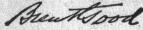
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"There's you fit out, Mister Lilee of walke, which the same our dear



A trapdoor fell away beneath Wilbur's

friend Jim makes a present of and no charge, because he leves you so. You're allowed two minutes to change, an' it is to be hoped as how you wen't force me to come fer to assist."

It would have been interesting to

have followed, step by step, the men-tal process that now took place in Ross Wilbur's brain. The captain had given him two miautes in which to change. The time was short enough, but even at that Wilbur changed more than his clothes during the two minutes he was left to himself in the reeking dark of the schooner's fo'c'stle. It was more than a change—it was a revolution. What he made up his mind to do, pre-cisely what mental attitude he decided to adopt, just what new nicke he elect-ed wherein to set his feet, it is difficult to say. Only by results could the change be guessed at. He went down the forward hatch at the toe of Kitchell's boot-sik hatted, melton over-coated, patent booted and gloved in succes. Two minutes later there emerged upon the deck a figure in oil-skins and a sou'wester. There was blood upon the face of him and the grime of an unclean ship upon his bare hands. It was Wilbur, and yet not Wilbur. In two minutes he had been, in a way, bern again. The only traces of his former self were the patent leather boots, still persistent in their gloss and shine, that showed with grim incengruity below the vast compass of the oliskin breeches.

As Wilbur came on deck he saw the erew of the schooner hurrying forward, six of them, Chinamen every one, in brown jeans and black felt hats. On the quarter deck stood the

captain barking his orders.
"Consider the Lilee of the Vallee,"

beliewed the latter as his eye fell upon Wilbur the transformed. "Clap on to that starboard windlass brake Wilbur saw the Chinamen ranging

themselves about what he guessed was the windlass in the schooner's bow. He fellowed and took his place among them, grasping one of the bars.

"Break down!" came the next or-der. Wilbur and the Chinamen obeyed, bearing up and down upon the bars till the slack of the anchor chain came home and stretched taut and dripping

Boils were so painful could not sleep at night.

APPEARED ON NECK, LEGS AND ARMS.

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Mr. Willard Thompson, McNeill's Mills, P.E.I., writes us as follows: "I wish te state to you what Burdock Blood Bitters has done for me. Some time ago my blood got out of order and many holls appeared so my neck, legs and arms. They were se sainful that I could not sleep at night. After having tried many different remedies without any success, I finally decided, os the advice of a friend, to use Burdock Blood Bitters. Before I had quite used two bottles the boils had completely disappeared, and I wish to emphasize the fact that I think Burdock Blood Bitters the best blood purifier on the market te-day."

from the hawse holes.
"'Vast heavin'!"

And then as Wilbur released the brake and turned about for the next order he cast his glance out upon the bay, and there, not 150 yards away, her spotless sails tense, her cordage humming, her immaculate flanks slip-ping easily through the waves, the water hissing and churning under her forefoot, clean, gleaming, deinty and aristocratic, the Ridgeways' yacht Pet-rel passed like a thing of life. Wilbur saw Nat Ridgeway himself at the wheel. Girls in smart gowns and young fellows in white ducks and yachting caps—all friends of his crowded the decks. A little orchestra of musicians were reeling off a quick-

The popping of a cork and a gale of talk and laughter came to his ears. Wilbur stared at the picture, his face devoid of expression. The Petrel came on, drew nearer, was not a hundred feet away from the schooner's stern. A strong swimmer, such as Wilbur, could cover the distance in a few strokes. Two minutes ago Wilbur

might have—
"Set your mains'!" came the bellow of Captain Kitchell. "Clap on to your throat and peak halyards!

The Chinamen hurried aft. Wilbur followed. CHAPTER II.

N the course of the next few moments, while the little vessel was being got under way and while the Ridgeways' Petrel gleamed off into the blue distance, Wilbur made certain observations.

The name of the best on which he found himself was the Bertha Millner. She was a two topmast, twenty-eight ten keel schooner, forty feet long, carrying a large spread of sail-mainsail foresail, jib, flying jib, two gaff top-sails and a staysail. She was very dirty and smelled abominably of som kind of rancid oil. Her crew were Chinamen—there was no mate—but the cook, himself a Chinaman, who appeared from time to time at the door of the galley, a petate masher in his hand, seemed to have some sort of authority over the hands. He acted in a manner as a go-between for the captain and the crew, sometimes interpreting the former's orders and occasionally giving one of his own.

Wilbur heard the captain address him as Charlie. He speke pigeon English fairly. Of the balance of the erew, the fairly. Of the balance of the erew, the five Chinamen, Wilbur could make nothing. They never spoke, neither to Captain Kitchell, to Charlie nor to each other, and for all the notice they took of Wilbur he might easily have been a sack of sand. Wilbur felt that his advent on the Bertha Milner was by its very nature an extraordinary event, but the absolute indifference of these brown suited Mongols, the blank-ness of their flat, fat faces, the deliness of their slanting, fishlike eyes that nev er met his own or even wandered in his direction, was uncanny, disquieting, In what strange venture was he now to be involved, toward what unknown vortex was this new current setting, this current that had so suddenly snatched him from the solid ground of

his accustomed life?

