WRECK OF THE VALENCIA.

The tragedy of the Valencia is replete with lessons, and among them is Nanaimo and other public bodies to the gratifying one that the hearts of impress the necessity of action upon

those whom we meet from day to day We also suggest that the United are inspired with the best kind of courage. We shall never know fully what deed of heroism the decks of the sels go ashore on the southern side of ill-fated ship witnessed, but we do the Strait, any precautions on the Vanknow that those who went to the for the benefit of ships engaged in rescue did all that men could do and United States commerce than for the

were 'ready to risk their lives for others. The action of Capt. Troup and ins and the crew of the Queen and of the captain and crew of the City of Topeka, which was happily successful in her mission of mercy to a far greatless telegraphy. er degree than any one dared to hope. deserves passing recognition, nor must

Beale lighthouse, of Mr. Daykin of the to a minimum. Carmanah lighthouse and of the cable officials at Bamfield be overlooked. Mayor Morley gave practical expression to the wishes of the citizens, when he dispatched the Lorne to the scene as soon as it became known that there might be a possibility of any good beparatus and a crew to handle them is likewise worthy of mention. The Pacific Steamship_ Company have teleall expenses in connection with the Lorne. Thus everything was done, after the wreck, that could be done, and neither the company nor the Canadian officals and people have anywrecked people.

But this is not all that needs to be said. We are all quick to do our duty after disaster has come. Where we for very serious consideration.

In the first place there has been a new demonstration that there is urgent need of improving the class of vessels which ply upon our coasts. No mendations for safeguarding life and one can tell what whould have hap- property on what may be termed the pened if the Valencia had had a double bottom and a collision bulkhead; but it is reasonable to infer, in the absence of specific information, which will never be forcoming, that these features might perhaps have kept the ship afloat. But be this as it may, it

will not be denied that every vessel plying in these waters, where collisions with other vessels or with rocks during ber from Vancouver regards the trithick weather are likely to occur, bute paid by the Attorney-General to should be constructed with these safe- the leader of the Socialists as the one

In the second place it seems as if there ought to be a searching inquiry as to the boat equipment, and the ap- cal prowess. We are grieved to obpliances for lowering them, carried by passenger steamers. It is to be noted

guards.

proper steps will be taken by the board of trade of this city and also the boards of trade of Vancouver and the government.

States government has a duty to perform in the premises. While few yescouver Island shore will be even more

benefit of those employed in our own. to take the cigar from his lips, whilst We suggest, therefore, that the United Enid sped without further need for the crew of the Czar, of Mr. Bullen and States government ought to provide a caution down the drive. The lodge the crew of the Salvor, of Capt. Cous- life-saving station at some convenient gates were closed and the deaf port- If my man dies I am in a tight place. point west of Cape Flatery, anl that er's house in darkness, so that Enid communication between that station could unlock the wicket without fear and the Canadian station to be estab- of detection. She rattled the key on lished should be maintained by wire- the bars and a figure slipped out of the darkness. "Really me, Enid. I came over on

hasn't yet discovered the secret of the

"That's all right, dear. But why are

"Well, I will try to tell you so in as

"Don't tell me that our scheme has

"Perhaps I need not go so far as

"Ruth! But tell me. I am quite in

"It was the night when-well, you

"It doesn't matter, because he knows

from his bondage. What about the

"You mean 218, Ruth."

all right.

cigar case?'

tradesman's book?"

If the precautions above suggested are taken the dangers attending the my bicycle. I am supposed to be round to say, but this is the prettiest probthe efforts of Mr. Patterson, of Cape entrance to the Strait will be reduced at some friend's house in Brunswick square, and one of the servants is sitting up for me. Is Reginald safe? He

WRECK OF THE VALENCIA.

