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HALIFAX, N. 8.

A GIRL'S HEROISM.

"We are lost !"

A startling exclamation ; a wild, exciting scene. .

Above, the tempest-tossed heavens; below, the mad, foaming sea.

Night had already set in—a night of fearful gloom—and, save from the

dazzling glare of the lightning's constant flash, darkness covered alike the brave ship and the surf-lashed rocks, the mad sea and the stormy sky; while on, on dashed the Sea Spray, commanded by Captain Lord Edgar Vane, now off the rock-bound coast of Slyne Head, without a pilot, drifting at the mercy of storm and wind.

That day Captain Vane had obtained the services of the coast-renowned pilot, Casper Sturm, for the purpose of entering the little harbor of Wildmore, that was accessible only through the crooked and dangerous passage known as the "Pass of Death," hoping to reach port before nightfall; but, retarded by a strong head-wind, he failed to reach his destination at the expected time; and as the day drew to a close, great inky-black clouds rose on the western horizon, when a coast storm suddenly burst upon them in all its terrible fury

Still, with an efficient pilot, haven might be safely reached. But, as if to fill the measure of their misfortunes, and sign their doom as well, old Casper, who had acted strangely all day, when the storm approached grew restless and uneasy, and as it broke upon them, became wilder and flercer, rushing furiously to and fro as the elements increased in fury, shouting, shricking with maniacal glee, tearing his long, tangled hair down over his then livid face, and frothing at the mouth—a raving madman.

With some difficulty the maniac was seized and lashed to the ship's

rigging, when the Sea-Spray was without a pilot, dashing madly on to certain destruction in the "Pass of Death." The storm all the while growing wilder and fiercer; lurid flashes of lightning shot athwart the sky in rapid succession, followed by de fening peals of thunder that seemed to rend the very heavens; and the foam crested waves lashed in wild fury the surfbound rocks and reefs; while the wind, with its giant power, swept the ill-fated brig down upon the hidden crags and towering cliffs, where breakers dashed and roared in frightful, tempestuous madness, with fearful speed.

All in vain were the efforts of the gallant crew to obey the wild orders of their commander to lay the brig to the wind, for not a sail would hold an instant, until they succeeded in getting up a storm stay sail, when the ship bore up nobly against the tempest-lashed sea. But even then the power of the in-setting waves was fast driving her upon the rock-bound shore. Soon would she be hurled upon the breakers—a floating wreck!

"Good God! we are lost!"

"Is there anyone here who knows the passage?" almost gasped the second officer, as the light on Wildmere's Cliff suddenly shone in sight, and a vivid flash of lightning displayed, with startling distinctness, the awful danger of their perilous situation.

"A thousand pounds to the man who will pilot us safe into Wildmere

Harbor!" cried Captain Vano.

A moment, and no man had accepted the offer—that offer upon which not only wealth, but life was depending. -None in all that hardy crew knew the secret windings of that perilous passage through the jaws of death to a haven of safety.

As if mocking their distress the tempest rose higher and higher. Hope -hold! almost drowned by the storm's tumultuous rour, sounding lev and timid, yet, with womanly sharpness in it, a voice exclaimed :-

"If you please, sir!"

A flash of lightning quickly followed, when the wondering gaze of the brig's crew saw a girlish form standing near the gangway. It was the old pilot's daughter, who had accompanied him upon this trip. Paralysed with grief for her father, she had kept aloof from the crew; and they, in the excitement of their danger, had forgotten her. But, hearing Captain Vane's appeal for help, and realizing then for the first time, the peril of the situation, she had stifled her sorrow and come forward—perhaps to sare.

"If you please, sir," she repeated, as soon as the storm would permit, "I know the passage which leads to the harbor. I'm called 'The Storm-Child' Many and many's the time I've been through Wildmere's passage with pox father, in worse nights than this. I can pilot the ship there to-night."

"Do it, and the thousand pounds shall be yours, ay treble that, my child."

The vessel was speedily put before the wind, when with lightning-like rapidity, it shot through the mid water—on, pastrugged cliffs and half hidden rocks; now barely grazing a hugh crag, then trembling fore and affile its keel scraped a hidden ledge; while the storm-tossed sea swept the deck

With pallid faces the crow secured themselves to the rigging to key from being washed overboard, and sitently awaited the crisis, knowing only too well that the fate of all lay in the hands of the brave girl-pilot.

"Sterboard—quick!" came in a clear, ringing tone.

"Ay, ay, starboard it is."

"Hard a port !"

"Ay, ay, hard a port it is !"
"Steady—so!"
"Steady—"

Sudden and startling, high over the storm's surge and roar, rung or shrill, maniacal laugh—louder, fiercer, and more terrible in its important had been any of the frantic ravings of the madman, whose wild cries belonded so fearfully with the tempest's howling din. Then, by a dame fiash of lightning, the startled men saw that the manisc had suddenly by from his fastenings, and the blood went curdling through their veins, as is saw him, his madness increased by his freedom, bound forward towards