He teld himself grimly that he was to have a free cruise up the bay, perhaps as far as Alviso. Perhaps the Bertha the bay before returning to San Francisco. He might be gone a week. Wilbur could already see the scarcheads of the daily papers the next morning chronicling the disappearance of "One of Society's Mest Popular Members."

"That's well, y'r throat halyards.
Here, Lilee of the Vallee, give a couple
of pulls on y'r peak halyard purchase."
Wilbur stared at the captain help-

"No can tell, hey?" inquired Charlie from the galley. "Pullum disa lope, Wilbur tugged at the rope the cool

"That's well, y'r peak halyard pur-

chase," chanted Captain Kitchell. Wilbur made the rope fast. The mainsail was set and hung slatting and flapping in the wind. Next the for sail was set in much the same manner, and was set in much the same manner, and wilbur was ordered to "lay out on the ji'boom and cast the gaskets off the jib." He "lay out" as best he could and cast off the gaskets—he knew barely enough of yachting to understand an order here and there—and by the time he was back on the fo'c'stle head the Chipamen wasse of the ith bely and the Chinamen were at the jib halyard and oisting away.
"That's well—y'r jib haiyards."
The Bertha Millner veered round

The Bertha Millner veered round and played off to the wind, tugging at her

"Man, y'r windlass." Wilbur and the crew jumped once more to the brakes. "Brake down, heave y'r anchor to the cathead."

The anchor chain, already taut, vi-The anchor chain, already taut, vibrated and then cranked through the hawse heles as the hands rose and fell at the brakes. The anchor came home, dripping gray slime. A nor west wind filled the scheoner's sails; a strong ebb tide caught her under foot.

"We're off," muttered Wilbur as the Bertha Miliner heeled to the first gust. But oridently the scheoner was not bound up the bay.

"Must be Vallejo or Benicia then," hazarded Wilbur as the sails grew tenser and the water rippied ever louder under the schooner's forefeet. "Maybe they're going after hay or

The schooner was tacking, headed directly for Meiggs' wharf. She came in closer and closer—so close that Wil-bur could hear the talk of the fishermen sitting on the stringpieces. He had just made up his mind that they were to make a landing there when—

"Stand by for stays," came the rauously as the schooner came about.
Then the Bertha Millner caught the wind again and lay over quietly and contentedly to her work. The next tack brought the schooner close under Aleatraz. The sea became heavier; the breeze grew stiff and smelled of the outside ocean. Out beyond them to westward opened the Golden Gate, a bleak vista of gray green water roughened with whitecaps. "Stand by for stays."

Once again, as the rudder went hard over, the Bertha Millner fretted and danced and shook her sails, calling impatiently for the wind, chaffing at its absence like a child reft of a toy. Then again she scooped the nor wester in the hollow palms of her tense canvases and settled quietly down on the new tack, her bowsprit pointing straight toward the Presidio.

"Well, we'll come about soon," Wilbur told himself, "and stand over toward the Contra Costa shore.'

A fine huge breath of wind passed over the schooner. She heeled it on the instant, the water rearing along her quarter, but she kept her course. Wilbur fell thoughtful again, never more keenly observant.

"She must come about soon," he muttered uneasily, "if she's going to stand up toward Valleje." His heart sank with a sudden apprehension. A nervousness he could not overcome seized upon him. The Bertha Miliner held tenaciously to the tack. Within fifty yards of the Presidio came the command again:

"Stand by for stays."

Once more, her bows dancing, her cordage rattling, her sails flapping noisily, the schooner came about. Anniously Wilbur observed the bowspik as it circled like a hand on a dial watching where now it would point It wavered, fluctuated, rose, fell, then settled easily, pointing toward Lime point. Wilbur felt a sudden coldness

"This isn't going to be so much fun." he muttered between his teeth. The schooner was not bound up the bay for Alviso nor to Vallejo for gr The track toward Lime point could mean but one thing. The wind was freshening from the nor'west, the ebb tide rushing out to meet the ocean like a mill race. At every moment the Geld-en Gate opened out wider, and within two minutes after the time of the last tack the Bertha Millaer heeled to a great gust that had come beoming in

between the heads, straight from the open Pacific.
"Stand by for stays."
As before, one of the Chinese hands stood by the sail rope of the jib.

"Braw y'r jib."
The jib filled. The schoener came about on the port tack; Lime point fell away over the stern rail. The huge ground swells began to come in, and these it was precisely as though the Bertha Millner were making her con-tesy to the great gray coan, now for the first time in full sight on her star-

(To Be Continued.)

Could scarcely get up or down without help.

Had a severe pain in the small of the back.

Was treated in the Hotel Dieu, Kingston, but not cured.

Kidney trouble was the trouble

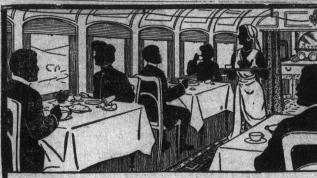
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