you here? Has something dreadful At the time of writing the loss of life happened?" as a result of the latest shipping disfew words as possible. I never felt aster on the southwest coast of Vanso ashamed of anything in my life." couver Island has not been definitely ascertained. It is feared, however, failed!' ing accomplished, and the prompt re- from a reading of the dispatches sent sponse of Capt. Parry, of H. M. S. in by the representatives of the Times that right, and then a very dreadful thing Egeria for life-saving boats and ap- on the relief vessels, that the toll taken happened. We have got Mr. David by the sea has been even heavier than Steel into frightful trouble. He is gothe first advices indicated. Whatever ing to be charged with attempted murthe causes of the various catastrophes | der and robbery.' that have occurred in the neighborgraphed the Mayor that they will meet hood bounded by Cape Beale and the dark." Clayoquot Sound with such appalling know the night. It was after Mr. Steel frequency during the boisterous winter returned home from his visit to 219, season, it is clear that all precautions Brunswick squareit is humanly possible to take in order to prevent such accidents in the future pretty well all about it by this time. should be taken, and without loss of It would have been far better for us if thing to apologize for in respect to time. The federal government should we hadn't been quite so clever. It their efforts for the relief of the ship- at once institute a thorough investiwould have been far wiser to have taken Mr. Steel entirely into our congation, which ought to be conducted fidence. Oh. oh, Enid, if we had only

by competent authorities. The appalling loss of life, and the almost unimaginable sufferings those who perished and those who survive endured, are lacking is in our plans to prevent | clearly demonstrate that no mere matdisaster This aspect of the case calls | ter of expense should stand in the way of such inquiry nor constitute an obstacle to the establishment of such services or appliances as may be him. And when he got home he found

recommended. The federal government a man nearly murdered lying in his conservatory. That man was conveyed has not been slow in adopting recomto the Sussex county hospital, where he still lies in an unconscious state. On the body was found a receipt for a gun inland waters of this coast. The terrimetal cigar case set with diamonds.' ble record of the present winter has "Good gracious, Ruth, you don't emphasized the necessity for a commean to say---' Oh, I do. I can't quite make how prehensive extension of the service. t happened, but that same case that we-that Mr. Steel has-has been posi-

We fear the entente cordiale as betively identified as one purchased from tween Hon. Chas. Wilson, Attorney-Walen by the injured man. There is General, and Mr. Bowser, plain but asno question about it. And they have found out about Mr. Steel being short piring legal practitioner, hath not been of money, and the f1.000, and everyrestored. It is understood that the thing." brilliant but neglected youngest mem-"But we know that that cigar case from Lockhart's in North street was positively---'

'Yes, yes. But what has become of it? And in what strange way was the really eloquent member of the House. change made? I tell you that the now that W. W. B. McInnes has laid whole thing frightens me. We thought aside the mantle of supremacy, as a that we had hit upon a scheme to solve the problem and keep our friends out personal reflection upon his rhetoriof danger. There was the American at Genoa who volunteered to assist us. A serve these little personal differences week later he was found dead in his obtruding themselves within the ranks bed. Then there was Christiana's that the davits of the Valencia broke, of the Ministerialists just at this time friend, who disappeared entirely. And now we try further assistance in the case of Mr. Steel, and he stands face to face with a terrible charge. And he effect of retarding an appeal to the has found us out." them? 'We forbear from commenting son is marked for destruction, and mean?" country, as it is certain that Mr. Wil-"He has found us out? What do you "Well, he called to see me. He called at 219, of course. And directly cupy the chair next to the Premier. Might we venture to suggest to the I am afraid I betrayed myself. Such a warring elements that the people may nice, kind, handsome man, Enid; so especially within the province of the step in, when dissolution does take manly and good over it all. Of course place, and effectively calm the troubled he declared that he had been at 219 before, and I could only declare that he had done nothing of the kind. Never, never have I felt so ashamed We wonder what the President of of myself in my life before." "It seems a pity." Enid said, thoughtment thinks of the proposal of the fully. "You said nothing about 218?" "My dear, he found it out. At least, Premier to disincorporate the munici-Hatherly Bell did for him. Hatherly pality of Dewdney and to saddle the Bell happened to be staying down with debts incurred during the suppliant's us, and Hatherly Bell, who knows Mr. period of local self-government upon Steel, promptly solved, or half solved, the waters within a line joining Cape the taxpayers of the province. Mr. that side of the problem. And Hatherly Bell is coming here to-night to see Aunt Margaret, Hethe North Pacific ocean, far greater ions of the province into municipali- Margaret? Then he found out about precautions must be taken than now ties. His pet scheme was one of the you. At all hazards Mr. Bell must not exist to render the entrance to the things specially mentioned in the come here-he must not. I would ra-Strait safe and for the rescue of those speech from the throne. He has not ther let everything go than that. I would rather see auntie dead and wasted the time of the House wittan Reginald Henson master here. You



Ghe Crimson Blind By FRED.M.WHITE

CHAPTER X.-(Continued.) save you, and thus to expose her hand. He stood there rigidly, almost afraid

"Then in that case I propose to sit tight," David said, grimly. "I am bound to be prosecuted for robbery and attempted murder in due course "And if he recovers your antagonist may be in a tighter," Bell chuckled. 'And if the man gets well and that brain injury proves permanent-I mean if the man is rendered imbecile-why, we are only at the very threshold of

the mystery. It seems a callous thing lem I have had under my hands." "Make the most of it," David said,

sardonically. "I daresay I should see the matter in a more rational light if I were not so directly concerned. But, we are going to make a search of. the premises, the sooner we start the better."

