

Some of the ship's crew had begun to work with axes on the roof of the cage which was a heavy wooden box. The fire began to smolder with the unusual power of approaching conflagration.

At this moment Mr. Wyville came forward and lifted the chains took in the whole scene. Every one gave way for him as he strode to the cage. The convict looked up, saw in the ultimate support of terror, the man who had been his friend.

He stood an instant looking at the fire—saw the mortal danger. In an instant more so earthly power could subdue the flames.

"What do you want?" asked Haggitt, in a low, steady voice.

"The silk curtains from the dining-room—quick!" answered Mr. Wyville in the same tone.

Next moment Haggitt was clearing a lane for himself through and over the crowd. He disappeared toward the cabin. They knew he would return, and the kept the way open for him.

In half a minute he flew back, in each hand a long red silk curtain, torn from the cabin window.

Mr. Wyville stood waiting for him, holding in his hand a heavy iron belpaying-pin, which he had taken from the rail. He took one of the curtains and tied it into a rope, and pushed one end through the bars.

This end he brought out four bars off, and around these four bars he wound both curtains, one after the other.

When the curtains were entirely wound in this way, he inserted the heavy iron rod between the folds, at the two central bars, and began to turn it end over end like a lever.

The first turn made the silk rope of the second strand in the third called out all the muscular power of the man. But there was nothing gained.

From the moment that Mr. Sheridan had recognized the man who had been his friend, he had been looking at him with a certain interest. He had seen him in the prison, and he had seen him in the court, and he had seen him in the street.

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