A DAUGHTER OF THE STORM!

BY CAPT. FRANK H. SHAW.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

The Clearing Of The Decks.

(Continued)

"Get that grating along," said Leigh to the steward, and when it man on to it.

"Now, we'll carry him to the donkey-house. He won't do much harm way a score of times; and when they had bestowed the ringleader on a mattress hastily flung down on the cemented floor, they passed out, shut locked it securely. "What next, sar?"

forepeak sleep on it for a while. these bruises on myself now."

Codfish

duced the fore-yards of the Zoroaster to something of trimness. It was there." They did it, resting on the really a slovenly chaos of ill-pointed the iron door to with a clang, and frightened her into sluggishness, now seemed disposed to render her masters every assistance in her pow-"We'll let those fellows down the er. And through all the toil Leigh laboured with a song in his heart Give me a hand to tie up some of and a fire in his eye. He dwelt passionately upon the good thing that had come to him, but he slackened passessessessessessessesses no single effort while he thought. Not until the ship was orderly and easy on her helm did he allow himself mind. prolonged meditation; but when all was done that could be done, he bade Gondo, the steward, go down and attend to the wants of those below. He presently returned to say that both Aileen and her father still slept-Leigh smiled pityingly. He well knew something of the nervous strain to which both had been subjectedonce he shivered as he pictured the thoughts of Captain Curzon lying veined hand. there inert, with the sounds of strife Just the Quality for and the mad uncertainty preying together on his mind. But all was well at last. Presently, so he thought, he would release the crew, and, terrorising them by a show of power, would compel them to do such work as was absolutely necessary for the well-be-

ing of the ship. That time had not

et come-the gale was dying swift-

; and he and Aileen were good-

This done, there remained a hundred and one toilsome tasks to be performed. Assisted by the steward, stained of a sudden. Leigh sweated the fore-braces tight -a heart-breaking task, for the domestic was no sailor-man and knew nothing of rope-hauling. But by litwas brought they lifted the wounded the and little they shifted the watchtackle from brace to brace and re- closed over his on the spokes he felt yards and dangling ropes, of half- and his arms went about her. "My flattened sheets and sagging canvas; but the Zoroaster, as though relieved her lips to him in sweet abandonof that incubus of crime which had she was wholly his. But the shock-

apart, flushed and breathing hard. Leigh dived below and gave a hurried account of the events of the night to marvelling Captain Curzon. He said nothing of his love for Aileen -the mention of that would come in due course. At present Curzon had more than enough to occupy his

"You've done well, Leigh," he said when the story was told, in short sail orly sentences, without any undue verbiage or flamboyancy. It was a straightforward tale of an actual hap pening, without polish or digression -Leigh told all he knew, and guessed at what had happened whilst he was unconscious. When he had finished Curzon extended a white, blue-

"You've done more than save the ship, Leigh," he said huskily. "My girl has told me what you did. haven't the words to—to tell you all

"I know, sir," said Leigh, with a laugh below his sternness. And somehow Curzon understood.

'The authorities ashore will need to know about it all." Leigh went into গ্রামান্ত skill Steadman's empty room, with a swelling at the throat as he gazed about upon the well-remembered articles of clothing, the old quadrant-case, the hundred and one accumulations of rafflle and odds and wrote down the thing as it had occurred, as he had told the skipper; and, when this was done, he bore the book to Curzon's cabin and had him sign the statement. Up on deck next, and Aileen's signature was added, then the steward's mark, after which Leigh signed it himself, that all might be in order. When he came on deck again he carried a bundle of soft-cloth in his arms, and Aileen watched him shut the chart-room door. It was a pitiful task he had set himself, but Steadma and Bray must be decently covered for their burial. The busy needle

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not only over a rabble crew, but also prayer-book

if nothing had happened out of the teak-wood under her hand. I've been sleeping like a cat. Oh!" Leigh, "We cannot tell what we have eyes sparkled in the gloom. She had peered within the chart- before us. Now, go and rest again." "Wouldn't it be grand to bring her in

and realising the need for mental oc- endurance. cupation. "I've got lots to do still." She came docilely, and as her hands and kissed him softly. against his shoulder the beating of

"My girl!" he cried passionately. girl-I love you!" She surrendered head of the steward obtruded from the companionway, and they broke

it means to me-but-"

