The first telegraphed question be

What was he to say? Was it not

"Every one alive, but many cases of

Stanhope was again the signaler

"How are Constance and Enid?"

"Hope all is well?"

So be signaled:

expected the prompt reply:

"Quite well and cheerful."

grave collapse."

closer

right?"

her name.

came:

went on forlormly:

what can be done."

fied the anxious rescuers by a prophe-

cy of lingering death for many, with

excesses committed by men on the

to be told he would not flinch, but it

was a grateful thing that the hour of

A long message followed, a string of

northwest by west, the cross seas

ever built by man's lands to live in the

immediate vicinity of the rock.

tive and dangeron

tle while."

that.

ground of west a

exposure would make me very ill."

wished him to convey to Mr. Traill.

and the latter suified at the familiary,

her of the crowd on the Falcon.

all the flapdoodle they are printing."

on the women. By some means the

knowledge spread that they might all

upbraid its steadfastness with spoken

curses or unrestrained tears. The sauc-

tuary of one day was becoming the

the open windows. Everywhere was

roused from her metanology,

at the door of each room

open communication?"

vious evening.

THE Louis Tracy, Author of PILLAR of Wings of the LIGHT

inclined to be tearful. The dying light of day was still strong enough in the service room to

"No bad news, I hope?" he inquired, though the sight of Stephen Brand seated at his desk and placidly writ-

tent. "It is nothing of any consequence.

thought there was a bint of pain in his

"I am going to lose one of my girls.

"By flag wagging?" Pyne was natu-

"I-don't-know," said Pyne, punctuating each word with a deliberate nod. forwarded the application after an ac-

"They're two powerful fine girls said Pyne, steering clear of the point. They have just been telling me how Miss Enid happened along. It reads like a fairy tale.

ly-if all goes well here."

"I've cottoned on to both of them something wonderful. But, if I am not intruding into private affairs, how comes it that Miss Enid is being telegraphed for? Of course I can understand the gentleman being in a hurry. I would feel that way myself if the

Pype could be as stolld as a red Indian when the occasion demanded it.

"Have they said anything to you of man named Stanhope?" inquired the lighthouse keeper, resuming the entry in his diary after a sharp glance up-

ward this morning; in the navy, I think; fellow with a title and that sort of thing." mother's exceeding indignation, I fan-

ey." "That is where we on the other side have the pull of you."

"Have you? I wonder. However, Lady Margaret's views have not troubled me. I will deal with her when the time comes. At present it looks fairly certain that Master Jack has settled matters on his own account. I may be mistaken, of course. How do

He closed the journal and handed to Pyne a memorandum taken down letter by letter by a saflor as Brand read the signal:

"Mother sends her love to Enid." "Did mother ever convey her love

to Enid before?" asked Pyne.

my hat to Stanhope. He and mamma have had a heart to heart talk." Brand leaned his head on his hands.

with clinched fists covering his ears. There was a period of utter silence until the lighthouse keeper rose to light the lamp. Pyne watched him narrowly,

ground," he said at last. "If I am, you are not the sort of man to stand on ceremony. In the States, you know, when the authorities want to preserve a park section they don't say, 'Please do not walk on the grass.' They put up a board which reads, 'Keep off.' We never kick. We're used to it." "My notice board, if required, will

be less curt, at any rate," replied Brand, and they faced each other. Though their words were light, no pleasant conceit lurked in their minds. There was a question to be asked and answered, and it held the issues of life

"What did you mean just now by saying, 'If all goes well here?' Is there any special reason why things should

The young Philadelphian might have been hazarding an inquiry about a matter of trivial interest, so calm was he, so smooth his utterance. But Brand had made no mistake in estimating this youngster's force of char acter, nor did he seek to temporize. He extended an arm toward the reef

"You hear that?" he said.

"Yes."

"It may boil that way for weeks." "So I have been told."

"By whom?"

"Ah! He and I have discussed the matter already. Yet I imagine that neither he nor any other man in the place save myself grasps the trumeaning of the fact."

"I've been theorizing," said Pyne "It occurred to me that this light isn" here for amusement."

He looked up at the lamp and smiled The pillar in these days must have been a haunt of illusions, for Brand. like Constance and Pyne himself is the case of Mrs. Vansittart, though he caught an expression familiar t his eyes long before he had seen that clear cut, splendidly intelligent face.

