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## The Guns for Cuba

act and the Alabama case, and a dozen about the question, it was a purely other things which may mean anything private matter between Mr. Gedge and between jail and confiscation, and my his God. He, Owen Kettle, was as imhead isn't big enough to hold it. If personal in the business as the ancient asks right there on the bar counter and by piety inside the chapel ashore, and get to know exactly how the law of not by professional exertions (in the

"The law here in England," said the next. No, Mr. Gedge, give me the a man can buy it by the yard for paper meney down, and straight pistol shooting is always remembered in his

The young man who owned the steamship Sultan of Borneo tapped his blotting paper impatiently. "Stick to the point, Kettle. We're in England now and have nothing whatever to do with legal matters in America. As for your advice, I am not a fool; you can lay your ticket on it I know to an inch how I stand. And I may tell you this: the shipment is arranged for.' "I'd like to see us cleared," said Capt. Kettle, aoubtfully.

ance. The Sultan of Borneo will leave here in coal, consigned to Havana. A private yacht will meet her at sea, and trans-ship the arms out of sight of

"Tyne coal for Cuba? They'd get their coal there from Norfolk, Va., or else Welsh steam coal from Cardiff or Newport.' "It seems not. This contract was

for to smuggle out the arms." "Well, it looks fishy, anyway." "I can't help that," said Gedge irrita-"I'm telling you the naked truth, and if truth, as usual, looks unlikely,

it's not my fault. Now have you got "No, sir," said Capt. Kettle, "none that I can see at present."

cruise, or are you going to cry off?" "They'll hang me if I'm caught," said 1

the British consul will get you clear. the majority of them into sobriety. He You bet they daren't hang an English-received a visit and final instructions You bet they daren't hang an Englishman for mere smuggling in Cuba. And, besides, aren't I offering to raise your crew from £12 a month to £14 so as to cover the risk? However, you won't to cover the risk? However, you won get caught. You'll find everything as he took the steamboat down ready for you; you'll slip the rifles through the crowded shipping of the ashore; and then you'll steam on to river. His wife stood under the glow of ordinary humdrum way of business, waved him goodby through the gloom. and there's a 10-pound bonus if you pull the thing off successfully. then, captain, quick-you go or you

"I go," said Kettle, gloomily. "I'm will trip us up somewhere before we've done, and bring about trouble." Which of course you are quite a

stranger to?" said Gedge slily. Capt. Kettle. "I quite well know the kind of a brute I am; trouble with a crew or any other set of living men at sea is just meat and drink to me, and I'm bitterly ashamed of the taste. Every time I sit underneath our minister in the chapel here in South Shields grow more ashamed. And if you heard the beautiful poetical way that man talks of peace, and green fields, and golden harps, you'd understand." "Yes, yes," said Gedge; "but I don't

want any of your excellent minister's sermons at second hand just now, captain, or any of your own poetry, the I'm very busy. Good morning. Help yourself to a cigar. You haul alongside the coal shoots to get your cargo at 2 o'clock, and I'll be on board to see you at six. Good morning," And Mr. Gedge rang for the clerk and was busily dictating letters before Kettle was clear of the office.

CHAPTER II.

The little sailor went down the grimy stairs and into the street, and nade toward the smelling Tyne. The black cigar rested unlit in an angle of his mouth, and he gnawed savagely at the butt with his eyeteeth. He cursed the fates as he walked. Why did they

rate of seven pounds a month. But brimmed with it

"The shore part must lie entirely | the risk and he was employed as carwith you, sir," said Capt. Keptle. "It's rier by those who paid the higher mixed up with the foreign enlistment price. If there was any right or wrong you'll be advised by me, sir, you'll see Sultan of Borneo herself; he was a a real first-class solicitor and stand him mere cog in some complex machinery; drink and pay him down what he and if he was earning heaven, it was

