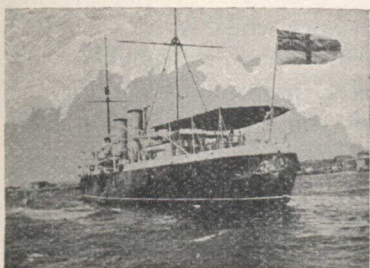


their new toggery just purchased in the Minister's constituency in a rough and tumble with my fellows. I don't want to meet the Commodore though, he shuts his jaw with a snap that



means 'to Hell or Connaught' in a fight or I'm mistaken." "Gentle there, you lubber" broke in on the reverie, "do you want," he said, angrily, "to wake up yon sleepers and have them out at our heels like barking curs?"

As he said this, he turned to look up the decline towards

the camp. His quick eye must have caught the glint of something, where, almost benumbed with fear, crouched our three little maidens bold. Without a word he walked quickly the few steps which separated them from him. Hardly a moment elapsed when the girls perceived him standing close beside them, and between them and the tents.

"You are out late to-night young ladies," he observed quietly, as the three of them, now realizing their position, stood erect. There was an unmistakable meaning and imputation in his tone of voice.

"Let us pass, sir," replied the elder girl as she and her companions moved to leave their hiding place.

"Hardly just now, ladies," answered the man in grim humor, "the men out there" he added, speaking now with quiet intensity "not to speak of myself, have too much at stake to give up without"—he hesitated—"well, say a struggle, that cargo. You have seen too much to be free to work us harm, and God knows I don't want to be forced to meet the men in your camp." Then altering his voice, he continued, "your presence here is unfortunate, but remain quiet and no harm shall happen you."

