

## THE ADVENTURER

order and the only captain I know now is this young lady. I've signed on for a life's cruise, and all you have to do is to wish me luck!"

"With all my heart, sir," cried Wicks, "and if I may take the liberty—may God bless you both!"

Kirk's share was four hundred and thirty-seven thousand dollars. He invested the four hundred thousand in first-class securities and devoted the odd thirty-seven to his honeymoon. Vera and he worked their hardest to spend it, but had to admit at last, with great reluctance, that the task seemed beyond them. They were both of simple tastes and, as Kirk remarked, neither of them had been expensively enough educated. He did try a valet, but the creature got so confoundedly on his nerves, and added so much fuss and formality to existence, that he was glad to dismiss him. After a few months' wandering in Europe, they returned to America and settled in Long Island in order that Kirk might be close to the works in Jersey City. He goes there every day in a small steam yacht, and on summer afternoons Vera is usually aboard to meet him on his return. It must be admitted that among their fashionable neighbors they have the reputation of being rather poky people, in spite of their romantic history, who go out but seldom, and do not care to extend a very narrow acquaintance.

It is large enough, however, to include Homer Kittredge. His arrival in America was made such a triumph that Kirk hesitated to obtrude into the blaze of limelight that surrounded him, and only did so at last with the utmost diffidence. He sent up his card at the St. Regis, and tried to appear at ease before the splendid menials that guarded the ducal stronghold and its ducal inmates from such questionable and nervous interlopers as himself.