a beastly thing to fall foul of; it's just streets where coal dust formed the wickedly officious and interfering; it's mud and the air was sour with foreign never done kicking you, once it's got a vapors. And as he walked he champed fair start, and you never know where still at the unlit cigar and brooded over it will shove out its ugly hoof from the angularity of his fate. But when he passed between the gates of the states for nice, comfortable law, where dock company's premises and exchanged words with the policeman on guard, a change came over him. He threw away the cigar stump, tightened his lips and left all thoughts of personal matters outside the door sill. He was Mr. Gedge's hired servant; his brain was devoted to furthering Gedge's interests, and all the acid of his tongue was ready to spur on those who did manual work on Gedge's ship. Within a minute of his arrival on her deck the Sultan of Borneo was being unmoored from the bollards on the quay; within 10, her winches were clattering and bucking as they warped her across to the black, straddling coal shoots at the other side of the dock, and within half an hour the cargo was roaring down her hatches as fast as the railway wagons on the grimy tres-

tle overhead could disgorge.

The halo of coal dust made day into dusk; the grit of it filled every cranny and settled as an amorphous scum on the water of the dock, and laborers hired by the hour toiled at piecework pace through sheer terror at their em-

placed long before a ship was asked If his other failings could have been eliminated, this little skipper, with the red peaked beard, would certainly have been, from an owner's point of view, the best commander sailing out of any English port. No man ever wrenched such a magnificent amount of work from his hands. But it was those other failings which kept him what he was, "Very well, then," said Gedge. "Do ing from hand to mouth, never certain of his barth from one market in the

on his crew, got them board, and

CHAPTER III.

Capt. Kettle received his first fright a poor man, with a wife and family, Tyne pierheads. A man-or-war's Mr. Gedge, and I can't afford to lose a launch steamed up out of the night, berth. But it's that coal I can't swal- and the boarding officer examined his low. I quite believe what you say papers and asked questions. The little about the contract; only it doesn't look captain, conscious of having no contracaptain, conscious of having no contraband of war on board just then, was brutally rude, but the naval officer remained stolid, and refused to see the insults which were pitched at him. He had an unpalatable duty to perform; "Don't taunt me with it, sir," said he quite sympathized with Kettle's feelings over the matter, and he got back to his launch, thanking many stars that the affair had ended so easily.

But Kettle rang on his engines again with very unpleasant feelings. It was ing out somewhere; that the Sultan of Borneo was suspected; that his course to Cuba would be beset with many well-armed obstacles, and he forthwith made his first ruse out of the long suc-

cession which were to follow.

He had been instructed by Gedge to English channel was equivalent to a to watch you do it," confession of her purpose from the out"I don't object to a set. So he took the parallel rulers and Kettle, pencilled off on his chart the stereotyped course, which just clears Whithy with you." rock and Flamboro head; and the Sultan of Berneo was held steadily along saflor with glib contempt. "You're not this, steaming at her normal nine the sort that cares to risk his skin and knots; and it was not till she was out of sight of land off Humber mouth, and passengers."

"That settles it," said Carnforth. I'm

the ocean rendezvous.

A hand on the foretopsail yard pickuse him so evilly that he was forced ed up the yacht out of the gray mists into berths like these? As a bachelor, he told himself with a sneer, he would have jumped at the excitment of it. As the partner of Mrs. Kettle, and the father of her children, he could have shuddered when he threw his eyes over the future.

ed up the yacht out of the gray mists of dawn, and by eight belis they were lying hove-to in fine trough, with 100 yards of cold gray water tumbling between them. The trans-shipment was made in two lifeboats, and Kettle went across and enjoyed an extravagant breakfest in the shipment was made in two lifeboats. across and enjoyed an extravagant into a ring, and the air was noisy with breakfast in the yacht's cabin. The the grunts and screams of steamers'

"But they haven't got through?" sug-

THE ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN KETTLE

gested Capt. Kettle,
"Not all of them," Mr. Carnforth ad-"But then, you see, they sailed in schooners, and you have got steam. Besides they started from the steam. Besides they started from an Engstates, where the newspapers knew all about them, and so their arrival was cabled on to Cuba ahead; and you have the advantage of sailing from an Engthe steamboat I am sent to find and fetch back."

