AT DEATH'S DOOR. seure, a threshold stone il void before, my spirit, then urned on the part its doubtful ken. Along the road I had o'ergone, A tenfold light began to dawn. ach day of life revealed stood, such with its dower of ill or good And deed, and thought, and fitting d every scene mine eyes had known, sudden splendor flashed and shone

This was accordingly done. But Jack was not yet entirely hopedifficulty, and he accordingly bestirred position of his programme to the skipper and pilot. 'As Glugg supposes me The alien city's solitude, Its paven ways, its turmoil rude. Uprose each face of friend or foe, sary to go so far as China or Samatra

The swift repreach, to look askance, The laughing gaze, the heart-warm g All hours of life; but last the hour Then earthward life and vision died, And the great door swung still and wide But more I may not tell to thee; What then I saw thyself must see

## The Story of a Missing Ship.

By LEON LEWIS.

CHAPTER XV .- [CONTINUED.] "How did this man look?" asked Ildrie-but this was doomed to the

Not a line was received from them.

formation in the premises.

And such were the circu

One look was enough for a complete

was Glugg's quick mental assurance

mind when he acted upon it. A few

CHAPTER XVI.

MRS. RAY'S NEW BOARDERS.

The door of Mrs. Ray's boarding

upon a mat just within the hall. Glugg

ment, where Mrs. Ray was busy with

'I hear that you keep boarder

Perhaps I can avoid him.

and it was singular how irresistfuly Jack was reminded of Glugg. "The mail was just closing." added ertion and expense, can be imagined.

the pilot, 'and the box had just been cleared when the stranger cast his -the pleasure of hearing from the s friend of mine—that the letter of would appear upon the scene promptly. the stranger was addressed to New This letter was two months old when York and to Gazam Paxter.'

The dropping of this odd name in this unexpected fashion from the lips of the old pilot, seemed to our hero danha Bay, putting new masts into the little less than an interposition of wreck, and otherwise preparing her for the voyage to London. As to Scoter you would not take, any advantage of a poor widow.' Why, that stranger was Glugg! he cried, in a sudden glow of excite- to Cape Town, and were stopping a ment. 'Is that all you saw of him?'

'All eir.' The soul of our hero thrilled to its a line left at the post office for Jack. centre as he looked seaward in silence. Not twenty-four hours had passed since the Isis was in those waters! Thanks to some adverse wind, or to some uncertainty in the councils of the plotters, the notice of Capt. Glugg, as related, or to to change of course, she had beat- while that worthy was striding through en the wreck of the Arethusa only by the streets of Cape Town.

Where can she be now?' he asked recognition. himseif. 'No doubt to the eastward.' Finding himself thus thrown into the field of speculation. Jack bastened to set forth all the facts in the case to the old pilot, and especially all the vital facts by which the soul of our rapid steps took him back into the

The answer of the old navigator was from that point he lost no time in pro-

in any clue to her where is to hire a good coaster, and set out to hide myself here under an assumed This advice was too good for Jack name, and wait and watch."

not to see on the instant that it was worth following.

he asked.

'I can hardly say off hand, sir,' re- house was open, and a small imp in the 'Let's to work at once, then,' pro- stirred up this personage quickly, and

posed our hero. 'You can see by all I demanded to see his mistress. The boy have told you how great is my impa-It was not difficult to find the de- a batch of pies.

She was a large, masculine-looking sired vessel. A small schooner, which had been engaged in bringing produce woman, but with a countenance coast which was expressed a fair share of was found ready for charter, and Jack natural goodness. She was the wide at once took the responsibility of secur- of a late sergeant in the Cape regiing her for three months. Her skip- meat, and had managed, by her indu per reported that he had passed a large try, tact and other good qualities, ship in making port, during the night place herself in the way of making preceding, and Jack instantly leaped living and of bringing up her children to the conclusion that the stranger was Her reception of Capt. Glugg was sufficiently flattering, her house b

The unloading of the schooner being nearly empty at the moment, but it was quickly accomplished, while Jack was evident enough from her manner the writing sundry letters to New York, she was not without some curiosit London, &c., there was no particular concerning him, and that she could no contemplate his formidable bulk whit parture, and in less than twelve hours after his arrival at Cape Town the madam,' said Glugg, as soon as

'We must pursue that strange ship offered him.