Upstairs there was nothing beyond certain lumber. There were dust and dirt everywhere, save in the hall and front dining-room, which, as Bell sapiently pointed out, had obviously been cleared to make ready for Steel's The first part of it came off all strange reception. Down in the housekeeper's room was a large collection of dusty furniture, and a number of pic-tures and engravings piled with their turned the keys of the house to the faces to the wall. Bell began idly to turn the latter over.

"I am a maniac on the subject of old prints." he explained. "I never see a pile without a wild longing to examine And, by Jove, there are some good things here. Unless I am greatly mistaken-here, Steel, pull up the blinds! Good heavens, is it possible?" "Found a Sistine Madonna or a stray Angelo?" David asked. "Or a ghost? What is the matter? Is it another

phase of the mystery?' "The Rembrandt," Bell gasped. Look at it, man!"

Steel bent eagerly over the engravleft out that litle sentiment over the ing. An old print, an old piece of cigar case! Then we should have been china, an antique jewel, always exerised a charm over the novelist. He "Dearest girl, my time is limited. had an unerring eye for that kind of I've got Reginald held up for the time, thing. but at any moment he may escape

"Exquisite," he cried. "A Rembrant, of course, but I don't recollect the picture."

"Well, Mr. Steel took it home with "The picture was destroyed by accident after Rembrandt had engraved it with his own hand." Bell proceeded to explain. He was quite coherent now, but he breathed fast and loud. "I shall proceed to give you the history of the picture presently, and more especially a history of the engraving." "Has it any particular name?" David

asked. "Yes, we found that out. It was called 'The Crimson Blind!'"

"No getting away from the crimson blind," David murmured. "Still, I can quite imagine that to have been the name of the picture. That shutter or blind might have had a setting sun behind it, which would account for the ender warmth of the kitchen foreground and the deep gloom where the lovers are seated. By Jove, Bell, it is a magnificent piece of work. I've a special fancy for Rembrandt engravings, but I never saw one equal to

"And you never will," Bell replied, 'save in one instance. The picture itself was painted in Rembrandt's modest lodgings in the Keizerskroon longer believed that he had been to tavern after the forced sale of his

pression from it."

has darkened my life.

"Sooner or later I always felt that I

should get to the bottom of the mys.

tery, and now I am certain of it. And,

strange as it may seem, I verily be-

lieve that you and I are hunting the

at the bottom of the two evils. But

you shall hear my story presently.

What we have to find out now is who

was the last tenant and who is the

present owner of the house, and inci-

dentally learn who this lumber belongs

to. Ah, this has been a great day for

Bell spoke exultingly, a great light

absurdly out of place in an exceedingly

true that 218, Brunswick square, was

spacious office, was quite ready to give

every information. It was certainly

to be let at an exceedingly low rent on

a repairing lease, and that the owner

had a lot more property in Brighton to

be let on the same terms. The lady

was exceedingly rich and eccentric; in-

place that touched the imagination of

Has 218 been let during the occupa tion of the present owner?" Bell asked. "No," the agent replied. "But the resent owner-as heir to the property I am told, was interested in both 218 and 219, which used to be a kind of high-class convalescent home for poor clergy and the widows and daughters of poor clergy in want of a holiday. The one house was for the men, and the other for the women, and both were furnished exactly alike; in fact, Mr. Gates' landford, the tenant of 219. bought the furniture exactly as it stands when the scheme fell through. Steel looked up swiftly. A sudden inspiration came to him.

"In that case what became of the recisely similar furniture in 218?" he. asked.

"That I cannot tell, you," the agent said. "That house was let as it stood to some sham philanthropist whose name I forget. The whole thing was a fraud, and the swindler only avoided arrest by leaving the country. Probably the goods were stored somewhere perhaps seized by some creditor. But I really can't say definitely without looking the matter up. There are ome books and prints now left in the house out of the wreck. We shall probably put them in a sale, only they have been overlooked. The whole lot will not fetch f5."