Then Mr. Tyne Coal for the Havana, bridge for 48 consecutive hours, and a deputation of the deck hands raided him in the charchouse on the supposition that exhaustion would have laid

"I don't see where the pull comes in," said Kettle gloomily. "There isn't a more interfering with her own people the boat had ben armed and manned than England. A Yankee can do as he darn well pleases in the filibustering just then a billow of the fog had driving her armed and manned weapon, that they were glad enough to run away even with the exasperating knowledge that they left their task-line; but if a Britisher makes a move en down upon them, blanketlike in its thickness which closed all human visation. "The law here in England," said the little man with a reminiscent sigh, "is and walked down alleys and squalid means a lot to me: that's why I'm anxi- helm, and whilst the torpedo catcher's means a lot to me; that's why I'm anxious. You're rich; you only stand to
lose the cost of the consignment; and
French shore, and sending vain halls

much to you." Carnforth grinned. "You pay my toward the English coast." business qualities a poor compliment,

"Then it seems to me," said Kettle, acialy, "that you'll look at me just as hare set on to run for your amusement?"

The yacht owner laughed. "You put t brutally," he said, "but that's about the size of it. And if you want further ruths, here's one; I shouldn't particularly mind if you were-caught," "How's that?"

"Because, my dear skipper, if the Snanish cantured this consignment, the patriots would want another, and should get the order. Whereas, if you at an end."

"You have a very clear way of put-ting it," said Capt. Kettle. "Haven't I? Which will you take,

"And Mr. Gedge? Can you tell me, the pitiful knockabout shipmaster, liv- sir, how he stands over this business?" old Sultan underwritten by the insur-"Not they. They'll only talk big, and with the help of his two mates kicked suit his books better than for a Spanish cruiser to drop upon you."

Capt, Kettle got up, reached for his

rebels or patriots, or whatever they are, shall have their guns if half the Spanish navy was there to try and stop me. You and Mr. Gedge have started about this business the way. Treat me on the square and I'm a man a child might handle, but I'd not be driven by Capt. Kettle received his first fright not be driven by the Queen or Eng-as he dropped his pilot just outside the land, no, not with the Emperor of Germany to help her."

"O, look here, captain," said Carnforth, "don't get your back up." "I'll not trade with you," replied Kettle,

"You're a fool to your own interests." "I know it," said the sailor grimly. "I've known it all my life. If I'd no been that I'd not have found myself in such shady company as there is here

now." "Look here, you ruffian, if you insult me I'll kick you out of this cabin and over the side into your own boat."
"All right," said Kettle "start in."

Carnforth half rose from his seat and measured Capt. Kettle with his eye Apparently the scrutiny impressed him, for he sank back to his seat again with an embarrassed laugh. "You are an ugly little devil," he said. "I'm all that," said Kettle.

"And I'm not going to play at rough and tumble with you here. We've steam off straight from the Tyne to a neither of us anything to gain by it, point deep in the North sea, where a and I've a lot to lose, I believe you'll yacht would meet him to hand over run that cargo through now that the consignment of smuggled arms. But you're put on your mettle, but I guess he felt the night to be full of eyes, and there'll be trouble for somebody before for a Havana-bound ship to leave the it's dealt out to the patriot troops. usual steam lane which leads to the Gad, I'd like to be somewhere on hand "I don't object to an audience," said

> "By Jove, I've half a mind to come "You'd better not," said the little

coming with you to run that blockade; and if the chance comes, my cantankerous friend, I'll show you I can be useful, Always supposing, that is, we don't murder one another before we get there."

CHAPTER IV.

A white mist shut the channel sea For a week or so she could draw his half pay and live sumptuously at the rate of seven pounds a month. But breakfast in the yacht's cabin. The talk was all upon the Cuban revolution. Cornforth, the yacht's owner, brimmed with it brimmed with it the property of the Sultan of Borneo's upper bridge, with his hand on the engine-room television.

Borneo; Kettle, master; from South castle and whizzed within an inch of Shields to the Havana." "What cargo?" came the next ques-

"Coal."
"What?"

fetch back."