'I do, sir, sometimes,' was the guard-skipper. 'It will be singular if we do not hear from her again.'

The event proved the justness of this 'No one in particular, but your 'No one in particular, but your

town, for upon the very next town's people generally. I am a strange coaster was met which had mered the mysterious ship off Bay, and which reported that a still standing to the centward more than a week, as Jack stood

long the south coast, numerous in-ormations were not wanting, almost very coaster or westward-bound ship aving seen the stranger. Then the accounts became fewer, and at length; urse of a few days more had given altogether. The pursuit, therefore, a had begun so promisingly had ded a point of pacertainty which most trying.

are, 'said the widow, with a smile that degenerated into a simper. 'But I doubt not from your looks, sir, that I am born to be unlucky,' and a swift pallor crossed the redness of his features. 'Men who can escape from such a fire pallor crossed the redness of his features. 'Men who can escape from such a fire pallor crossed the redness of his features. 'Men who can escape from such a fire pallor crossed the redness of his features. 'Men who can escape from such a fire pallor crossed the redness of his features. 'Men who can escape from such a fire a life them in are certainly to be dreaded.'

It is entirely unnecessary, madam,' said Glugg, as gallantly as possible. 'I shall be ready to take whatever room you may be pleased to give me. As to the table, I have no demands to make. Whatever you may set before a sited the widow, with a sudden pursuit of his for that vary reason that as goes in that direction,' dedayed old pilot, said at its for that vary reason that as goes in that direction,' dedayed old pilot, said at its for that vary reason that as goes in that direction,' dedayed old pilot, said at its for that vary reason that as goes in that direction,' dedayed old pilot, said at its for that vary reason that as goes in that direction,' dedayed old pilot, said at its for that vary reason that as goes in that direction,' dedayed old pilot, said at the for that vary reason that as goes in that direction,' dedayed old pilot, said at the for that vary reason that as goes in that direction,' dedayed old pilot, said the sold pilot, said the

'I like to know who my board

than if she had gone to the bottom. than if she had gone to the notion.

'We are out of everything, including more comfortable than he had expectmoney,' declared the skipper, at the ed, he congratulated himself upon madam,' said Scoter. 'The essential is that we are lodged near our friend.' reflections. The room proving to be you.'

himself with such effect as to put the of asking for Mrs. Ray. The purpose of our hero was to be town for him. 'We must look closer was the re-seen at a gla mark with which he concluded the exseen at a glance. He, too, was in quest

his favor, he would not deem it neces- is that my real name is hiden.'

Looking down into the street until hour!' He must be hidden nearer. As he Jack had entered the house, Glugg wrote to Paxter from Cape Town, it slipped from his room to the landing near us, and that we have only to look Ray and her prospective boarder. The business of our hero was soon

It would be wearisome to detail all stated. He did not propose to remain the measures of this renewed effort. in Cape Town a great while, but had Suffice to say that nothing came of it, been recommended to Mrs. Ray's esand that the schooner at length returned to Cape Town with not so much as kind in the colony. tablishment as to the very best of the a trace of the Isis to show for all the

fatigues Jack and his aids had en. His youth, bearing, and direct trankness made an instant impression upon Mrs. Ray, who was rather conscious of hope of hearing from Mr. Ryell and expecting to again enter the married A full house meant for her plenty of than was her custom. She not merely same disappointment as the others. him the best of board and every atten The emotions of Jack, as he realized where he stood after six months of ex-

too much. A single success was permitted him 'That shilling is for his good looks,' letter into it, and hence it was easy for owners of the Arethusa, who informed growled the concealed listener, interme to learn from the post-master—who him that an agent of the underwriters nally, with a sardonic smile—'a shilling less than her terms to me!

