

you, since you are pleased to say that you like hearing my little adventures."

"It was many years ago, when the California gold diggings were attracting every body's attention, that I went out as a third engineer on a steamer from Panama to San Francisco. I liked the captain very much, and I had known him by sight before, though he didn't know me; for a short time previously he had several times come on board a ship to which I then belonged at New York to see the captain, who was a friend of his

"Once or twice he had brought off his wife and little daughter with him—such a sweet, lady-like young woman, and such a dear little girl; I recollect taking them down once and showing them the engines—and the lady appeared so fond of her husband! I wondered how he could leave them to come on this station alone in that lawless time of gold-seeking. Our chief engineer, too, was a good sort of a man, and one who knew his work well. The second wasn't a bad fellow either, though too fond of his glass; but the rest of the officers and crew were not pleasant shipmates. The ship was not a comfortable one to me in any respect, and I soon determined that my first voyage in her should be my last, though we had first-rate wages to induce us to stick by the ship at San Francisco, and not run away to the gold diggings.

"We arrived out safely, without any adventure; but we had to wait a long time before we could sail on our homeward voyage. Notwithstanding all precautions, a great many of our crew ran away, and it was impossible to replace them; indeed, the harbor was full of ships, lying useless there for want of crews to take them away.

"But we had also another loss, and a greater one, in our chief engineer. He had been ailing on the voyage out, and he died, poor fellow, while we were lying in the harbor. Our second was not exactly the person to take charge of the engines, being, as I have said, rather too fond of drink, and the captain, we heard, was trying all he could do to get some one in our chief's place. Macpherson, the second, was of course very indignant at this: but so it was.

"I should think we must have been quite two months at San Francisco before we were ready to sail again, for you must understand that we were not a regular packet on the station, but had been specially chartered for the voyage out—and we thought that we were going after all without any new chief engineer.

"We, in the engine-room were pleased at this, for Macpherson was a good sort of fellow enough, except for that fault which I have mentioned, and a first-rate workman; but on the very last day before sailing, the captain, of whom we had seen but little for some time past, came on board with a person whom he introduced to the engine-room hands as their new chief.

"He was not the only new arrival on board. There were a few, very few, passengers; and a lady, who I heard to my astonishment was the captain's wife, whom he had married since we had been at San Francisco. Now, as I have already told you, I had seen his wife and little daughter but a short time before, so you may think how much I was surprised at seeing this other woman brought on board as his wife now. I was very much surprised at our captain, whom I had taken for a different sort of man; but it was all no business of mine, so I held my tongue about it. This new woman that he had now was very handsome, certainly, though of a bold, masculine style of beauty, and with such an eye! I