The decks of the uncomfortable warfore their fingers touched him, broke "There isn't a ship had hummed with men, a pair of the jaw of one with a camp stool, and blessed country in the face of the globe more interfering with her own people more interfering with her own people the boat had ben armed and manned weapon, that they were glad enough to if that gets confiscated it won't mean into the white banks of the mist, he was circling slowly and silently round

So long as the mist held the Sultan captain. You can bet your life I had of Borneo was as hard to find as a money down in hard cash before I needle in a cargo of hay. Did the air stirred foot in the matter. The weather the stirred foot in the matter. pons and the ammunition were paid for she would be noticed and stand selfat 50 per cent above list prices, so as confessed by her attempt to escape; and to cover the trouble of secrecy, and I as a result the suspense was vivid engot a charter for the yacht to bring the ough to make Carnforth feel physical stuff out here which would astonish nausea. He had not reckoned on this you if you saw the figures. No. I'm complication. He was quite prepared clear on the matter from this moment, to risk capture in Cuban waters, where but I'll not deny that I shall take an the glamor of distance and the dazzle nterest in your future adventures with of helping insurrectionists would cast prided himself a good deal on her forthe cargo. Help yourself to a cigar- a glow of romance over whatever oc-

curred. But to be caught in the English channel as a vulgar smuggler for the sake of commercial profit, and to with him. "It's the very best thing be haled back for hard labor in an Eng- you could do, sir," he answered. lish gaol, was a different matter. He would have annoyed me terribly to was a member of parliament and he understood these details in all their niceties.

But Capt. Kettle took the situation I've come to see, sir, you're a gentledifferently. The sight of the torpedo catcher stiffened all the doubt and mutiny, and Kettle attended to their after sunset.

structions wether they hated them or not. And finally he gave them his candid assurance that if any cur amongst neatly through the head without further preamble.

home to all hands at once, because being a British ship, the Sultan of Borneo's crew naturally spoke in five dif-ferent languages, and few of them had even a working knowledge of English. But the look on Kettle's savage little come off big with the intention of forcbeasts to keep my end up like that.

"You're a marvel," Carnforth admitisn't a light ted. "I'm a bit of as speaker myself, but I never heard a man with a gift of Carnforth.

tongue like you have got."
"I am poisonous when I spread myself," said Kettle. "I wish I was clear of you," said

Carnforth, with an awkward laugh. "Whatever possessed me to leave the yacht and come on this cruise I can't "Some people never do know when

they're well off," said Kettle. "Well, sir, you're in for it now, and you may see things which will be of service to you afterwards. You ought to make your mark in parliament if you do get back from this trip. You'll have something to talk about that men will like But Kettle did not answer. He had, thing to talk about that men will like to listen to, instead of merely chattering wind, which is what most of them are put to, so far os I can see from the so could not afford time for idle specurate papers. And now, sir, here's the stew lation and chatter. It was the want of the answering signal ashore which upgo below and tuck in. I'll take mine on black background of hills he would be stime. The steamers thrilled like kicked biscutt boxes and a noise went up into the hot night sky as of 10,000 boller makers, all heading up their rivets at once.

On both ships the propellors stopped as if by instinct, and then in answer as if by instinct,

his sleeping head, but he roused so quickly that he was able to shoot the thrower through the shoulder before he could dive back again through the forecastle door. And another time when "Coal."

"Then Mr. Tyne Coal for the Havana, bridge for 48 consecutive hours, and a deputation of the deck hands raided a powdering gale had kept him on the

get to know exactly how the law of not by professional exertions (in the that way the blossed law ion beyond the range of a dozen yards, the Sultan of Borneo dreaded the Spanths business stands before you stir interests of an earthly employer) elsethe tail before he's half started. No, and Capt. Kettle jumped like a terrier iards much, they feared Capt. Kettle far more and by the time the stormer.

