A DAUGHTER OF THE STORM!

BY CAPT. FRANK H. SHAW.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

Stubbs Final Effort.

(Continued)

"The day will be here in an hour, croaked Leigh, licking his parched and blistered lips. "We'll see what we've done then."

"Yes, the day will be here in an hour," echoed Aileen, not knowing what she said, and they gathered themselves together for the final effort. The crackling underfoot grew nearer; with fixed and glassy eyes they saw a piece of deck planking shrivel away to nothing and fall away, to be followed by a leaping tongue of flame. The fire had burst its bonds at last, and there was no telling to where it might fly.

It was well for the Zoroaster that a portion of her cargo, beneath the upper cases and bales, was fireclay and tear in one of the drawn blinds and firebrick, stacked in the 'tween decks, that the ship might have top-weight to make her sea-fit. But for that the flames must have spread wildly, unchecked by the feeble efforts of the strugglers, but, as it was, the uninflammable material drove the flames forward and aft. But they had forgotten this, and they only saw death staring them in the face if they relaxed their efforts one jot.

"It's gaining," said Leigh, with a groan, as a . thin grey line grew across the horizon ahead; "but we'll

die fighting." "Ah, thank God I've worked with men!" grasped Aileen, throwing out her hands to cover his. And they toiled anew, toiled on and on, hope dead, bodies hardly alive. So stupid had they become, so drunken with effort that they heard nothing of a wild yelling from the poop, heard nothing of a steady throb from a far dis-



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tance, saw nothing of a bulky shape

> through the dawn. It was Aileen who first aroused herself from the strange lassitude of toil to look about her in the growing day. "Oh!" she cried, "oh!" She could

> looming up nearer and nearer

find no more words, but her pointing finger showed them a huge New Zealand liner bearing up to their broadside, almost within a biscuit toss. "Come aft and get the flags," said

Leigh numbly, staring as a man might

stare on coming back from the grave.

'We're saved, darling, we're saved!"

CHAPTER XXXV.

In Sydney Hospital.

It was very quiet in the cool private ward of the Sydney hospital. A flicker of sunlight broke through a tiny ocused itself on the face of a girl who sat motionless at the side of a bed. It lit up a pair of earnest eyes, t shone dazzingly from piled golden tresses, rested caressingly on a white cheek, roved on to fall across the recumbent figure of a man in the bed. At a little distance a uniformed nurse sat reading.

Aileen lifted her head and drank in the quietness. She was well again by this—a strong gale before they reached port had blown away the lassitude and liftlessness that had fallen upon her that morning when they saw help in sight. Already, although she hardy dared own it to herself, she was longing for the sea. It was wonderfully quiet-even the very flies seemed asleep. Now and then the nurse turnd a page of the book she was read ing, glanced up quickly at the patient's face, then down again with a slight smile at the expression of waiting that Aileen showed. Presently possessessessessessessesses the silence was broken—a distanty footfall sounded outside the door. Aileen drew herself erect in her chair and a deep glad flush suffused her of suffering. And he was hers, un- knew that his work was good. cheeks. She could have told that alienably, her lover, almost her husstep in a thousand, many a time and band. oft had she lain awake in her cabin listening to its steady tread on the himself on the floor at her feet, withdeck above her. It checked outside out a sound. One of her hands droopthe door, and the nurse, with a cool ed down beside him, he pressed it to rustle of draperies, answered the sug- his cheek gravely, yet he thrilled at

> gested knock. "He's asleep just now," she said tain Curzon opened his eyes. softly, "but if you'll promise to make no noise you may come in. Yes, he's ly. The nurse came forward reprov-

uite out of danger." Leigh came in on tip-toe, his soft canvas shoes making no sound. He was dressed in white duck, for spring was growing in Sydney, and his know I'm almost well again." brown, clean face showed bravely above the shimmer of his clothing. Aileen caught her breath with a sharp gasp, and her eyes filled. What a man he was! Stern and strong in ම්වර්තිවර්ට as a woman in times

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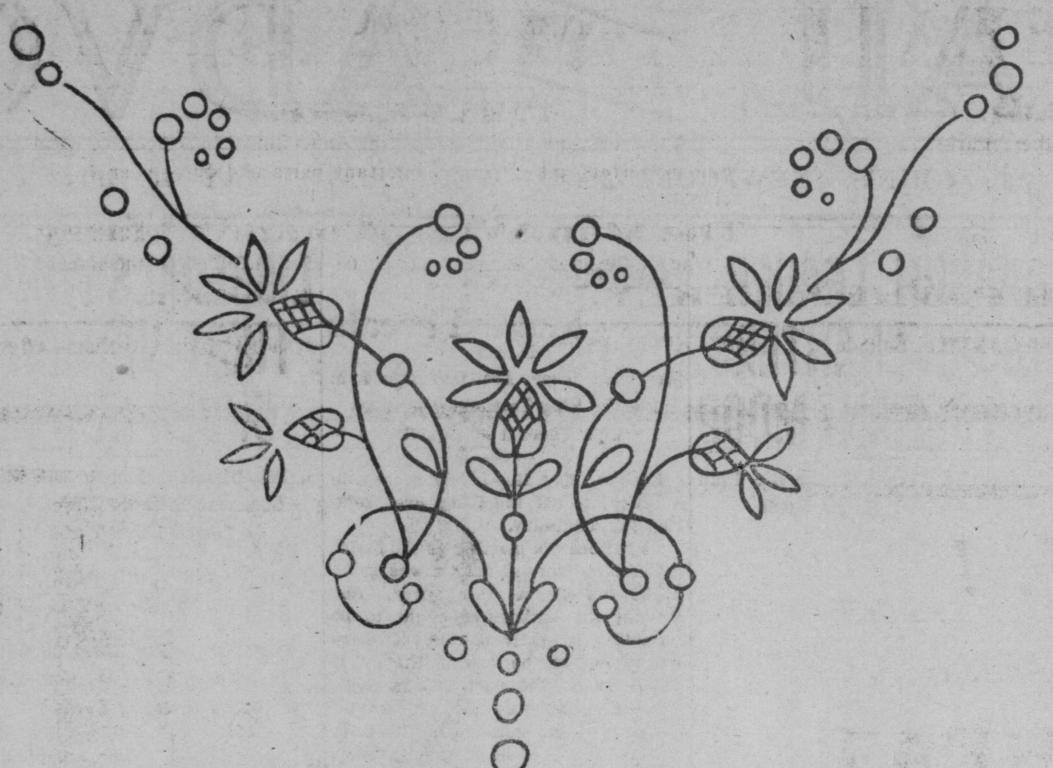




