

rocket which was shot from the mortar, and the rack arrangement was to prevent it from "kinking," as it is liable to do when it is run out quickly from an ordinary coil.

Fortunately the vessel was hard aground upon the rocks, and did not move, so that the captain of the brigade had not much trouble in setting the mortar with a good aim. When all was ready he called to the men on the vessel,

"Ship ahoy! All hands stand by. Ready."

"Aye, aye, sir," came the quick reply.

A sharp click of the fuse, and whis-s-s, went the rocket, cleaving the air like a meteor; and the small rope zigzagged after it like a streak of murky lightning. The aim was true. Over the ship, right between the masts, darted the glaring light, falling into the water at some distance on the off side, and the rocket laid the rope just over amidships. This the men on board immediately seized, and in an instant the men on shore fastened to it a block through which was passed an endless hawser.

Then the cry rang out, "Haul aboard!"

In a little while we could hear the block rattling against the side of the ship, and a moment or two later we saw a light quickly flashed, which was the signal that the block had been made fast to the mast. Then a similar block was made fast ashore, and the hawser passed through it, after which all the tackling was tightened up. By this arrangement there were two stretches of hawser between the ship and the shore, and on the under stretch was fastened a circular life-buoy, from which hung a short pair of canvas breeches.

A flash from the shore, and a reply from the vessel—then ten or a dozen strong men shouldered the upper stretch of the hawser, and with a ringing cheer ran

quickly down the pier till the buoy boarded the vessel. For a moment they stood still holding their rope, till a flash from the vessel intimated that some one was in the breeches and ready to be brought ashore. Then they "slacked rope" and ran back with it, while another set of men ran with the other stretch, and so hauled the buoy with its occupant ashore.

The law in relation to these matters is that all women shall be sent ashore first, then the men according to their age, beginning at the youngest; the captain, or officer in charge, always remaining till last. Fortunately no women were aboard this vessel, and the first person landed was the cabin-boy. As soon as he was landed, a loud cheer went up from the multitude, and the apparatus was run out to the ship again. So man after man was safely brought ashore without any trouble, except that, while the third man was about midway between the vessel and the shore, a tremendous sea lifted the wreck and drove it nearer the pier, causing all the ropes to slacken, and dropping the poor fellow into the surf, through which he had to be dragged till he could find a footing. The tackling being tightened up again, all the rest were brought ashore without mishap.

The captain had just landed, and the coastguardsman was demanding his name, the name of his vessel and his keys (for as soon as a captain signals for help, he places himself under the protection of the coastguards, who take possession of all till matters have been settled), when another green light was seen tossing up and down, and plunging back and forward just a short distance from the wreck.

In a moment the throng seemed dumb with surprise, till there came the flash and boom of a distress signal. Then the silence was broken by the mingled shrieks and