were dry and parched.

on, goading them to desperate frenzy

even when their muscles ached the

most. From time to time they rested

one at a time—the other plying

pump gallantly, but they worked to-

gether for the most part, and Leigh,

watching the brave face of his suffer-

ing love, felt within him a sense of

vast unworthiness. Who was he to

be gifted with such a priceless help-

mate? A helpmate in every sense of

the word, she was, guiding, suggest-

ing, throwing out hints which had

on when hope flagged, spurring him-

aye, flashing biting words at him

when, his every nerve a-quiver, he

flung himself down on the heated

They worked on—on till their arms

flashed to and fro mechanically, un-

guided by their brains. Smoke eddied

around them, the deck grew hot and

"But why not use the donkey-

pumps?" said Aileen as they paused,

in panting gasps. Leigh shook his

"By the time we got steam up-no-

we can't. The coal is all down the

forepeak—it's more than our lives are

worth to venture down there, with

those unchained devils below. And,

besides, the room isn't habitable.

They worked on. The hours fled by

as on wings, but still they worked.

Once the half-caste steward lashed

the wheel and came forward to offer

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We've got to do it with our hands."

doubly hot beneath their feet.

deck and said he could do no more.

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## A DAUGHTER OF THE STORM!

◆\$\$\$**◆**\$\$\$**◆**\$\$\$**◆**\$\$\$**◆**\$\$\$**◆**\$\$\$**◆**\$\$\$**◆**\$\$\$**◆**\$\$\$**◆**\$\$\$**◆**\$\$\$**◆**\$\$\$

BY CAPT. FRANK H. SHAW.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

Stubbs Final Effort.

"And there's four hundred tons of ammunition down below," he gasped. the reality of things crushing in upon him. "There's no time to lose!"

His voice was steady as a rock she was needed on deck. She had lain down in her clothes, and was with him away." hoarsely, and the girl nodded. The blanched. the more constant anxiety had worn forgotten the powder."

"We can't turn the crew loose," said life they laughed the fire to scorn.

twenty men and fight a fire at the same time. Even if they didn't murder us they'd run amuck and hinder the swea tooured down their faces. us, or break into the spirits, or some- Then, with the vast sail hanging loose thing of the kind. So-"

red from much handling of ropes, but and Gondo and I will tackle the along the deck here, there and everyshe smiled bravely into her lover's thing."

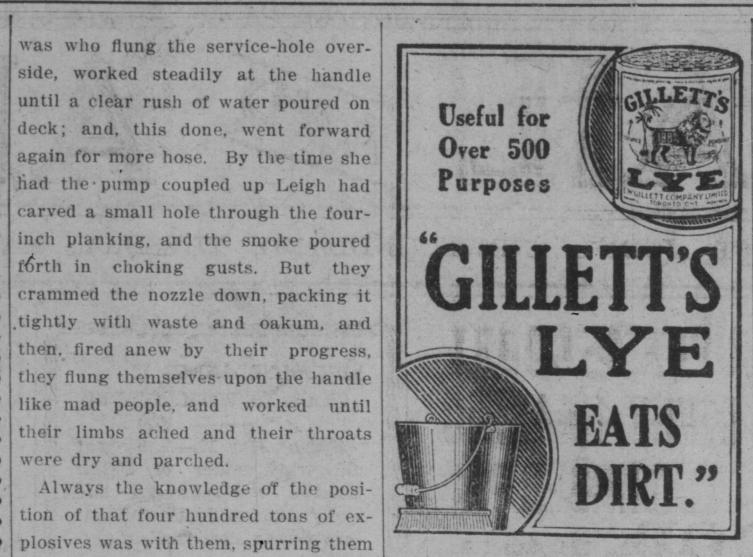
"Of course we've got to see it fine scorn. "Why, Gondo is good the cumbersome affair to the spot

following. They set to work mehodically, realising that the fight was to the death. There was no possibility of escape if the fire spread beyond their powers to combat it—the boats were gone over-side long ago; to construct a raft was impossible. But still they lived, and whilst they had

They hauled up the foresail that no awkward back draughts might send the flames aft, taking the clew-garnets to winch and capstan, slaving till ly in its gear, they turned to the fight.

