kind of trimming or ornament, strik ingly contrasted with the gay dresses of the nobles. It was easy to see that the Dean of the Clothworkers, in affect ing this plainness of apparel, wished to make ostentations display of his estate in life, and so to oppose pride to pride; for, in truth, this coarse woollen gown ne moved of interested than his glance became lively and penetrating; beams of intelligence and manly spirit shot from his remaining eye. and his bear-ing was proud and even imperious. On ing was proud and even imperious. On first entering the room, he cast a mis-trustful glance on all present, es-pecially Master Roger, in whom he at once perceived more of worldly craft than in the other two.

" Master Decopinek." commenced Adoli, "be pleased to draw near to me. I have something to ask of you that you must not refuse me, for I have no other hope but in you; only you must first give me your solemn assur-ance that you will never divulge to any human being that which I am about to communicate."

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The just dealings and good offices of the lords of Nieuwand are not yet forgotten by the Clothworkers," an-swered Deconinck; "and you, noble sir may ever count upon me as your faithful servant. Neverthe-less, sir, allow me first to warn you, that if what you have in hand is in any way contrary to the rights of the commons. you will do well to keep it to yourself, and tell me nothing of it." "Since when! then," cried Adolf,

somewhat sternly, "have the Nieuw-lands touched you in your rights? Such language is injurious to my

Forgive me, sir, if my words have offended you," replied the Dean; "it is so hard to distinguish the evil from the good, that one his obliged to mis-trust all. Allow me to ask you only one question, the answer to which will remove all doubt from my mind at once; are you a Lilyard noble, sir?" "A Lilyard!" cried Adolf, indig-

nantly: "no, Master Deconinck! in my breast beats a heart that has nothing but abhorrence for our enemies; and the very scheme about which I wished to consult you is directed against them." Speak freely then, noble sir ; I am

at your service. "Well, then; you know that our Count Guy is in prison, with all his faithful nobles; but there is still in Flanders one to whom all true Flem ings owe their best and readlest aidone who now needs it greatly because of her utter belplessness, and to whom it is due both on account of what she is, and of the sore trouble which

TO BE CONTINUED.

## A LIGHT CARGO.

"Electricity is a rum thing," marked the captain thoughtfully. "We're beginning to know a little about it, but every now and then the smartest electrician finds himself knocked silly by some new game that electricity plays upon him. The year before I gave up the sea and got this berth ashore I learned a lot about electricity-a lot more than I wanted to

The captain paused and smoked silently for a few momen's, as was his habit when preparing to launch a fresh

gave up the sea for good I got ac-quainted with a scientific chap who probably knew more about electricity than any other man then living and practising science. I was without a command just then, owing to circum stances which I needn't mention at this present moment, though I will say that when an owner hints to a man who has been the master of a ship for twenty three years, has an unblem-ished character and three medals from the Humane Society—not to speak of binoculars from the French and Dutch ured, and if the captain was to happen to lose her he would be given a better ship and higher pay at once, it's time for him to chuck up his berth and give the owner his candid opinion of him Well, I'll say no more about that. This scientific man, whom I'll call Pro fessor Smith, though you'll understand that I'm not giving you his real name, came to see me and wanted me to take charge of a bark that he had chartered take him to Greenland. I didn't hanker after Greenland, but the proor offered me good wages and said he had come to me because he was told that besides being a capable master mariner and a man with a reputation for making his ship comfortable. I could be trusted not to talk about my owner's business. He had a pleasant, confiding sort of way with him, and you could see with half an eye that he'd he with half an eye that he'd be ready to trust anybody who had been recommended to him. I've seen several men like that in the course of my life, and it's a curious thing that they don't seem to get imposed upon much more than the smart folks that are eternally mistrusting everbody.
After I'd talked with the professor half

an hour, I would no more have cheated

him than I would have cheated a child. And when I finally agreed to take charge of the bark I did it as much be-