But there was no time for idle specu lation. He glanced into the well of the stairs to make sure that no on

Then he approached nearer to Pyn and said in an intense whisper;

I have thing out, and now will take the watch from 8 until 12. At 12 you will relieve me and I will go below to secure provisions and water sufficient to maintain the lives of my daughters, you and myself for a few hours longer than the others. By right, if I followed the rules I have promised to obey, I alone should live. That is impossible. A Spartan might do it, but i cannot abandon my girls and yet retain my senses. I trust you because I must have a confederate. If the weather does not break before tomorrow night we must barricade the

stairs-and right-if necessary." His face was drawn and haggard, his eyes blazing. He shook as one in the first throes of fever. He seemed to await his companion's verdict with au overpowering drend lest any attempt should be made to question the justice

of his decree. 'Yes. I figured it out that way, too.' said Pyne. "It's queer, isn't it, to be in such a fix when there's all sorts of help within call, so to speak? We might as well be in a mine closed up

by an explosion. And, I'll tell you what. I'm real sorry for you." Brand, collapsing under the strain,

sank into a cheir. "It is an awful thing," he moaned, "to condemn so many men, women and children to such a death."

A spasm of pain made Pyne's lips tremulous for an instant. He had forgotten Elste and Mamie. But his voice was fully under con-

trol when he spoke again. "You can count on me in the deal in all but one thing," he said,

The older man looked up flercely What condition could be imposed in the fulfillment of a duty so terrible?

"I am here by chance," went on Pyne. "One of your daughters may have told you that Mrs. Vansittart came from New York to marry my uncle. Anyhow you would know she was dear to him by his message today. She is sort of in my charge, and I can't desert her. It's hard luck, as I don't care a cent for her. She's the kind of woman old men adore-fascinating, birdlike creatures when the cage is gilded."

Brand sprang to his feet and raced up to the trimming stage. When his hands were on the lamp he felt surer of himself. It gave him strength during the burrleane, and it would strengthen him now.

"There can be no exceptions," he said harshly. Pyne waited until the lighthouse keeper rejoined him.

"it to have put my proposition befor and made a speech afterward," he said, "Constance and Enid will foin you here when you say the word, but I will be on the other side of the barricade."

"Nonsense," cried Brand, "You have no right to thrust away the chance that is given you. You saved all these people once. Why should you die uselessly ?"

"What! way. Suppose we live a couple of weeks and escape. Am I to face the old man and tell him-the truth? No. sir. You don't mean it. You wouldn't do it yourself. What about that shark the girls told me of? I can guess just what happened. He wanted the light refreshment in the boat. Did you scoot back when you saw his fin? I'm a heap younger than you, Mr. Brand, but that bluff doesn't go."

Thank heaven, we have twenty-four. hours yet!" murmured Brand.

"It will be all the same when we have only twenty-four seconds. Let us fix it that way right now. Don't you see, it will be easier to deceive the girls? And there's another reason. Bara hard thing to keep threescore destake chances, will be helpful. Some of them may have to die quick, you

Brand closed his eyes in sheer affright. In that way he tried to shut out

"Be it so," he gasped. "May the Lord It was the responsibility that master

ed him. Judges on the bench often break down when they sentence a criminal to death, but what judge, humane, tender hearted and God fearing, ever pronounced the doom of seventy eight people snatched from a merciful death to be steeped in horrors?

At last his iron will predominated. The knowledge that the path of duty lay straight before him cheered his tortured soul. No man could say he erred in trying to save his children. That was a trust as solemn as any conferred by the Elder Brethren of the Trinity.

He placed a hand on Pyne's shoulder, for this youngster had become dear to "Had I a son," he said, "I should

wish him to be like you. Let us strive to forget the evils that threaten us. Plymouth. Brooding is useless. If need be you will take charge of the lower deck. There is starvation allowance for three more days at the worst, but I hate the thought of starting the new scale tomorrow.

"It may not be necessary."

"Candidly, I fear it will. I know the Cornish coast too well. When bad weather sets in from the southwest at this season it holds for a week at the lowest computation."

"Is there no other way? Can nothing be done out there?"

most experienced of engineers, have striven for half a century to devise some means of storm communication with a rock lighthouse placed as this is. They have falled. There is none."