> the two evils which lay before them. Carnforth's way of looking at the at his impotence. matter was peculiar. He had all a healthy man's appetite for adventure, and all a prosperous man's distaste for being wrecked. He had taken a strong personal liking for the truculent little skipper, and, other things being equal, would have cheerfully helped him; but on the other hand, he could not avoid seing that it was to his own interests that the crew should get their way, and keep the steamer out of dangerous waters. And so, when finally he decided to stand by noninterferent, he bearance, and said so to Kettle in as

That worthy mariner quite agreed have had to shoot you out of mischief's way, because you've been kind enough to say you like my poetry, and because

They came to this arrangement on limpness out of his compisition, his eye the morning of the day they opened out brightened and his lips grew stiff; the the secluded bay in the southern scheming to escape acted on him like a Cuban shore where the contraband of tonic; and when an hour later the Sul- war was to be run. Kettle calculated I should get the credit, will see them tan of Borner was steaming merrily his whereabouts with niceness, and, aboard?" came the next question. down channel at top speed through the after the midday observation, lay the chance of making further profit will be same impenetrable fog the little ekipsteamer to for a couple of hours, and per whistled dance music in the upper steamer to for a couple of hours, and Kettle repeated his words: "Look at bridge and caught the notion for a most pleasing sonnet. That evening the crew came aft in a state of mild mutiny, and Kettle attended to their after superstance."

Steamer to for a couple of hours, and Kettle repeated his words: "Look at my decks," said he. "All my crew are below. I've hardly a man to stand by me."

There was more consultation among and so wolfish did they look that even

He prefaced his remarks by a slight They saw the coast first as a black captain?" "O, you bet, Gedge knows when to owne in out of the wet. He's got the some in out of the wet. He's got the foretopmast truck with a single of the saw the coast first as a black captain?"

They saw the coast first as a black captain?"

"O, coals," said Kettle resignedly. "O, coals," said Kettle resignedly. "What? You're bringing Tyne coal But they gave him small is the foretopmast truck with a single showed a crest fringed with trees, and to the Havana?" another.

That afternoon Capt. Kettle signed on his crew, got them board, and double her value, and nothing would on his crew. got them board, and double her value, and nothing would loading his revolver, lounged over the white rail of the upper bridge with the of which came the faint bellow of surf. bitter laugh. white rail of the upper bridge with the Capt. Kettle, after a cast or two, pick-He told the malcontents he was glad fidently, with his sidelights dowsed, I send a boat to search you. Refuse,

But when the steamer had got well had got them on board, and intended by into the bight of the bay, and all the glasses on the bridge were peering at the shore in search of answering lights, a blaze of radiance suddenly flickered them presumed to dispbey the least of his orders he would shoot that man neatly through the head without tur-ment blinded by its dazzle. It was a long truncheon of light which sprouted from a glowing centre away be ed arm to the fires!" he cried. "Two above me yet awhile. Yes, I'll stay and boss face of the water, and then swept one in a triangle, burning like Elswick you, and if you can act as ugly as back again. Finally, after a little more furnaces among the trees. They're you look we'll give the dons a lively calliance, it settled on the steamer and lit her, and the ring of water on which forth, and that's their welcome. Do you foolery about me, If I'm king of this

below to pack their bags.

ing him (if necessary with violence) to "Well, sir," said Kettle cheerfully, you bung-eyed Dutchman. Starboard hatches and break out that cargo. I've run the steamer there and then into "here we are. That's a Spanish gun-an English port; they went forward boat with searchlight, all complete"— The wheel engines clattered briskly again like a pack of sheep, merely be- he screwed up his eyes and gazed astern in the house underneath, and the Sulcause one man had let them hear the meditatively. "She's got the heels of tan of Borneo's head swung off quickly virulence of his bark, and had shown us too; by about five knots I should to port. For eight seconds the officer them with what accuracy he could bite say. Just look at the flames coming commanding the gunboat did not see if necessary. "And that's the beauty out of her funnels. Aren't they just what was happening, and that eight little scamp going to mix in next? He placently. "If they'd been English, I'd hold? Shooting will begin directly, and the inspiration came he bubbled with understand clearly that the offer of have had to shoot at least two of the the other blockguards ashore have aporters, he starboarded his own helm, beasts to keep my end up like that." parently forgotten all about us. There he rang "full speed ahead" to his enisn't a light anywhere."

quarter of an hour if you keep on this intentioned and prodigious in quality, With that extra five knots she can through the air and pelted on the plat-

our being here at all isn't suspicion it- a moment later the Sultan of Borneo's

eWst and Tampa and the other Florida sent across a sharp authoritative hail, ports, and one or two have even start and had been answered, "Sultan of ed from New York itself."