"Would you take £5 for them?" Bell asked. "Gladly. Even if only to get them carted away."

Bell gravely produced a £5 note, for which he asked and received a receipt. Then he and Steel repaired to live. Why, you shall hear all in good 218 once more, whence they recovered

agent. There was an air of repressed excitement about Bell which was not without its effect upon his companion. Enid. I will not describe her, because The cold, hard lines seemed to have no words of mine could do her justice. faded from Bell's face; there was a In a word, I fell over head and ears brightness about him that added to his in love with Enid, and in that state I already fine physical beauty. "And now, perhaps, you will be good

nough to explain," David suggested. "My dear fellow, it would take too loves-and despies-me, is by far the long," Bell cried. "Presently I am going to tell you the story of the tragedy of my life. You have doubtless won-

dered, as others have wondered, why dropped out of the road when the goal was in sight. Well, your curiosity is about to be gratified. I am going to help you, and in return you are going to help me to come back into the race again. By way of a start, you are going to ask me to come and dine with

you to-night." "At half-past seven, then. Nothing will give me greater pleasure."

Spoken like a man and a brother. We will dine, and I will tell you my story after the house is quiet. And if I ask you to accompany me on a midnight adventure you will not say me nay?"

"Not in my present mood, at any rate. Adventure, with a dash of danger in it, suits my present mood exactly. And if there is to be physical violence, so much the better. My diplomacy may be weak, but physically I am not to be despised in a row." "Well, we'll try and avoid the latter, if possible," Bell laughed. 'Still, for your satisfaction, I may say there is up from the tabe that night, I owed just the chance of a scrimmage. And my opponent nearly £800, without the now I really must go, because I have any amount of work to do for Gates. part of it. I was only a poor, ambiti-Till half-past seven, au revoir." Steel lighted a cigarette and strolled

thoughtfully homewards along the front. The more he thought over the mystery the more tangled it became. And yet he felt perfectly sure that he was on the right track. The discovery that both those houses had been furnished exactly alike at one time was

business took me to Amsterdam; a at present happy in the possession of brilliant young medical genius who his own lost treasure. And up to this was drinking himself prematurely into very day I was under exactly the same his grave had made some wonderful delusion. Now I know that there must discoveries relating to the brain and have been two copies of the plate, and psychology generally, so I decided to that this knowledge was used to ruin learn what I could before it was too me." "But," Steel murmured, "I don't exlate. I found the young doctor to be

an exceedingly good fellow, only too actly seeready to speak of his discoveries, and "I am just coming to that. We hunt, there I stayed for a year. My word! ed high and low for the picture, but what do I not owe to that misguided nowhere could it be found. The affair mind! And what a revolution he would created a profound impression in Am have made in medicine and surgery sterdam. A day or two later Von Guihad he only lived! den went back to his duty on the Bel-

"Well, in Amsterdam I got to know gian frontier and business called in everybody who was worth knowing- home. I packed my solitary portman medical, artistic, social. And amongst teau and departed. When I arrived a the rest was an Englishman called the frontier I opened my luggage_fo Lord Littimer, his son, and an exceed- the custom officer and the whole con ingly clever nephew of his, Henson by tents were turned out without cer name, who was the son's tutor. Litti- mony. On the bottom was a roll mer was a savant, a scholar and a fine paper on a stick that I quite failed connoisseur as/regarded pictures. He recognize. An inquisitive custo was popularly supposed to have the house officer opened it and immediate finest collection of old prints in Eng- ly called the lieutenant in charge land. He would travel anywhere in Strange to say, he proved to be Vo search of something fresh, and the ru- Gulden. He came up to mor of some apocryphal treasure in gravely, with the paper in his hand. "May I inquire how this cam Amsterdam had brought him thither. He and I were friends from the first. amongst your luggage?' he asked. 'I could say nothing; I was dumi as, indeed, were the son and myself. Henson, the aephew, was more quiet For there lay the Rembrandt. The reand reserved, but fond, as I discover- spots had been smudged out of the

corner, but there the picture was. ed, of a little secret dissipation. Well, I lost my head then. I ac "In those days I was not averse to a cused Von Gulden of all kinds of dislittle life myself. I was passionately graceful things. And he behaved like fond of all games of cards, and I am a gentleman-he made me ashamed o afraid that I was in the habit myself. But he kept the picture and gambling to a greater extent than I could afford. I don't gamble now and returned it to Littimer, and I was ruined. Lord Littimer declined don't play cards; in fact, I shall never touch a card again as long as I and he would hear of no explanatio time

