

on this, for I saw that the fires must be drawn at once, and I had no strength left. I sprang to the handle and sounded the whistle. There was the well-known shrill shriek, which could not fail to be heard throughout the ship; and I fell down fainting on the stokehole floor.

"I remembered little more that passed until I found myself in the hospital at Panama. The event of that night, my wound, and the want of medical attendance—for we carried no surgeon—had brought on an attack of fever, and I had been dangerously ill. I had been delirious, and when I did regain my consciousness, the events which had really happened were so mingled in my brain with the extravagant fancies of my delirium, that I found it difficult to distinguish the one from the other. I soon discovered, however, that the people had been told that I had been guilty of gross insubordination toward the chief engineer, and that he had been so maddened by passion as to fire his revolver at me; and that I, having gained possession of the weapon in the struggle which ensued, had shot him to save my own life. Of course I denied this; but my ideas, and no doubt my talk, were still so incoherent, that but little notice was taken of what I said. Soon the captain of the steamer came to my bedside, and begged and entreated me, in the most piteous manner, to allow his version of the story to be believed. He said he had been bewitched by the charms and arts of that woman; and believing that none of the crew knew that he was already married, he had agreed to give her a passage, and had taken her on board with him as his wife. She had obtained from him, by pretending a playful, womanish curiosity, a knowledge of where the gold on board was stowed, and how it could be got at; and this vile woman, with her accomplice and paramour, (the villain whom he had foolishly engaged at her recommendation as chief-engineer,) and another man, also shipped at San Francisco, had between them conceived and attempted to carry out that atrocious project, in which they had been so nearly successful. The engineer's hurt had not been serious, and the captain said that he had connived at his escape, with his accomplices, as soon as the ship got into port. The woman, indeed, had not been seen in her disguise by any one but himself; for he had been first in the engine-room when the whistle sounded the alarm, and had managed somehow to get her out of the way unseen. It would be useless now, he said, to attempt to capture them; and he implored me not to contradict the account he had caused to be circulated, and so cause his ruin, which would be sure to follow, should the owners learn the real truth of his story. He made the most solemn vows of repentance and amendment, and I believe he was truly sorry for his fault, as well as its consequences; but I was deaf to all, until he spoke of his sweet wife and his dear little girl, whom I had seen, as I have said, in New York. He said that his wife was in poor health, and that he was sure, if she learned the truth, the blow would kill her. Well, sir, at length I yielded, and agreed to confirm the account he had given. You may be sure that the crew, and especially Macpherson and the rest of the watch in the engine-room and on deck—who had been drugged by some liquor which the chief had given them—were not altogether imposed upon, and a hundred different versions of the story were flying about: but no one ever knew the right of the affair.

"I returned home as soon as I had recovered, and from that time to this I have never told anybody: but you know how it all happened."—*Masonic Ritual and Gazette*