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and courage to do all that was flew i nand out, the shrouding canvas | Leigh wrapped himself in a piece Hour after hour he stood there at he rose to his feet with a vast yawn portions of it had shrouded the dead thew heel, steering and thinking, won only two long bundles lay on the -and flung himself heavily down bedering over the gladness that had de- cushions of the settee. Then he call- side the skylight within touch of stroyed his gloom. He was victor- ed the steward, and went below for a Aileen's foot. Hardly had his head

nancy in the fresh rush of new emo- vice, the grating was lifted, the two ness came, and they reviewed the tions that thrilled him through and white bundles flashed down into the situation as it stood. sun-kissed green of the sea, and "It's too bad," laughed Aileen, com- Aileen burst into deep-chested sob- Leigh, "and try to pick up a steamer. ing on deck, as bright and joyous as bing, her tears watering the heavy They'll tow us into port-we're a bit

common within the last mad twenty- "It was better to give them a de- "Salvage! Can't we bring her in four horus. "You're worn out, and cent burial when we could," said ourselves?" asked the girl, and her room and caught sight of the two But she would not. The spasm of without asking assistance? Salvage figures there. She remembered the grief passed—she had only tender means a lot of money to be paid out sadness that had gone before, the thoughts of those who had gone, by the owners, and we're servants gladnss, and her face grew white and Something of her life had vanished after all, bound to give them a loyal with them, but youth is a little sel- service." "If you're able, take the wheel," fish maybe, and the glad other know- "We couldn't do it," protested

covered the inanimate forms; when of canvas—it was cut and uneven, fallen on his extended arm than he over a girl's stormy heart! It was Aileen watched the simple burial sank into the deep slumber of sheer good to live; and to feel the proud with smarting eyes and panting exhaustion, and it was full night answer of the speeding ship beneath breast. She hung over the wheel- when he awoke, dazed and hungry. his hand, good to feel the kiss and spokes, her gaze fixed on the two long He upbraided himself for slothfulness flutter of the dying wind behind him, bundles lying side by side on the but Aileen smilingly bade him be good to watch the stripped spars, the grating at the rail, the "Jack" cover- grateful for the rest. The steward swelling topsails, the vast sweep of ing both, the steward standing at the announced a meal; they took it on the flung-forward foresail. Yes, it head, ready to tilt the platform at a deck, wrapped up in this new life on was a glad, good world, a sailor's motion from Leigh. With uncovered which they were entering, after much world, and his bruises lost their poig- head Leigh recited the pathetic ser- sore striving. But presently calm-

> "We'll steer nothward a bit," said of salvage worth having."

said Leigh, recognising her mood, ledge that was hers steeled her to Leigh. "There are only we two and the steward, and he's no good. No, "You rest, dear," she whispered sweet-heart, it can't be done." But l'Aileen was stubbornness itself by

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treated, until Leigh said:

now. We'll do our best." And he al- canvas. tered the course a little to the north. "That'll lead to the 'tween-decks," he "But," said he, returning, "we've got thought dully, cursing the pain in his a great work before us, dear. For- slowly-healing face. It was a forttunately the wind is fairly steady night since the mutiny, and beyond a down here, and the ship is under daily tendance of his hurts and a daily short canvas. We won't shake any dole of condensed milk and water, no. more out—we could never get it in thing had happened to relieve the awagain. But we'll do our best, dear ful monotony of it all. heart, we'll do our best."

CHAPTER XXXIV.

Stubbs Final Effort.

William Stubbs, mutineer and scoun drel, looked blankly about him in the unsavoury donkey-house. He was lying on an uneaseful mattress; he had recently been fed and had his wounds tended by Leigh. Now he was alone, and his thoughts were not pleasant

"It's swinging at the end of a rope if they get me to port," he thought viciously. "As well dead here as here. But"-his eyes lit up with devilish cunning-"what's the good of dying alone alone! Why not send nem down along with me-that cursed Leigh will get the girl if I don't. I'll never get loose-they'll see to that. It wouldn't take long, and we'd all go up together. First up and then down! As if I didn't know why they keut the main ventilators closed, and wouldn't allow smoking on deck. She's got powder down the main, and if a man could only get to itthere'd be a fine revenge. It's death whichever way I look-those chaps will tell I killed the mate to save themselves."

He could not remove his eyes from an object in the corner of the donkeyhouse. The Zoroaster had not been built for sucvh an invention, and the two rooms at the after end of the house-once occupied by the apprentices-had been sacrificed to make a dwelling-place for the winch and boiler. A ventilator-shaft had once run clean through one of these rooms but it had been found necessary to

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this. She pouted mutinously, her | cut it off to make room for the winch face was aglow. She urged and en- Its shortened shaft stood up about a foot above the cemented deck-it was "Well, I can't risk another mutiny securely stoppered with a plug and

(To be continued)

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