"That's good," cried Pyne pleasantly. "Where is your pouch? I feel like a smoke. If I hadn't fired that question at you I should have wasted a lot of time in hard thinking."

Brand had to scheme that night to to notice in the poor light of the prereach the storeroom unobserved. The Falcon, steaming valiantly to her observation post near the buoy, aided him considerably. He permitted the pight watch to gather in the service room while he supplied the men with one mouths to feed from a stock altobacco and stationed the officer on the ready far below the three months' gallery to observe the trawler in case maximum. she showed any signal lights.

stance gave the key to her father after each visit. For the rest, the inmates of the pillar were sunk in the lethargy of unsatisfied hunger. Constance and Enid, utterly worn out with fatigue. were sound asleep in the kitchen, and the tears coursed down the man's face tection of the light? He could not as he acted the part of a thief in securing the measured allowance of flour full explanation that instant. and bacon for one meal. The diet of



"Had I a son I should wish him to be

like you." one hungry meal for eighty-one people gave twenty-seven hungry meals for He ought to have taken more. but he set his teeth and refused the ungrateful task.

loving words from relatives ashore to those known to be imprisoned on the rock. During the merely perfunctory. ten days! That is all. Pray heaven I reading off of the signals his active

may not go mad before they die!" Pyne, watching the light, knew that Brand had succeeded. The Falcon went. Gradually the watch dispersed. "Where is the board?" asked Pyne.

apparatus. As opportunity offered Brand trans ferred the tins to the lockers of the service room. Pyne, who missed nothing, shook his head when it became evident that the last consignment was

safely stored away, "Not much there," he commented. "I will take no more!" was the fierce

You ought to." "I refuse, I tell you! Don't torture

ing? The purser and Mr. Emmett mount guard when the storeroom is opened.

"I noted my role well. I built up the vacancies with empty tins." stenmer. "My sakes," eriod Pyne pityingly, "you deserve to win through?"

needs adjusting. springing up. The wind vane having gone, the index was useless. It was not until a burst of spray dreuche I the lanteen that Brand knew of a change taking place. The wind was backing

round toward the north. The barometer fell slightly. It portended either more wind and dry weather or less wind, accompanied by rain. Who could tell what would happen? Fair or foul, hurricane or caim. all things seemed to be the ungovern-

would endeavor to sleep until dayricade and shoot as you like, it will be break. Rest was essential to him. He would assuredly break down under the perate men boxed up down below, strain if the tension were too long mental and physical.

"Here have I been snoozing in odd corners ever since I came aboard," urged the American, "and I have nothing to do but starve quietly. It's ridiculous. My funeral is dated; yours isn't. You can't be on deck all the time, you know. Now, just curl up and count sheep jumping over a wall, or any old game of the sort, until your

eyes close of their own accord." boards, with a chair cushion for a pillow. All the rugs rescued by Constance were now needed in the hospital. In less than a minute he was sound asleep.

"That was a close call," mused Pyne. "In another hour be would have cracked up. He's a wonder anyhow.'

after daybreak. Pyne refused to allow any one to disturb him. Soon after 7 o'clock the watch reported that two vessels were approach-

ing from the bay. One was the Falcon, and the sailors soon made out that the other was the Trinity tender from When they were both nearing the buoy Brand was aroused

It was evident that the brief rest had cleared his brain and restored his self

confidence. Instantly he took up the thread of events, and his first words showed how pleased he was that some one of authority in the lighthouse service should be in active communication with him. Through his glasses he distinguished Stanbope on board the Trinity steam-

er, standing by the side of the inspecting officer of the south coast lights. Other officials were there, but near Stanhope was a tall elderly man, unknown and certainly a stranger in Pengance. The Falcon was now chartered by press men, so the civilian on the official

son is allowed to eat far less than these men have been given, and the deprivation is not felt at all." What will become of us, Constance, if we are detained here for many days?"

hard to realize things beforehand. And

they have nothing to do. They are

brooding all the time. We are slaves

to our imagination. Many a sick per-

real starvation."

"Dear one, do not ask me. We must not think of such things."

He knew quite well that the experiscrap of food just now, and"enced chief of the lighthouse service "Hush, dear, Let us pray-and hope." would appreciate fully the disabilities There was a clatter of feet down the fron stairs. The men of the watch under which he inbored, with eightywere husting to unbar the iron door. A solidly built, circuiar raft had been lowered from the Trinity tender.