which he could draw it off and sell it by the gallon, or whatever measure electricians use, just as there might be a demand for it. Now, I knew that a demand for it. Now, I knew that this matter of storing electricity, had always bothered the electricians, and had interfered considerably with the trade. 'I'm the only man,' said Professor Smith to me, 'who has solved the problem. I can collect and store away aboard this bark of mine enough for, in truth, this coarse woollen gown covered the most powerful man in Flanders. On his head he wore a flat cap, from under which his hair hung down half a foot long over his ears. A leathern belt drew in the wide folds of the gown about his body, and the hilf of a cross-handled knife glittered at his side. An excessive paleness, high cheek bones, and a wrinkled forehead, threw an air of deep thought over his countenance; while the loss of an eye gave a somewhat unpleasing expression to his features. On common occasions there was nothing to distinguish him from ordinary mon; but no sooner was he moved or interested than his glance became lively and penetrating; beams electricity that has cost me nothing except the expense of a voyage to Greenland and back, I can supply the market at a price that will defy committee.

petition.

But where's your mine of electricity?' said I. If it's in Greenland, the cost of working a mine with the

the cost of working a mine with the ground frozen solid for a hundred feet from the surface will be pretty big.'

''I can trust you implicitly, cap tain,' says he, ' and I'll tell you all about it. I'm not going to get electricity out of the earth by mining. I'm going to collect it from the Northern Lights. You've seen them many and many a time, and probably know that they consist of pure, under the electricity of the surface of the surf they consist of pure, under delectricity. Now, I know how to collect this electricity and to bring it back to Eng land. I can fill the bark up full with electricity in the course night, provided the Northern Lights are as strong as they generally are in Greenland. You and your men won't have to do a stroke of work in collecting it. You can sit still and watch the electricity running into the tanks, which I fancy is a good deal easier than filling a ship with any other sort of cargo. As for the Northern Lights, they are capable of supplying electricity to the entire world. Why, cap-tain, this business of bottling up electricity from the Northern Lights and selling it in Europe and America and elsewhere, is going to be the great business of this country. Thousands of ships will be engaged in it, and electricity will be retailed in London at prices that will put it within the means of every starving wretch in Whitechapel.

"I couldn't see how cheap electricity was going to satisfy a starving man; but I let that pass. I half believed what the professor said, and half disbelieved it. I knew that the Northern Lights were made of electricity, but I had my doubts about the practicability of bottling them up and selling them in London. But on the other hand, I have learned enough of electricity to know that almost any sort of a miracle, except, of course, a genuine Scripture one, could be worked with it, pro vided you happen to hit on the right way of working it. Any way, my duties as commander of the bark didn't include the collecting of electricity. That was the professor's de-partment, and I calculated to leave it

exclusively to him.
"I found that the bark was in capital order, and we had very little trouble in taking in the cargo, seeing that it consisted of nothing except provi-sions, water, ballast, and the profes-sor's tanks. They were built to order to fit the bark, and when they were put aboard they occupied every foot of space in the 'tween decks and a good part of the hold. They were made of iron and looked like enormous square boxes with something like the ne a bottle coming up through the middle of the upper part. I say upper part, for the tanks hadn't any regular covers, and the only opening into them was through the bottle shoped projection. The professor told me that the inside of the tanks was lined with a comparition of the corn investigation. composition of his own invention, which the electricity couldn't get through. And he said, too, that there story. Then he resumed:

"As I was saying, a year, or maybe of each tank which was of tremendons arteen or fifteen months, before I importance although I don't rightly recollect what it was. Probably it was meant to keep the electricity from turning sour or spoiling in some other way. As I said, I didn't pretend to be an electrical expert, and probably I make mistakes in telling what I do

"In the course of time we sailed from Bristol, bound for Upernivik, in Greenland. Folks generally thought that we were going on a whaling voy-age, and some of my friends chaffed me considerable about having come down from the command of a Black Star liner to the command of a greasy whaler. I let them talk. Chaffing never did me no harm yet, except when I was a boy, and the second mate used to chaff me with a rope's end, which seemed to amuse him a good deal, though I could never exactly see where

the fun came in.
"We made Upernivik in an unusually short time, the wind being for the most part favorable, and we being light. We took in fresh water and then steered up Smith's Sound, reckoning to get well out of sight of any whaling craft before beginning operations. The Northern Lights were doing their best at that season. Just as soon as night came on the whole northern sky was came on the whole northern sky was after with them, and when the streamers shot up from the horizon to the zenith you could hear the electricity crackle. I once read in a book—a big book, bound in red leather, and about four inches thick, which you, being a scholar, naturally are acquainted with, -that it is all a mistake for folks to becrackle, or make any sort of noise. That only showed that the man who wrote the book had never been in Smith's Sound. Books written by men who have lived ashore all their lives are generally protty full of mistakes—at least that's what I ve been compelled to believe, and I've read about as big a

charge of the bark I did it as much to cause I wanted to keep him out of the grip of sharks as because there was grip of sharks as because there was "We made the bark fast to an ice "We made the bark fast to the land," money in it for me.

