

a pair of quick steady perceptive grey eyes, he seemed to appraise mentally our several pecuniary values, and to calculate in what best and readiest fashion he might turn a quick profit out of our powerlessness. It was a worse ordeal than any of Rabelais' *Mauvais quart d'heure*, and, if there were a minority who neither blanched nor quailed, there were none devoid of intense anxiety. At last, turning from the farther end of the chain, the captain walked slowly and thoughtfully back, and, stopping full in front of the writer, asked peremptorily his name.

I said before that I had been grateful for the brandy. In my desperate Dutch courage I felt the full value of it now.

(To be continued.)

THE MYSTERIES OF FREEMASONRY.

Showing from the Origin, Nature and Object of the Rites and Ceremonies of Remote Antiquity their Identity with the Order of Modern Free-Masonry.

COMPILED FROM AUTHENTIC SOURCES BY R. W. BRO. OTTO KLOTZ.

"If circumstances lead me, I will find
Where Truth is hid, though it were hid indeed
Within the centre.

—SHAKESPEARE.

(Continued.)

THE EGYPTIAN MYSTERIES.—SYMBOLICAL WRITING.

The Egyptians, even the most ancient of them, were acquainted with the signs of the Zodiac. Their monuments which are known to be of the earliest antiquity, are covered with the several symbols of the Zodiac. The twelve symbolical names which signify the twelve portions both of the year and of the heavens, were a prodigious help towards regulating the beginnings of sowing, mowing, harvest, and the other works of mankind.

It was found very convenient, to expose in public a small figure or a single letter, to notify the exact time which certain general works were to be begun in common, and when certain feasts were to be celebrated. The use of these figures appeared so convenient that they by degrees extended it to more things than the order of the calendar. Several symbols, fit to inform the people of certain truths by some analogy or relation between the figure and the thing to be understood, were devised. This method of saying or showing one thing to intimate others, is what introduced among the Eastern nations the taste of allegories. They preserved for a long time the method of teaching everything under symbols, calculated by a mysterious outside to excite curiosity, which was afterwards recompensed by the satisfaction of having discovered the truths which they concealed.

Ham, and those of his descendants who came to inhabit the banks of the Nile and the whole Lower Egypt, first tried to cultivate the earth