

none able or willing to do it until she met with me. I endeavored to prevail on Hamilton to return with her, but he would not. He is an old soldier, as you are aware, and obedience is one of his stubborn virtues. He had received orders from Mr. Ogilby to deliver Mabel into your hands, and would have died sooner than disobeyed. And so Lucy was forced to come with us."

"And will be obliged to come on board the ship with us also, I'm afraid," said Brian.

"Undoubtedly," returned Hugh. "We cannot send her to Donegal; but we must try and let her father know where she is. We can send Hamilton. He may be arrested by the troops, but will not be injured. Mr. Ogilby will vouch for his loyalty. Did she accompany him now she would probably be subject to insult at the hands of the Government's Russian soldiery whom she would meet on the way, and they might recognize her as being one of those whom they chased."

"You say well, Hugh. Once on board the ship, we can devise a plan to land her at some spot where her father and his friends will be waiting to receive her. But, in the meantime, had we not better leave here and proceed to the beach?"

"I am only waiting for the females to rest. As soon as they are ready, I am. We have got the start of our pursuers, and they are not likely to overtake us now. However, go to the cabin and hurry them, while I dispatch Hamilton on his mission, and call the men. The sky is becoming clouded, and we must try and get the girls on board while the bay is calm."

Brian walked towards the cabin and was met at the door by Lucy, who smilingly invited him in. He entered and beheld Alice, all blushes and bashfulness, arrayed in one of Mabel's black silk dresses, and, looking bewitchingly fascinating and lovely. In a few minutes they were ready and stepped out on the green front of the cabin as their horses came up. Hamilton took his leave and departed for Donegal on foot, and the females, being placed in the centre of the troop, they again started for the strand. About an hour's sharp riding brought them within sight of their des-

tination, and the Green Islands lay in all their beauty before them.

They soon gained the beach, and Hugh, dismounting, took the saddle from his horse and left him to roam at will. His example was followed by the rest, and they immediately hastened to where the boats lay. But only three boats remained out of the six sent in the morning from the ship. This was explained by the sailors in charge. Their comrades, acting under orders of the First Lieutenant, were rowing around for a distance of three miles, and watching for the arrival of the men, who, if pursued, would be seen by the boats at any point, and render them assistance. They had been opposite the Islands half an hour previous to the arrival of Hugh, and were about a mile distant when he appeared.

Large drops of rain began to fall, a stiff breeze sprung up from the shore, and, fearful that a storm was brewing, Hugh hastily got the females in the boats, and as many men as they could conveniently carry, and, propelled by the strong arms of the French sailors, the boats shot merrily toward the Islands. Hugh, Fergus and Brian remained on the strand, with those who were left waiting for the return of the boats, and watching them as they danced over the waves, now ruffled into foam by the first breath of the approaching storm. They reached the side of the ship in safety, and Lucy, who happened to be the nearest to the ladder fixed for the accommodation, trembled as she looked up and saw the long tiers of guns yawning through the portholes and the marines pacing the deck with fixed bayonets.

"Do not be afraid, Mademoiselle," said a cheery and manly voice on the deck, and, looking up again, she saw a young and handsome officer, in a brilliant uniform, decorated with ribbons and medals, smilingly looking down upon her.

"Do not be afraid," he repeated; "that ladder will not break with your weight."

Naturally bold and daring, Lucy, losing all her fears, sprang on the ladder, and with the agility of a boy reached the deck. The officer extended his hand as she came within his reach, and congratulated her on her expertness. She shook her curls, and making him a half-