"We were all getting on very together at that time when Lord Littimer's sister paid us a visit. She came accompanied by a daughter called Steel cried. have remained ever since. Of all the crosses that I have to bear the knowledge that I love Enid and that she found two of those plates. He ken the one back so as to sell the other heaviest. But I don't want to dwell a fancy price. My enemy discover upon that. this, and Van Sneck's sudden flight

"We were a very happy party there was his opportunity. He could affor untii Van Sneck and Von Gulden turnto get rid of me at an apparently de ed up. Enid and I had come to an unrate. He stole Littimer's engraving derstanding, and, though we kept our in fact, he must have done so, or secret, we were not going to do so for should not have it at this mome long. From the very first Von Gulden Then he smudged out some imagina admired her. He was a handsome, spots on the other and hid it in swaggering soldier, a good-looking, luggage, knowing that it would wealthy man, who had a great reputafound. Also he knew that it would tion for gallantry, and something eturned to Littimer, and that worse. Perhaps the fellow guessed stolen plate could be laid aside ar how things lay, for he never troubled produced at some remote date as an to conceal his dislike and contempt for riginal find. The find has been min me. It is no fault of mine that I am and it will go hard if I can't get to th extremely sensitive as to my personal bottom of the mystery now. It appearance, but Von Gulden played strange that your mysterious troub upon it until he drove me nearly mad. and mine should be bound up so clos He challenged me sneeringly to cerly together, but in the end it will tain sport wherein he knew I could not mplify matters, for the very reason shine; he challenged me to ecarte, that we are both on the hunt for the where I fancied I was his master.

same man.' "Was I? Well, we had been dining that night, and perhaps too freely, for Bell.' I entirely lost my head before I began "Granted. We will bait for him the game in earnest. Those coveri ne does for a wily old trout. The fly sneers had nearly driven me mad. To shall be the Rembrandt, and you se make a long story short, when I got he will rise to it in time. But beyond this I have made one or kwo importan discoveries to-day. We are going t faintest prospect of paying a tenth the house of the strange lady wh wns 218 and 219, Brunswick squar ous young man then, with my way to and I shall be greatly mistaken if sh make in the world. And if that money does not prove to be an old acquain were not forthcoming in the next few ance of mine. There will be danger days I was utterly ruined.

"I came down the next morning after

sleepless night, and with a wild en-

"You propose to go to-night?" "The following morning the, grea 'I propose to go at once," Bell sa discovery was made. The Van Sneck Dark hours are always best for dar I have alluded to was an artist. usiness. Now, which is the neares dealer, a man of the shadiest reputaway to Longdean Grange?" "So the House of the Silent Sorroy a most important one. And David no had picked up. It was Van Sneck as they call it, is to be our destination tion, whom my patron, Lord Littimer, who produced the copy of 'The Crimson I must confess that the place has ever Blind.' Not only did he produce the held a strange fascination for me. We copy, but he produced the history will go over the golf links and behind from some recently discovered papers Ovingdean village. It is a rare spot relating to the Keizerskroon tavern of for a tragedy. the year 1656, which would have satis Bell rose and lighted a fresh cigar. fied a more exacting man than Litti-"Come along," he said. "Poke tha mer. In the end the Viscount pur Rembrandt behind your books with i chased the engraving for £800 English. face to the wall. I would not lose that "You can imagine how delighted he for anything now. No. on seco thoughts I find I shall have to take was with his prize-he had secured an engraving by Rembrand that was abwith me.' solutely unique. Under more favor-David closed the door carefully b able circumstances I should have hind him, and the two stepped out int shared that pleasure. But I was face the night. to face with ruin, and therefore I had (To be continued.) but small heart for rejoicing.

