

of amusement in his sloe-black eyes. In spite of his dungaree jacket, and In spite of his dufigatee jacket, and big sea-boots with tucked in trousers, she realized that this was no fore-mast sailor-man. Here, if her instinct availed her, was a gallant gentleman, whose desire for privacy, since it was backed by Lance's approval, she might

backed by Lance's approval, she might safely take on trust. "Of course, Senor Diaz will be very welcome," she said, as she shook hands with the stranger. "On condi-tion that he understands that my poor old house is a shocking fraud, and that he would probably be far better en-tertained at one of the cottages in the cove" cove."

"I assure you," laughed the foreigner in flawless English, "that you would not try to frighten me like that if you had seen me for the last six weeks, eating the fare provided by Mr. Jacob eating the fare provided by Mr. Jacob Polgleaze for the mariners who serve him in the foc'sle of his tramp steamers, and who have to subject themselves to the brutality of skippers such as Captain Lance Pengarvan when they were caught on deck. But Hilda was disarmed by the affectionate smile which the speaker flung at "The Lodestar's" captain—a smile instantly reciprocated with an unphashed wink.

unabashed wink.

"Come in to supper," she said. "You are both very mysterious people, but sooner or later perhaps you will let me into the secret."

CHAPTER IV.

## In the Cave.

SENOR ANTONIO DIAZ picked his

led to the cove, and leaving the cluster of cottages to his left struck along the narrow beach that skirted the perpendicular cliff. He had been a guest at the ancient stronghold of the Carlyons for over a week, but he had been absent part of the time, and nad been absent part of the time, and this was his first opportunity for ex-ploring the shore under the Tower. The lay of the land interested him keenly. With a measuring eye he glanced at the twin headlands that hemmed the cove, and he looked approvingly upon the still waters in the sheltered space between Then he the sheltered space between. Then he gazed upwards at as much as was visible of the house where he stayed.

encouragement. "As my dear friend Pengarvan would say, that is a 'bit of all-right.' The boxes will come down plumb, and not bump against the face of the cliff," he murmured, as he continued his walk along the desolate beach, now glancing seaward at the distant steamer track marked by the trails of smoke, now scanning the grim granite wall that hung over him on the landward side. Antonio Diaz no longer wore the

the landward side. Antonio Diaz no longer wore the rough sailor clothes in which he arrived at the Tower. He had on a well-cut suit of tweeds, a grey Homburg hat, good linen, and neat brown boots. The transformation dated back to the morning after his arrival, when he had astonished his hostesses by he had astonished his hostesses by coming down to breakfast in the garb of a gentleman. They were less sur-prised than they might have been, for it was only his appearance that was altered. At supper the night before his speech and manners had charmed them, Mrs. Pengarvan confiding to Hilda afterwards that Lance's mys-terious friend was "a dear." (To be continued.)

(To be continued.)



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There was little more than the pro-jection of a diamond-paned oriel winjection of a diamond-paned oriel win-dow, from which, as he stood imme-diately under it, a cord was paid out weighted with a chunk of stone. The latter, after clearing the few snags that jutted out from the sheer escarp-ment, touched ground almost at his feet, and was then drawn up again. The foreigner waited till the stone disappeared into the open casement, and then waved his hand at the un-seen manipulator of the rope. The gesture implied congratulation and encouragement. "As my dear friend Pengarvan would