

will trouble us any more. And if she does happen along she can't get inside the lagoon unless she jumps over the reef as we did, for she can't beat in through that narrow passage to the south-east."

So as daylight broke, the boat was manned by Montgomery, Cole, Haldane, and Lugard, and with Helen seated in the stern sheets, was just pushing off when Carroll appeared.

"Here, take these," he said, throwing some oilskins and rugs into the boat; "there is going to be a power of rain. I can see it banking up heavily to the eastward."

And he was right, for scarcely had the boat touched the beach when the wind came away from the eastward, bringing with it heavy rain, and Haldane, lifting Helen in his arms, set off at a run over the broken coral for the clump of pandanus palms, where he was soon joined by Lugard and the others, who quickly made a protection for her by stretching some oilskins between the trees.

"Please do not trouble about me, Captain Lugard. I wish you would let me come with you and the men, and see what you are doing. I am not afraid of getting wet."

Lugard's dark eyes lit up with pleasure, though he answered her in his usual cool but yet profoundly respectful manner.

"Ah, no, Miss Adair; please stay here under this shelter, rude and rough as it is. You must not expose yourself to these tropical rains on the coast—for to do so means fever."

For quite three hours Helen remained under shelter, whilst the men, in the still pouring rain, worked at carrying up the coral slabs from the beach, and deposit-