(Continued from irances ali day fron that there was no l timulated excitement to This was followed by he Queen was coming i ater that good ship was wharf, and Capt. Cousin group of newspaper m he left the ship at 11 o'c were between thirty a linging to the rigging. Then Mayor Morley too action in an emergency im as possessed not on est humane instincts, strates his executive a with just such a conting promptly into commu Capt. Parry, of H. M. S the result was that last 11 o'clock the tug Lorn saving crew of hardy bl surf boat were on the scene, with doctors, ances, etc., on board to istance as may prove r

SURVIVORS' ST Rescued Men Tell of Las Board the Sinking Vess Scenes on Boa

(R. P. Dunn, Times Staff Bamfield, Jan. 24.-Sh o'clock to-night a part vivors arrived at Bamf ther details of the disa The boatswain estima were over 100 aboard afte had left, including p crew, Of the officers th nave been on the ves broke up this afternoor Johnson, were first offic ond officer Peterson others of the ship's re ment. According to th least 60 passengers have

The boatswain gives a one of the most

Dreadful Marine D n the history of the w Vancouver Island. After leaving San Fran encia steamed a nort sighting the American sh occasions. Reckoning obtained owing to the sounding machine was struck 27 fathoms. The

course was made, and urned towards the west rock heavily. Captain Johnson order astern." The ship yielde ing clear commenced fill

Realizing that in a would founder in deep aboard, the captain had h to the beach. According to the boatsy

ound easily and reste cantime six small bo red to the rails and passengers, include number of

Women and Child

All wire more or less could not be quieted, des of the officers and cre In se eral instances cut aw w and lowered every conceivable mann fusion to capsized, pre unfortunates into the the midst of which they from view. The other four appare safely, clearing the ship's making to vards shore, distance away. A few o water were saved with re What afterwards happen could not be noted from the vessel.

prosecute, but he would not see m Indeed, I had none to offer. Enid re fused to see me also or reply to m letters. The story of my big gambli debt, and its liquidation, got about Steel, I was ruined. Some enemy h done this thing, and from that day this I have been a marked man." "But how on earth was it done "For the present I can only mak rmises," Bell replied. "Van Snech was a slippery dog. Of course, he had

and thus people were thrown into the when all things are being made ready sea; so did the davits of the Clallam. for a dissolution. They may have the Cannot davits be made strong enough to do the work that is expected of upon the causes which led up to the that Mr. Bowser is determined to ocwreck. These will be investigated by the proper authorities.

We come now to a matter which is Canadian people. There has been sufficient demonstration of the dangers waters? surrounding the entrance to the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The whole maritime world is interested in seeing that every the Council in the McBride governpossible protection is afforded, but especially so are the people of Victoria, Vancouver, Seatle, Tacoma and all the other ports on the waters reached by way of the Strait. If, as we all expect, Flattery and Bonilla Point are to be Cotton has been an ardent advocate of the headquarters of the commerce of the organization of all possible diviswho may become the victims of shipwreck.

A life-saving station should be established somewhere between Bonilla Point and Cape Beale, and it ought to be equipped with a full-powered tug, two or more first-class lifeboats, and all the life-saving appliances that can be used along such a shore. In addi-Cotton thinks of the extraordinary tion there ought to be a good road proposal, designed principally to make made along the shore from Sooke to his leader's election sure at the ex-Beale, as near to the coast as possible, pense of the public generally. with spurs to the edge of the cliff

* * * which for the greater part of the dis-The British seaman is still endowed tance forms the shore. This would with the attributes which made the enable aid to be rushed to any point by land. This road ought to be pamen who worked behind the wooden walls of old England famous. Every trolled during heavy and thick weather by men able to send telegraph volunteered for service on the boats messages. If there had been such a road detailed to go to the rescue of the posand such a system of patrolling sible survivors on the wreck of the at the time the Valencia went ashore. there is scarcely room for doubt that the list of the saved would be much the traditions of their heroic fore-

longer. It is submitted that the Dom- fathers. inion government ought to undertake The people of Victoria have but the construction of such a road, and too frequently been called upon to pass should do it at once. It is of course

the special duty of that government to deeply sympathize with those who had provide the necessary life-saving sta- relatives on the steamer Valencia. tion and apparatus. It is altogether too probable that

The cost will be considerable, but that is neither here nor there. Every the final act of the tragedy on board none survives to tell the story of a counterplot by the man, who has not possible safeguard should be provided the steamship Valencia. Perhaps it is driving at. By placing you in dire peril like points of steel. There was so threspective of cost. Doubtless the just as well.

exposition of his usually sound views. me! must-What does he think of the backward In the distance came the rattle of shining in his eyes. And David sapimovement for which his -trusted harness bells and the trot of a horse. ently asked no further questions for "I'm afraid it's too late." Ruth Gates leader is responsible, and which is the present. All that he wanted to said, sadly. "I am afraid that they are designed for the relief of Mr. Mchere already. Oh, if we had only left Bride's constituency? It would be inout that wretched cigar case!' teresting to find out what Hon. F. C. of the property.