"After we had come to an agreement the professor told me what his little game was. He had invented a way of storing electricity in big tanks, from

"I can't describe the collecting apparatus, except by saying that it looked comething like the hood of a monstrous ig searchlight, filled with short le wire filed to a point, so that they stood out like bristles all through the inside of the collector. However, I needn't try to describe it. The really important thing was that it worked beautifully and collected electricity even faster than the professor had expected. Every time the Northern Lights shot up a stream of electricity would pour into the receiver, and I fancied that I could hear it running into the tank as if it was a stream of water. But the professor said this was a mistake, and that it didn't make any noise whatever. Perhaps he was right, for up there in the Northa man is and for up there in the North a man is apt to fancy that he sees and hears things that don't exist. That is why Arctic explorers, when they come home, manage to tell such interesting yarns.
"It took less than half an hour to

"It took less than half an hour to fill the first tank chock-a block. When it was full the professor corked it up; and connected his collecting apparatus with the next tank. We worked along in that way pretty near all night, for the Northern Light, didn't seem to weaken until about 4 o'clock in the morning, and the professor was so interested that he wouldn't hear of turning in. I kept him company on deck, but everybody else was asieep. You see there wasn't really anything that the men could do, except stand still and watch the electricity flowing in the receiver, and I d'idn't see the use of keeping them on deck just for that. We filled five tanks that night, and the next night we filled the remaining four, and were ready to sail for England with a full cargo of the first quality of arctic electricity.

"The professor was perfectly happy for the first three or four days of the passage home, and then his troubles began; I might say my troubles, too, and the troubles of all hands, including the cat. I was on deck in the middle watch, off the South Cape of Greenland, when I saw a bright light coming up out of the main hatchway. Of course, supposed it was one of the men with a lantern, and I waited for him with a elaying pin, calculating to remind him that going below with a lantern and rummaging, without orders, wasn't allowed abroad that bark. But it wasn't any man. It was just the ship's cat. Every hair of that blessed beast stood on end, and from his head to bis tail he was crackling with electricity. He shone like a first-class Fresnel light, and whenever he brushed up against anything the sparks flew from him like drops of water fly from a dog when he shakes him elf after having been over board. The curious thing was that the cat didn't seem to appreci-ate his condition, or at any rate he didn't seem to mind it. He was always a mighty supercilious beast, and my idea is that when his fur began to rise up and sparkle he reck-oned that somebody had been putting up a practical joke on him, and he cal-culated to spoil the joker's fan by not seeming to notice that anything unusual had happened. He was walking along the quarter deck in a slow, dignified sort of way, and was on the point of stopping to say good morning to me, we having always been on friendly terms, when I stepped backward, and sang out to the boy to bring me a bucket of water. You see I didn't know but what the electricity might give me a serious shock if I let the cat touch me, and was afraid that if the cat wasn't extin guished he would set fire to something. hove the water over him, but it didn't do the least good, it only hurt his feel-ings; and as soon as it hit him he went aloft hand over hand, and sat down in the mizzentop to lick his fur dry. I could see his head over the edge of the top, and it's a solemn fact that as he licked himself his mouth was all lit up with electricity, till he looked as if he was breathing out fire and threatening and slaughter, as the good book says.