'We've just ourselves—as usual," With canvas and plugs they stopped said Aileen. "Let's start straight every ventilator that could be stopped, but still the smoke poured "She's running before the wind; through a hundred unsuspected cranthat's fortunate," said Leigh. "It will nies-in the deck. Leigh placed his ing th smoke-wreaths eddy, fade, and keep the fire from spreading aft." hand on the planking and felt for the disappear, and neither spoke for a But, try as he would, he could not hottest spot. Once he had found it he long minute. Then: "We've got to hide the tremor in his voice. Aileen ran to the carpenter's store and secur see it through somehow," said Leigh heard it, and looked up-her face ed an axe and an adze; returning, he set to work to cut a hole through the long strain, the constant work and "The powder," she said softly. "I'd planking abreast the galley. The Zoroaster carried, a patent transporter her down; her hands were hard and "We'll leave you here, sweetheart, pump, a thing which could be moved

where as the needs of the cases de-"Leave me here!" she spoke with a manded. It was Aileen who trundled through," she said. "How shall we be- enough to steer the ship-come." And where Leigh toiled manfully, she it



sence of fire; but then he did not Aileen to go aft and take the wheel, the while Gondo relieved her at the oump, but the steward was a man of no stamina, and he soon wearied, sink ng down exhausted to the deck. Aileen saw it all—she left the wheel, when ever a chance occurred—and flew to never occurred to him; cheering him

"Let him steer-I'll work," she cried defiantly, and they buckled to afresh. There arose a hoarse screaming of rage from forward, where the men were pent like rats in a trap, but enither heeded them. The crew had had no food that day, and they knew that something was wrong. But though they strove assiduously for freedom, Leigh had guarded too well against such a contingency, and they could not break out. arms hanging limply, breath coming

Gondo brought Aileen and Leigh food and they ate as they laboured, laboured with aching backs and fluttering hearts, but still persevering. It was surely the strangest courtship ever known. Instead of loving phrases they used short, breathless words, indicative of their needs. They looked into each other's eyes, but it was not to find the light of love, it was to read the light of cheer and hope. And al-

ways they found it-so that the strug gle became a personal thing, they two ways seemed to advance.

"It's not gaining much," panted Leigh towards nightfall, as they rested for a short half-hour. They dared would have stiffened and left them the decks yet-it isn't making much headway aft from the feel of the planking. If we'd only a dozen men to spell at the pump we might win

"We've got ourselves," said Aileen desperately, laying her hands once more—they bled freely now—on the cross handle of the pump. And so they were at it again, the water rippling steadily down into the burning hold, the clank-clank of the puimp sounding hideously above the soft rustic of the wind, the flap of a slack-

### A SUCCESSFUL **BUSINESS MAN**

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After the night shut down they they toiled. worked trance-like, seeing nothing, hearing nothing, feeling nothingvery automata. They worked because their bodies were a-swing, and it would require some effort of thought to stop them; they worked because they knew that the ship must be saved, but the possibility of death they now regarded from a purely impersonal standpoint. They never though of it as death-somewhere near them, they knew, was hanging a horror which was undefinable, but death seemed a thing far away and Now the hours passed slowly, for altogether unreal. And so they lab- the ardour of their first battling was oured through the long night hours, spent. The life had gone from them reeling away from the pump at times | they were little beyond animated when exhausted nature could do no bodies, working galvanically, in spas more, but always recovering and stag | modic starts, lying pantingly over the gering back again ere their muscles handles for the most part, rising and stiffened. They were haggard and lurching giddily to the task when the van from want of rest; they bowed shamefulness of their cowardice can automatically to the swinging drive; upon them in waves.

they felt their hands drip blood every

ened sheet, the boom of a fifling sail. time they shifted their grip, but still

Once Leigh lay down and clapped one ear to the scorching deck. It was burning hot, and he could hear as from far away the crackle and hiss of fire, but he said nothing of this. There was no need to give birth to needless fears in his dear love's heart. The only thing they could do was to labour on until they were completely spent. and then die, conscious that they had done their part in the allotted scheme

(To be continued)

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