dense smoke curtained the rock. Din shook the heavy air. Both under the ragged curtain of smoke. He fired. The smoke closed in again and there arose a great shriek. When the cloud rose, as the firing lulled for a moment a cutter was seen sinking. Fourteen of her crew of sixteen had been killed by that one burst of canister The English were staggered but only

for an instant. The boats sheered off. scattered, and then came on again, each holding a course different from the rest. In the midst of a cloud of smoke, shouts. guns, all the English threw themselves suddenly at the land battery and became its masters. The men left on the felucca and the

lugger saw the English flag arise over the ruins. Then they saw at least half the French defenders lying dead, while Raoul lay on the rock, wounded sorely, crying with his last strength to his lieu tenant to escape with the vessel.

At that same momen't the British cruisers were seen coming swiftly toward the

leaving Ithuel and his men an easy course for escape, of which the American

on the wide ocean except the three cruisers. The landfall could not have been better. Le Feu-Foliet had gone down at last, lug-

Even as Le Feu-Follet was seeking her ocean grave her commander Raoul Yvard lay on the islet, with his face turned to heaven and his hand in that of Ghita. "That star haunts me. Ghita," said he. looking fixedly at a bright planet. "If it

be really a world, some all-powerful hand Ghita felt an ecstasy even in her bitter grief. "Raoul," she whispered in her thrilling, pure voice, "God is there as He is with us on this rock. Bless him! Bless him, oh my beloved one, and be forever

The result was that the officer of the deck fell into a bilssful state of dreami-mained upturned and his eyes still seemed mained upturned and his eyes still seemed on the star. Chita, holding his