One dark night an iron belaying pin with her guns inside a dozen minutes; few out of the blackness of the foregard and, reckless daredevil though he might castle and whitesed within a dozen. be, Kettle knew quite well there was no

chance of avoiding this. With another crew, he might have been tempted to lay his old steamer alongside the other and try to carry her by boarding and sheer hand to hand fighting; but, excepting for those on watch in the stokehold, his present set of men were all below packing their belongings into portable shape, and he knew quite well that nothing would men scuttling up from forrard directly please them better than to see him after we'd rammed the don? I guess discomfited. Carnforth was neutral; he had only his three mates and the engineer officers to depend upon in all the get down there to be clear of the available world; and he recognized, be- shooting, and they found themselves tween deep drafts at his cigar, that he in the most ticklish part of the shin." was in a very tight place.

Still the dark shore ashead remained unbeaconed, and the Spaniard was For the present, it strikes me that this pacing up astern, lit for battle, with her crew at quarters, and guns run out loaded. She leapt nearer by fathoms they had concluded to follow out their him down. His teeth shewed on the ciskipper's orders, as being the best of gar butt, and dark rings grew under for a ram." his eyes. He could have raged aloud "I suppose it's a case of putting her

The war steamer ranged up alongside,, slowed to some 40 revolutions so Kettle with a sigh. "I should like to as to keep her place, and an officer on have carried those blessed coals into the top of the charthouse hailed in Havana if it could have been done, "Gunboat ahov." Kettle bawled back:

"What ship is that?"

"Sultan of Borneo, Kettle, master. Out of Shields." "Where for?"

Promptly the query came back: Then what are you doin' in here?" Carnforth whispered a suggestion "Fresh water ran out: condenser water to fill up tanks."

same undertone. 'I'm no hand at lying more she thundered down again into myself, of I might have thought of that the sand; and so lifting and striking before." ,And he shouted the excuse across to the spokesman on the chart-

along over the smooth black waters of a crowd of insurrectionists waded out the bay on parallel courses. "Have you got dysentery bad were thrown to them,

"Just coals," said Capt. Ketle with a The tone of the Spaniard changed.

"Heave to at once," he ordered, "whilst

On the Sultan of Borneo's upper bridge Carnforth swore. "Eh-ho, skip per," he said, "the game's up, and a fool, will you, and sacrifice the ship and the whole lot of us? Come, I say, man, ring off your engines, or that fel low will shoot, and we shall all be murdered uselessly. I tell you, the game's up."

ed arm to the hills on the shore ahead. "Three fires!" he cried. "Two above

"Starboard," he said. "Hard over.

"What are you going to do?" asked Carnforth.

"Follow out Mr. Gedge's instructions, sir, and put this cargo on the beach whether the old Sultan goes there too, remains to be seen of the cargo on the beach guickness; on so short a notice the engine could not turn with enough quickness; on so short a notice the engine could not turn with enough quickness; on so short a notice the engine could not turn with enough quickness; on so short a notice the engine could not turn with enough quickness; on so short a notice the engine could not turn with enough quickness; on so short a notice the engine could not turn with end may be supported in the little and the could not turn with end may be supported in the cargo of the cargo of time was too small. The gunremains to be seen.

"That gunboat will cut you off in a again; and the shooting, though well was poor in aim. The bullets do as she likes with us, so I shan't ing like a hailstorm, and one of them shift my helm. It would only look sus- flicked out the brains of the quartermaster on the bridge; but Ket "Good Lord!" said Carnforth, "as if the took the wheel from his hands, and stem crashed into the gunboat's un-

go below and tuck in. I'll take mine on the bridge here. It won't do for me to turn my back yet awhile, or else those beasts forward will jump on us from behind and murder the whole lot whilst we aren't looking."

black background of hills he would have known what to do.