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He came towards her and seated

the cool contact. And just then Cap-

"Now!" she said, finger uplifted.

"It's all right, nurse. I'm going to

"For an hour, then. But I put you

on your honour not to excite the pati-

ent." And she disappeared, with a

little laugh on her lips, for nurse

"So you're here to see the old hulk

"Everything's going well, sir.

They've discharged the ship, and

found the damage isn't much, consid-

ering. There's a good freight offering

"They'd tell you the operation was

successful-in part," said Curzon.

"I'll get the use of my limbs again,

after a while. They've removed the

pressure on the spinal cord, and so

far as health goes I'll live to a ripe

old age. That's my news. But-my

seafaring days are over. I'll never

command a ship again. I've lost my

nerve, Leigh, I've lost my nerve."

There was something of a silence as

the voice died away, none seemed to

"It was a good plan of yours, Leigh,

to ask for men from that steamer ra-

ther than abandon the old Zoroaster.

You won't suffer for it-when the

"He's gained already," flashed

Aileen. "The papers got hold of the

story at the trial, and he'll all kinds

"Aye, aye, and so they sent them all

to penal servitude for life? It was

know what to say next.

tale's told as it happened."

of a hero here in Sydney.'

for home—but how are you, sir?"

Leigh? Well, it's not quite a shatter-

ed hulk as it might have been. Wha

Deering loved a romance.

talk," said Curzon stubbornly. "You

"Ah, Leigh, you here?" he said faint

the stems are outlined. Mercerized over this, and with a hard, sharp

with the xception of the cross bars,

easily have abandoned her."

pencil, firmly trace each line. this motif embroidered on it. The DIRECTIONS FOR TRANSFERRING be laid over the pattern, and the design drawn direct on the goods, as Lay a piece of impression paper, it will show through. When handled which are done in the outline stitch. face down, upon the material. Place in this way, impression paper, of

The dots are worked as eyelets and the newspaper pattern in position course, will not be required. case called for it. Mutiny on the high he said at length. "It must have been seas-good thing the courts were sit- he who started the fire. There were ting. But you'll find the owners all the earmarks. But where did he aren't ungrateful, my boy, when the get to? He must have crept down

> what became of him?" Leigh said nothing. His mind flash "Didn't they find anything?" ed back to those ensuing weeks when | "Not a scrap. My theory is that he six men and a junior officer had been was overcome by the fumes of the spared him from the Wallaroo, and fire he lighted and totally burnt. A together, wedded into a bond of bro- horrible death."

> therhood by dint of peril, they had "He deserved it," cried Aileen, and

fought the fire with added zest, and her father patted her head. conquered. He thought of the follow-"That's all done with now. Aileen's ing striving, with storm after storm told me how it is with you, Leigh. I to cope with, his ship under-manned, wouldn't wish to give her to a better cranky, unsafe, and yet-he'd brought there's something to be said yet. her through—brought her right to her You're a sailor-my girl won't do for appointed haven, at that. And he man. No, you needn't flush. Buta sailor's wife. She couldn't stand to "Funny thing about Stubbs, sir," be cooped up in a shipping port, see-

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ing you now and then. Of course you're going into steam when you've

taken the Zoroaster home?" "Meaning-?" said Leigh.

"That you must give up the sea. Stay a bit"-Leigh made an impetuous gesture-"listen till I've done It's played out, the sea. Foreign crews and poor freights have sent everything downhill to the bottom. ual filing systems are an absolute ne cessity. No employer will waste his The merchant service is fizzled out, my lad. So-you'd better got a shore billet. I'm not altogether a pauper I'm quite willing to sell my share in the Zoroaster and put it into any busi-Wernicke" devices encourage are self. ness you like to name, provided you evident. Not a paper can go astrav settle ashore. There's my offer. cept it, and you can marry the girl as soon we get home-she says she says she won't leave her daddy until then. You'll sail when you're loaded, nicke" can provide you with the equinof course, but we'll be home as soon as you, going by steamer. They won't let me leave my bed for another six weeks at the least. There's my ultimatum, Leigh."

Leigh's face was flushed, his fingers laced and relaxed convulsively. He glanced under his eyebrows at Curzon's quiet face, then at Aileen's. Suddenly he drew himself upright.

"I can't leave the sea, sir," he said tion is now complete, much more cap. gently. "It's in my blood. Anything but that." And at his elbow he heard If the material is sheer, this may a little sigh of satisfaction, as Aileen breathed deeply. She had been hang- There is no other engine so popular in ing on this answer more than she Newfoundland or Canada as the

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