

Blessington's Folly

—but I guess 'twas your father bought her and found her.”

“What the devil do you mean by bringing her on a voyage like this without my orders?” cried John. “And what the devil do you mean by running her on to this rock, in fine, clear weather? You should lose your ticket for this! Have the wireless equipment knocked away from the top immediately. Mitch, step over to that door and shoot anyone who tries to get in.”

The wireless equipment was put out of business. The operator, and the schooner's small-arms, were sent ashore. Five armed men were brought aboard from the village. John remained aboard all night, and all the next day. H. P. Blizzard retired to his own suite of rooms and remained there. Before night Hands came aboard and John went ashore. And so a week passed without any further communication between father and son, though John visited the stranded schooner every day. H. P. Blizzard kept to his own quarters and was waited upon by his man. The captain and the wireless operator were housed ashore, but the rest of the yacht's company remained aboard, in the care of Alfred Hands and a crew of five fishermen.