Meanwhile the Spanish warship was closing up with him hand over fist, and decision was necessary. Anyway the choice was a poor one. If he surrentially he searched, and with heavy list towards her wounded side, the of seven pounds a month, But afterwards, if he got caught by some angry Spanish war steamer with his hand on the engine-room tell and these rides and the maxims and the cartridges, they'll special rides under his hatches, and he maxims and the cartridges, they'll special rices and his craft, where would make the same the maxims and the cartridges, they'll special rices and he maxims and the cartridges, they'll special rices and material that the same the maxims and the cartridges, they'll special rices and material rices and the maxims and the cartridges, they'll special rices and material r

shoulder in involuntary admiration. "By George," he cried, "what a daring little scoundrel you are! Look here. I'm on your side now if I can be of any help. Can you give me a job?"

By CUTCLIFFE HYNE

A Series of Twelve of the Best Short Stories of the Year. Published in this

Province Exclusively by The Star.

CHAPTER VIII. "I'm afraid, sir," said Capt. Kettle, "that the old Sultan's work is about done. She's settling down by the head already. Didn't you see those rats of that was a bit of surprise packet for them, anyway. They thought they'd "There's humor in the situation," said Carnforth. "But that will keep,

old steamboat is swamping fast." "She's doing that," Kettle admitted. "She'll have a lot of plates started forspare her, and she's not exactly built

on the beach?"

"There's nothing else for it," said just to show people ours was a bona fire contract, as Mr. Gedge said, in you must speak English or I can't be spite of its fishy look. But this old steamboat has done her whack, and that's the square truth. It will take her all she can manage to reach shore with dry decks. Look, she's in now nearly to her forecastle head. Lucky the shore's not steep-to here, or else-" From beneath there came a bump and a rattle, and the steamer for a moment halted in her progress, and a white crested wave surged past her given all hands dysentery; put in here rusty flanks. Then she lifted again and swooped further in, with her propeller "I thank you, sir," said Kettle in the still squattering astern; and then once the sand; and so lifting and striking made her way in through the surf.

More than one of the hands was swept from her decks, and reached the To his surprise they seemed to give shore by swimming; but as the ebb weight to it. There was a short con- made, the hungry seas left her strandsultation, and the strangers slipped ed dry under the morning's light, and and climbed on board by ropes, which

They were men of every tint, from Once more Carnforth prompted, and Kettle repeated his words: "Look at my decks," said he. "All my crew are Spaniard, They were streaked with There was more consultation among and so wolfish did they look that even the gunboat's officers, and then came Kettle, callous little ruffian though he the fatal inquiry: "What's your cargo, was, half regretted bringing arms for

But they gave him small time for sentiment of this brand. They cluster ed round him with leaping hands, till the morning sea fowl fied afrighted from the beach, El Senor Capitan Inglese was the saviour of Cuba, and let every one remember it, Alone, with his unarmed vessel, he had sunk a they prayed him (in their florid pliment) to stay on the island and rule

over them as king.

But the little sailor took them literally. "What's this?" he said: "you want me to be your blooming king?" "El rey!" they shouted. "El rey de los Cubanos!"

"By James," said Kettle "I'll do it. "By James!" said Kettle, "is it? Look and the chance may never come again.

Besides, I'm out of a berth just now,

Besides, I'm out of a berth just now, But the look on Kettle's savage little face as he talked, and the red torpedo beard which wagged beneath it, conveyed to them the tone of his speech, and for a time they did not require a tle lit a fresh cigar. Those of the monore accurate translation. They had grel crew who were on the deck went to the man's ear.

Some of his with the intention of force.

> out here, so be careful in carrying you black-faced scum." Carnforth listened with staring eyes. What sort of broif was this truculent the crown was merely an empty civiland would assert his rights to the bitthat end must inevitably be he sighed

been at some pains to run these guns

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over Owen Kettle's fate.

## EIGHTEEN NORMAL STUDENTS PUT BACK

FREDERICTON, Dec. 15 .- The rifshows that eighteen of class one were set back to class two. Miss Grosve for Purdy of this city stands highest for professional work.

Tonight is one of the coldest of the ason, the thermometer at 11 o'clock to light registering 6 below.

## PRINCETON WINS DEBATE.