An assistant keeper, wearing a cork jacket, with a rope about his waist. was clinging to a stumpy mast in the center. Two stout guide ropes were and Pype's face was extraordinarily manipulated from the deck of the vessel, and the flat, unwieldy mass of timber was slowly drifting nearer to ky. Get a hustle on with every empty the lighthouse with the tide.

The door of the column opened toward the east, so the wind, with its whirl, however, pelting sheets of spray, was almost in granite shaft itself afforded some de- difficulties in the way of garnering the gree of protection for the entrance.

The scheme signaled from the steamer evidently he had arranged matters with was a good one. None but a lunatic the admiral at Portsmouth-so Brand raft might be made to drift near half a gallon. enough to the door to permit a grapuel to be thrown across the rope held by The tall man near Stanhope bent the gallant volunteer on the raft.

It was his duty to attach the two "Are Mrs. Vansittart and Pyne all ropes and thus render it possible for a stronger line to be drawn from the Brand assumed that the lady was in no worse condition than others. Con- vessel to the pillar. There was no other way. The lighthouse did not possess a rope of sufficient length to be drawn back by the raft without the interven-

This was precisely the puny, half despairing dodge that the reef loved to play with. Catlike, it permitted the queer, flat bottomed braft to approach almost within hall. Then it shot forth justified: "We are constructing a raft. When a claw of furious surf, the heavy raft the tide falls this afternoon we will try was picked up as if it were a floating eather, turned clean over and flung Ah, how glad he was that he had not nany fathoms out to sea, while both f its guiding cables were snapped obeyed his earlier impulse and herri-

with contemptuous case. The assistant keeper, kept affoot by his lacket, was bauled, half drowned, the prelude, perchance, of murderous back through the choking froth, while verge of madness. If that story had the wave which overwhelmed the raft wied up a spiteful tongue and almost

men stationed in the doorway. With a clang the iron shutter was ched into its place, and when the illor was rescued the Trinity boat steamed away to try to secure the

So Joyous hope gave way once more magic under a change of wind." to dark foreboding, and the only comfrom the parting signal:

CHAPTER XIII.

which would sweep the reef and engulf the Hghthouse at half tide would ren-ISCIPLINE slackened its bonds der it wildly impossible for any raft that night. For one thing, Mr. Emmett fell iii. Although inured to hardship in the ele-However, the issue law with others mental strife, being of the stocky marnow. He knew that they would do all oner race which holds the grutt Atlantic that brave men would dare. He was In no dread, he had never before been tempted to make known the inspiring called on to eat sodden bread, to drink news to all hands, but refrained, becondensed steam dayored with varnish cause he feared ultimate failure. Be- and to chew sustenance from the rind neath his feet was a human volcano, of raw bacon. These drawbacks, add-Stirred too deeply, it might become aced to the lack of exercise and the constant wearing of clothes not yet dry, So the another multitude in his

charge, hungrily awaiting a scanty Again there were ominous whispers morsel of food which only provoked of unfair division in the matter of what it failed to gratify, must rest, food. It was not within the realm of content with the long statement writaccomplishment that the purser, Conten out by the purser and read by him stance, Enid and others who helped to apportion the entables could treat all Pyne took to Mrs. Vansittart the nlike. Some fared better than others news of his uncle's presence on the in quality if not in quantity. The unfortunate ones growled and talked of

"If you would like to see him," he favoritism, said, "I have no doubt Mr. Brand will A crisis was reached when the seclet you stand on the gallery for a lit- and officer mustered the night watch, When one sheep leads the others will She declined, excusing baself on the follow. A stout German from Chicago

asked bluntly: "Vere's de goot of blayin' at mound-"In this him wind," she said, "it will ! be very cold out there, and any further in gart? Dere is bud von ting to gart,

und dat is der kidehen." Community of interest caused many to huddle closer to him. Here was one instructions only full fully to Brand thought the circumstances warranted

more gentle methods. "Why are you dissatisfied?" he stern-"Time enough to taink of such things when we are assured of the indy's de. ly demanded. "What do you suspect? parture," he said, and they left it at Are you fool enough to imagine that you are being cheated by people who

Thinking to interest her. Pyne told are dividing their last crust with you?" "How do ve know dat? Dose girls-"Mostly reporters, Brand chinks," he

"You unmitigated ass!" said the disbe more fun than a box of monkeys to get hold of this week's news and read all the flandocelle they are unintaged three people. They have fed eighty-But Mrs. Vansittart was not to be one of us for two days and will keep She us going several more days. Can't you figure it out? Isn't it a miracle? dreaded the least physical suffering. Here! Who's for guard and who not? Privation was a new thing in her life. Let us quit fooling.' Today she was inert, timid, a woman

And the doubters were slienced for who cowered away from the door and the hour.