> CHAPTER XI. After Rembrandt. "Before we go any farther," Bell

said, after a long pause, "I should like to search the house from top to bottom. I've got a pretty sound theory in my head; but I don't like to leave anything to chance. We shall be pretty certain to find something." 'I am entirely in your hands." David

deed, by asking such low rents she was doing her best to seriously diminsailor of His Majesty's ship Egeria said, wearily. "So far as I am capable of thinking out anything, it seems ish her income. "Do you know the lady at all?" Bell to me that we have to find the woasked. "Cherchez la femme is a fairly sound "Not personally." the agent admit-

Valencia. Their hearts are true to premise in a case like this, but when ted. "So far as I can tell, the property we have found the woman we shall came into the present owner's hands have to find the man who is at the some years ago by inheritance. The bottom of the plot. I mean the man property also included a very old pictures, your stained glass and china, dam. If you look closely at it you who is not only thwarting the woman, house, called Longdean Grange, not far but giving you a pretty severe lesson from Rottingdean, where the lady, as to the advisability of minding your Mrs. Henson, lives at present. Nobody under the rod of affliction, and can own business for the future." ever goes there, nobody ever visits "Then you don't think I am being there, and to keep the place free from victim of a vile conspiracy?" prying visitors a larg number of savmade the "Not by the woman, certainly. You age dogs are allowed to prowl about are the victim of some fiendish the grounds."

Bell listened eagerly. Watching him. quite mastered what the woman is David could see that his eyes slinted

No. 219 on the night of the great adat that hostel in the year venture. Then he found himself think-1658. At that time Rembrandt was painfully poor, as his recorded tavern ing about Ruth Gates' gentle face and lovely eyes, until he looked up and saw bills show. The same bills also disthe girl before him. close the fact that 'The Crimson Blind' 'You-you wanted to speak to me? was painted for a private customer he stammered. with a condition that the subject

"I followed you on purpose," the girl should be engraved as well. After one mpression had been taken off the said, quietly. "I can't tell you everything, because it is not my secret to plate the picture was destroyed by a tell. But believe me 'everything will careless servant. In a sudden fit of come out right in the end. Don't think rage Rembrandt destroyed the plate, badly of me, don't be hard and bitter having, they say, only taken one imbecause---'

"Because I am nothing of the kind," 'Then there is only one of these en-David smiled. "It is impossible to look gravings in the world? What a find!" into a face like yours and doubt you. 'There is one other, as I know to my And I am certain that you are acting st," Bell said, significantly, "Until loyally and faithfully for the sake of a few days ago I never entertained the deavor to scheme some way of getting others who---" idea that there were two. Steel, you the money to pay my creditor. To my are the victim of a vile conspiracy, but

"Yes, yes, and for your sake, too. absolute amazement I found a polite Pray try and remember that. For your it is nothing to the conspiracy which. note from the lieutenant coldly thanksake, too. Oh, if you only knew how I ing me for the notes I had sent him by admire and esteem you! If onlymessenger, and handing me a formal She paused with the deep blush receipt for £800. At first I regarded it crimsoning her face. David caught her as a hoax. But, with all his queer hand, and it seemed to him for a moment that she returned the pressure. ways, Von Gulden was a gentleman Somebody had naid the deht for me "Let me help you," he whispered. same man down-that the one man is 'Only be my friend and I will forgive never found out to this day." everything."

She gave him a long look of her deep picions?" Steel suggested. velvety eyes, she flashed him a little smile, and was gone.

CHAPTER XII. "The Crimson Blind."

Hatherly Bell turned up at Downend terrace gay and debonair as if he had not a single trouble in the world. know would come in time. The next His evening dress was of the smartest move, of course, was to visit the agent and he had a rose in his buttonhole. From his cab he took a square brown A smart, dapper little man, looking paper parcel, which he deposited in away.' David's study with particular care. He made no allusion whatever to the Gainsborough." sterner business of the evening; he was gay and light-hearted as a child, sc that Mrs. Steel sat up quite an hour later than her usual time, absolutely

unconscious of the fact that she had broken a rigid rule of ten years' standing. "Now let us go into the study and been seen of that picture.'

smoke a cigar," David suggested. Bell dragged a long deck chair into the conservatory and lighted a Massa.