Jack. 'Perhaps you will be better received; and it was no secret at Cape Town that the promised agent had been 'It is not | necessary, sir,' interrupt-

and his comrades, they had come down March has decidedly the advantage. gentleman who appeared greatly ex-He not only pays less than I do but one of the boarding-houses, with which

the old feminine is partial!' had just given him all necessary in under which Jack had been brought to

> of the house; but it is all the better interesting about them that inst much noise in the evening. Would hastened to do all she could for them you not like to see it?' 'I would, indeed,' replied Jack. The widow accordingly led the way.

The room proved to be smaller than at present, said the young lady, on Gligg's, and was immediately behind it. There was even a door communiately for the room placed at her disposal. 'My father is far from The hope was hardly formed in his cating between the two, but it had well, and both of us have suffered been locked and boited so securely greatly from want of sleep.' street from which he had emerged, and that Jack did not mind it.

here, Mr. March, said Mrs. Ray, when and she lost no time in doing all she Tous ship has probably gone back ing.

Tous ship has probably gone back ing.

The only way to obtain any clue to her whereabouts sured himself, as he reached Mrs. Ray's Jack had expressed his approval of the could for the new-comers, serving them favorite dish at any time, or anything she learned that they were Mr. John between meals, you have only to give Ryell and his daughter, from New

Jack could not do less than express his sense of the obligations under and the gentleman her father. which she was placing him, and then Very fortunately for their peace of he made a few enquiries about certain mind, Glugg was absent at the mo merchants of the town, and went out ment. With the first announcemen with whom he had been dealing.

tants, as she resumed operations in the titchen. 'Here are two very nice and was singularly gloomy and disgusted. proper gentlemen within half an hour and who knows but more are coming? house as we had last winter!

The words were hardly spoken when the young Hottentot came tumbling

The widow hustened to the dingy

and barren room she had denominated her parlor, to receive the new-comers 'You'll excuse us, madame,' said the by March, or else I must keep a

ately madam, said the spokesman, nervously. 'Please tell him that his

'I am really sorry, gentlemen,' said Mrs. Ray, with a simper of embarrass-ment, 'but Captain March went out immediately to call upon some of our

again, he having overheard every word of this conversation from his perch on the landing. 'How did that crowd escape from the tight box in which I left them? By what mirsels? It is you came Captain March, and then his friends, Scoter, Glenning and Now den, and afterward Mr. John Ryell, and his daughter, from New York, who came in the steamer....'

She into

hesitated. For three months he did I have changed my mind upon second not receive the least further clue to thought, and am anxious to see it.'

There is a large suite directly opposite must dig out of this before daylight! He was soon installed and left to his

'Oh, we leave all that to you, How?' to Cape Town to refit.'

and must go back securing it, and then opened one of the front windows and looked into the compact that we are lodged near our friend.'

The terms were soon settled, the when a man came along the sidewalk securing it. street.

Horrors of horrors! Jack March was nature, and then the three men went door, knocking for admittance. less, nor was he a man to shrink from upon the front steps in the very act of away as abruptly as they had come. stirring up the dimunitive black, and remarking that they were impatient to lips at sighs of the new-come see Mr. March, and would search the well it might.

'The old proverb is certainly true cried Mrs. Ray to her assistant, as soot 'Thunder!' ejaculated Glugg, ment- as they were again by themselves. per and pilot. 'As Giugg supposes me ally, 'Is this a misfortune, or is it a never rains but it pours. Here are to be dead, and has the whole crew in turn in my favor? How fortunate it five as good boarders as ever set foot in my house, and all in less than

'Steamer in!' exclaimed the Hottentot, from his post at the door.

And with this he vanished at a rate is possible that he will come here for his answer. Be that as it may, we will ing a position from which he could hear of the sumption that he is every word that passed between Mrs.