"I passed the word for the professor to come on dock which he

lessor to come on deck, which he did as soon as he could get his clothes on, which they were mostly put upside down, he thinking that I had called him because the ship was sinking and there wasn't any time for the 'rivolities' of fashion. When I told him what had happened, and showed him the cat, he said that there must be a trifling leak in one of the tanks, and that the cat, having been near the leak, had absorbed a little electricity. He assured mo a little electricity. He assured me that there wasn't the least danger that the cat would set anything on fire. The electricity that was in his fur would only illuminate things for a few hours, and would gradually pass off into the air. I told the Professor if there the air. I told the Professor if there was a leak in one of the tanks it ought to be stopped at once, but he said that wasn't possible. The leak must be due to some little imperfection in the coat ing of a tank, and of course the coating couldn't be got at without tearing the tank to pieces and letting all the elec-

tank to pieces and letting all the electricity escape.

"However, we went below after breakfast to examine the tanks, but he didn't find any leak. When he came on deck again he said that the cat must have been quiedly absorbing electricity from the Northern Lights, and had taken in more than he could hold. 'I corked up every tank tight, said the Professor, 'and I am confident that there can be no leaking through the

"If that's so,' said I, 'will you kind ly explain why your hair is standing on end, and why your nose is glowing as as if you'd been wine taster to the Queen and all the royal family for the last fifty years?' For, as a matter of fact, the Professor's hair, which was long enough to have qualified him to practice as a professional musician, was standing straight on end, and shining like the headlight of a locomotive.

"When I convinced him that he was pretty near as full of electricity as the eat he admitted that there must be a leak somewhere, and he showed that he felt considerably annoyed. I told him to go below before the men should notice him, for I didn't want them to get the idea that our cargo of electricity had sprung a leak. They wouldn't be very much surprised at an illuminated cat, for cats are notoriously un-

trustworthy and liable to do anything that is unexpected and undesirable; but an incandescent scientific man would have aroused the r saspicions and, being ignorant men they would probably have refused to accept his assurance that neither he nor the cat would set the bark afire. However, my precaution was useless, for about 9 clock that night the mate came run

ning into my cabin where I was asleep

—it being my watch below—and informed me that the bark was on fire. went on deck immediately and saw a stream of light running along each top sail street—they being chain instead of rope-and streaming out on each yard arm, where they ended in the biggest

arm, where they ended in the biggest kind of corposants.

'I told the mate that it was all right. 'It's only an electrical pheno-menon,' says I, 'and as harmless as rotten pork.'

"Just then the watch below came piling up the fo'c'sle ladder, scared out of their minds. Every man jack was shining like the Christian martyrs that the history book says a Roman emperor filed up with kerosene and then used for lighting the streets. Their hair and beards were streaming with electricity, and when one of them came close to another a shower of crackling sparks would pour from one man's head or beard to the other man's hair. was an awiul sight to see a whole watch apparently burning to death; but I wasn't seriously alarmed. The men said that soon after they had turned in they were waked by a bright light in the fo'c'sle, and found that every man was blazing in his bunk. By the time they had been on deck a few minutes and had found that there didn't seem to be any heat in the electricity, they hegan to get over their scare, but they were everlastingly mad with the Professor. I asked him to come on deck and explain things to the men, which he did, with a lot of tremendous big words that no man could make head or tail of. That seemed to calm the men down a bit, and they accepted his promise that if the electricity really succeeded in doing them any harm he would pay them big damages

would pay them big damages.

"The leak kept growing bigger every day, and the Professor explained that the lining of the tanks, which he had relied upon to prevent leaking, had proved to be a failure. It had decomposed and allowed the electricity to come in contact with the iron of the tanks, and then escape into the atmos phere. As there was no possible way of stopping the leaks, the whole of our cargo of electricity was bound to escape. It wasn't many hours before cargo of it had got into pretty near everything aboard that bark. It went up every rope and every spar, so that the whole top hamper seemed to be picked out with fire. It made every living soul with fire. It made every living soul shine as bright as the Northern Lights at their best. There wasn't any need of artificial light either on deck or below. Even the bionacle light wasn't needed, for the hair of the man at the wheel was enough to make the compass as visible at midnight as it was at noon When the Professor and the mate and I sat down to meals we couldn't touch a knife or a fork without letting loose stream of sparks, and every time one of us put his knife in his mouth the electricity would run along the metal and light up the food till it looked precisely

didn't give us the least feeling of heat. As a matter of fact, the electricity made us fell about as you'd feel after a second glass of good Irish whiskey. We waren't in the least drunk, you under stand, but we felt full of life, and ever lastingly springy in our muscles. And instead of making us irritable and ready for a row, the electricity made us as cheerful and contented as if every mother's son of us had come into a of money and was going to buy a farm in Devon and make his own cider and live rationally.
"We were, for the most part, out of

