CLAIM OF LIFE AND TOLL OF DEATH 415

symbol of the last hour—the call of the supreme minute. And he said it would have made no difference! He is the most magnanimous of men and the uttermost farthing has been paid. He has done with me. The most magnanimous . . . but there is a grave on the sands by which I left him sltting with no glance to spare for me. His last glance on earth! I am left with this thing. Absolutely unimportant. A dead talisman." With a nervous jerk she flung the ring overboard, then with a hurried entreaty to d'Alcacer, "Stay here a moment. Don't let anybody come near us," she burst into tears and turned her back on him.

Lingard returned on board his brig and in the early afternoon the Lightning got under way, running past the schooner to give her a lead through the maze of Shoals. Lingard was on deck but never looked once at the following vessel. Directly both ships were in clear water he went below, saying to Carter: "You know what to do."

"Yes, Slr," said Carter.

Shortly after his Captain had disappeared from the deck Carter laid the main topsail to the mast. Lightning lost her way while the schooner with all her light kites abroad passed close under her stern holding on her course. Mrs. Travers stood aft very rigid, gripping the rail with both hands. The brim of her white hat was blown upwards on one side and her yachting skirt stirred in the breeze. By her side d'Alcacer waved his hand courteously. Carter raised his cap to them.

During the afternoon he paced the poop with measured steps, with a pair of blnoculars in his hand. At last he laid the glasses down, glanced at the compass-card and walked

to the cabin skylight which was open.

"Just lost her, Sir," he said. All was still down there. He raised his voice a little.

"You told me to let you know directly I lost sight of the yacht."

old sky above the I faded quickly to d colourless glare. affir's grave that nd discovered that herself. She saw s back bowed, his d obeyed the inting the grave of es with her hand, of that man of e never raised his h her. She waited her way.

e yacht, came off ake Mrs. Travers fended owl. How inrise waving her ld not understand. herself off secretly empty boat back improper miracle. side ladder and as ned him by saying

k." Then with a ainfully she added too was perfectly

rail and d'Alcacer ace, at her brusque a she was fumbling she turned round palm on which he reen stone.

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