And with this he vanished at a rate of speed that soon took him beyond the sphere of Mrs. Ray's observation. The announcement was all that was ecessary for Mrs. Ray's complete

forefinger oracularly, and shaking her her head in a sort of awe-struck joy. her, and so fill up the house entirely. Will not that be grand? The assistant's black eves sparkled

state, and she was more civil to him small silver pieces that would be otherhad a good room but could promise It is safe to say that neither mistress

nor maid hardly drew a full breath tion. As to the price, she hoped he during the next half hour. Every cart would not consider a pound weekly that passed threw them into fidgets, and the more they passed without stopping the longer became the facial outlines of the good widow. But at length there was heard the rumble of a cart that meant business—a rumble 'Shall I pay in advance?' asked that enced in a full stop immediately in front of Mrs. Ray's door.

' I thought we should not be entirely neglected,' murmured the good widow, ed Mrs. Ray. 'It is easy to see that triumphantly, as she hurried to the

The new-comers were two in num 'Humph!' sneered Glugg. 'Captain ber-a young lady and a middle-aged hausted with their long voyage. Their the colony is so liberally provided; and pays when he gets ready. Decidedly, words were few and to the point. They wanted a quiet place to sleep more There was a brief silence below, and than anything else in the world. They then the widow's voice was heard said nothing of themselves beyond mentioning that they were father and Your room is rather retired, sir, daughter, and would like rooms adshe was saying, 'it being at the back joining. There was something sad and on that account, as there is not so put Mrs. Ray upon her merits, and she installing them in her best aparts

upon the ground floor. A little ten and toast is all we wan

The situation was one that appeals 'I hope you will be quite at home to the best instincts of Mrs. Ray's heart, If you should want any the few further remarks that followed,

Yes! The young lady was Ildric

o make a call or two upon parties of the steamer, he had left the house ith whom he had been dealing.

'Things are brightening again,' said had not yet returned. And when he after an absence of two hours, his fac-

'Not a line from Paxter,' he said. · Not the least light upon all the questions I have asked him. Where can

He slipped to his room as quietly as cossible, and gave himself up to an arnest review of his situation and prospects. His return was unuotic by anyone save Mrs. Ray, as the shad

'I shall have to get out of this,' he said to himself, 'to avoid being seen esman of the party, 'but we hear like an oyster in his shell. The fac 'And so he is, sir,' replied Mrs. Ray, promptly. 'That is to say, he has just engaged board here—'

'And so he is, sir,' replied Mrs. Ray, promptly. 'That is to say, he has just engaged board here—'

On the other hand, if I can watch them without being seen, it will be a great

point in my favor.' A knock upon the de 'Are you not coming to supper, Mr. Oxley?' asked the widow, as she re-

ponded to his bidding to enter.
'Excuse me, madame—I have -I haven't the east appetite,' replied Glugg. · I am so sorry,' insinuated the widow. 'I was in hopes of finding you mt with one another. As unusually happy, as I am. You have pointment with one another. As unusually happy, as I am. I on have already indicated, they were our three no idea what a good run of luck your old friends—Scoter, Glenning, and arrival to day has opened for me. Next to you came Captain March, and then the statement of the control of the con

You are ill, sir,' she said.

A—s mere spaem! gasped Glugg.

whole coast heresbouts. This is about the only work our craft is fit for.'

The skipper inclined to this conduct, and it seemed hest to Jack to act upon the old pilot's proposition. Probably if he could have foreseen to what a weerisome and fruitless task he was weerisome and fruitless task he was one double on the old pilot's proposition. When the could have condomning himself, he would have condomning himself, he would have handed with the country of the condomning himself, he would have condomning himself, h Ryell from getting together? How?

> He was still asking himself this ques-A suppressed vell burst from Glugg's

The new arrival was Gazam Paxte

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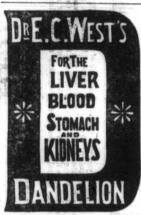
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