

from the spool, inserted the lever-handle in the upper orifice of the pipe, and urged the contents downward. There was little room to work in, but the lever-handle was fortunately short. If the rope with its core of wire would but permit itself to be shoved! So terrific was its power that a few inches might be sufficient.

The experiment promised success. An explosive burst sounded from the funnel below. The *Scorpion* began to struggle, It hesitated; stood still; drifted past the rocks; began once more to sink. Beneath lay a lonely beach, a land-locked bay. It was not so very far to fall. Purdy opened the sliding doors.

"Jump—the instant before we strike the water!" he shouted. "Jump clear. There is a fighting chance."

He seized Marie by the hand, and they took the chance together.

Some days later, at a table in the best