Steel's offer of whiskey and soda was declined "An ideal place for a novelist who has a keen eye for the beautiful." he said. "There you have your books and from Littimer's lodgings in Amster-

and when you turn your eyes this way and lovely flowers. It's hard to connect such a room with a tragedy." artist. out close by where you are sitting. But that was purchased in Amsterdam cott, which will be received up till never mind that. Come-to your story.

and let me see if we can fit it into mine." Bell took a fresh pull at his cigar,

WEST COAST LIFE SAVING STATIO

Wm. Sloan, M. P., Was Consulted of Subject This Morring by Members of the Board of Trade.

"Which man we have got to find

And Somebody had, though I have (From Thursday's Daily.) William Sloan, M. P., met the Boar of Trade committees on the Seymon "All the same, you have your sus-Narrows bridge and pilotage "I have a very strong suspicion, but norning. The interview was highly sa have never been able to verify it. All isfactory in every respect. After the same, you can imagine what an special subjects in the hands of the enormous weight it was off my mind. mittees had been disposed of, Mr. Go and how comparatively cheerful I was ing Wilson brought up the subject as I crossed over to the hotel of Lord life-saving stations. He also drew Littimer after breakfast. I found him tention to the failure of the owner literally beside himself with passion. the King David to provide that ve Some thief had got into his room in with proper charts of the Vanc the night and stolen his Rembrandt. Island coast. A discussion of the w The frame was intact, but the engravsubject of coast protection followed, ing had been rolled up and taken ing participated in by all present, n ly, Messrs. Mara, Lugrin, Wilson, Pa ine, Carter and Thompson. Among "Very like the story of the stolen suggestions made was that a high

"No doubt the one theft inspired the should be constructed along the co other. I was sent off on foot to look from Otter Point to Beale, and that t for Van Sneck, only to find that he life-saving stations should be provi had suddenly left the city. He had one for the southern and the other got into trouble with the police, and the northern part of the coast had fled to avoid being sent to Mr. Sloan expressed his great app And from that day to this nothing has ciation of the importance of the subject which, he said, had occupied his atte "But I read to-day that it is still in tion for two years. He said that h

Littimer Castle," said David. would not favor anything being attem "Another one," Bell observed. ed in a small way, but believed the D "Oblige me by opening yonder parcel. minion government ought to take matter up and expend the money nece There you see is the print that I purchased to-day for £5. This, this, my sary to provide the best protection that can be given, and that he would use hi friend, is the print that was stolen best efforts to that end. He asked that the Board of Trade assist him by furhishing all the data on the subject which will see four dull red spots in the leftthey are gladdened by green foliage hand corner. They are supposed to be they possess or can secure.

blood-spots from a cut finger of the I am prepared to swear that -Tenders are being called by "And yet the tragedy was worked this is the very print, frame and all, city purchasing agent, W. M. Nor

> from that shady scoundrel Van Sneck." p. m. on Monday, for the following "But Littimer is credited with hav-Groceries, butchers' meat, milk, bre ing one in his collection," David urged. castings and sidewalk doors, humb Bell cordwood, teaming and coal for Nor-e is Dairy and Yates street, hydrania an at his cigar, "He has one in his collection," Bell cordwood bject. Said, coolly. "And moreover, he is Dairy a moreover, he is synhons

Capt. Johnson then took store order, going among gers and assuring them t shore so close at hand the not great. The steward collecting blankets and them for the

Comfort of the Cast

during the might. The la themselves as best as the the night, while the can himself with attempting t tention by burning rocket Towards daylight the v dropped considerably heard. When clear two were discerned in a cave or Apparently they could no the shore on either side or With the tide advancing effectively trapped and do terrible death unless hel them within a few hours. Realizing their horrible captain called the boatswa ed him to call for volunt

Man the Remaining

take ropes and endeavor obtain necessary help. He ned that when ashore signal from a bluff to the line would be shot ash rocket gun. Once secured mander expected to be all conveyance for the transp one on the ship to terra fire But the rocky coast and ro terfered with the arrangen Men being secured a sm oon coasting through the for a likely place to land eight miles were covered before navigation of the thought feasible. Near Sea

The Dangerous Ta was accomplished. Once boatswain and men could opening in the direction of With the beach impassabl country wild and forbidding ed towards Cape Beale, fo telegraph lines.

To-morrow morning an e from the Salvor will set c the remainder of the surv provisions and bring them field. Upon their return will make an attempt to s