We were, for the most part, out of the regular track of vessels, and we only met two during the whole of the three weeks of the passage home. The first one we met was a big full rigged ship out of Christiania. She sighted us one dark night, and being certain that we were on fire, ran down to meet us. Before she came near enough to have a good view of our deck I sent every man below except the man at the wheel way. below except the man at the wheel, who was out of sight in the wheelhouse, and I crouched down under the weather rail and waited to see what would hap-pen. The ship hailed us, but didn't get any answer, and after a bit she filled away and went on her course. There isn't the least doubt that she took us for a phantom ship. Just you think of it for a minute! There was a bark blazing from deck to truck without a soul visible aboard her. All the bark's sails were set and yet not a stitch of canvas was hurt by the fire that seemed to have caught on every bit of wood and rope and canvas aloft. Nobody aboard that ship could have taken us for a mortal bark. They classed us along with the Flying Dutchman of the along with the right Duccutan of the Cape and the skeleton ship that cruises off Ushant, and they were glad to run a vay as fast as their ship could carry

"The other vessel that we met was a Nova Scotia schooner. She sailed about two feet to our one, and when we sighted her she was about ten miles up to windward, it being hardly dusk at the time. It didn't take her very long to run down on us, and when she was within a biscuit's throw she hailed us. within a biscuit's throw she hailed us. This time I let the men stop on deck, though with strict orders not to say a word. When the schooner hailed us and said she would send a boat, I answered, 'What for? We don't need any boat.'

""Why, man.' says the captain of the

Why, man,' says the captain of the schooner, 'your barque can't last twenty minutes, and there ain't a man of your crew whose clothes and hair ain't afire at this identical minute. 'Fire,' says I, in a surprised sort of way. 'I don't see no fre. What's the matter with your eyesight?'

You stand there with your hair ablazing, and the fire running along every spar and rope, and for all that you have the nerve to say your barque

isn't on fire!' yells the captain. " Look here, my friend.' says I, 'my advice to you is to swear off rum before you're an hour older. There ain't any sort or description of fire aboard this barque, except in the galley, and as for my hair, I'll trouble you not to make any more personal remarks. I don't take them from no man, whether drunk

or sober.'
"We didn't get another word from that schooner. She filled away, and though she was close bauled, she went light up the food till it looked precisely as if he was eating fire. When we touched me al or a damp rope, and the l've often wondered if her skipper so were making with a leading wind touched meral or a damp rope, and the live often wondered if her skipper took my advice and swore off. Probably slight prickly sensation in our fingers, but it wasn't of much account and Educational.

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couldn't possibly have explained the spectacle of a barque that was a sheet of flame, with a captain who could deny that he had seen any fire, though

his hair and beard were blazing.
"You may ask if the two vessels that we met reported having spoken a bark on fire that blazed like an oil warehouse, and yet didn't seem to be any the worse for it. I'm betting even money that neither of them made any report, nor yet mentioned the matter in their log books. Any captain who should have made such a report would have stood a good chance of being discharged for drunkenness. It wou'd have like reporting the sea serpent. a ship's master meets with the ser serpent, but he never mentions it, knowing if he does all the newspapers will be advising him to sign the pledge, and his owners will either discharge him on the spot or get rid of him at the first possible chance. No, sir! We were never reported, and I knew very well that we never would be.

"Well, all things must come to an end, and in course of time all the pro-fessor's electricity leaked out, and be fore we sighted the coast of Ireland our electric lights had burned clean out, and even the cat didn't shine any more The professor was so discouraged by his failure to bring home a cargo of elec tricity that he gave the whole thing up, and I never heard a word from him after we were paid off. He died about two years ago, and all the papers said he was a most distinguished inventor and electrician. I shall always be of the opinion that if his tanks hadn't leaked he would have made a good thing of importing electricity, and that some of these days some other electrician will try the same plan and make a success of it. All that is needed is tanks that don't leak, and when such a tank is invented we shall import all our electricity from the Arctic regions.'