The hymn singer endeavored to raise leave her to the quiet misery of the a chorus. He was not greeted with en-As the day passed, a wearlsome iterthuslasm, but a few valiant spirits ation of all that had gone before, a came to his assistance. A couple of new feature in the relations of the hymns were feebly rendered - and again silence.

when he entered the service room to groups. An inconsolable gloom settled find Brand trimming the spare lamp. "Not tonight," said Brand.

"Why not? Hell may break loose at any moment downstairs." starve to death in the heart of this cold "What has occurred? I heard something of a dispute when the watch mus-

tered at 8 o'clock." "Things are worse now. One of the men found a gallon of methylated spirit

mon terror once when the men of the others quarrelsome. The next thing will be a combined rush for the store-

> "But why did not the second officer tell me?"

room.

"Enid," she whispered, "did you see "He thought you had troubles enough. the light in their eyes? What is it? If he could depend on the remainder of the crowd he would rope the sinners. "It must be so, yet it is almost unbelievable. They are far removed from Says he knows a slave knot that will make 'em tired." "One would think so. But it is so

"The fools," he said, "and just as the weather is mending too." "You don't mean that?"

He glanced up at the glass dome.

Heavy drops were pattering on it. They looked like spray, but Pyne shouted gleefully: "Is it rain?"

sel. By spreading canvas sheets we

"But dad is thinking of them. I hard, Moreover, it will beat the sea watched his face when I took him a down. Man alive, this may mean salvation! Tie those weaklings and summon every sober man to help."

With a whoop, Pyne vanished, met Constance on the stairs, coming to who shall say when they reach man's see her father before she stretched her weary limbs on the hard floor of the kitchen.

She never knew exactly what took place. It might have been politeness, but it felt uncommonly like a squeeze, close to hers as he crisal:

"It's raining. No more canvas whis-

ressel."

He need not have been in such a When the shower came it did not the opposite quarter, and the stout last very long, and there were many thrice blessed water. In the first place,

the lighthouse was expressly designed to shoot off all such external supplies; would endeavor to approach the rock in the second, the total quantity ob-Itself, but there was a chance that the tained did not amount to more than But it did a great deal of good in other ways. It brightened many faces,

it caused the drunkards to be securely trussed like plucked fowls and dumped along the walls of the entrance passage, and it gave Brand some degree of hope that the rescue operations of the next day would be more successfini

When the rain cleared off the moon flickered in a cloudy sky. This was a further open of better fortune. Perhaps the lingling rhyme of Admiral Fitzrov's barometer was about to be

Long foretold. Long last; Short notice, Seen past.

And the hurricane had given but elight warning of its advent.

"I feel it in my bones that we shall all be as frisky as lambs tomorrow," said Pyne when he rejoined Brand after the scurry caused by the rain had passed

"We must not be too sanguine. There is a chance now, I won't deny that, but the sea is treacherous."

"This reef licks creation. At Ban Harbor, in Maine, where a mighty big sea can kick up in a very few hours. I have seen it go down again like

"That is quite reasonable. Any ordifort was the faint one to be extracted nary commotion has room to spread itself in the tideway. Here the tide is broken up into ocean rivers, streams with boundaries as definite as the Thames. The main body sweeps up into the bottle neck of the channel. Another tributary comes round the the tidal stream again exactly at this is a race over the rock that would break up a stranded battleship."

"Say, do you like this kind of life?" "I have given my best years to it." Pyne was smoking a pipe, one which Brand lent him. The tobacco was a capital substitute for food, especially as he had established a private understanding with Elsle and Mamie that they were to waylay him when possi-

carried in his pocket. This arrangement was to be kept a and silent headlands. strict secret from all, especially from | He had been happy, as men count

sive benefit

arded between puffs. "It may be so, but I like the service."

'Are you a marine engineer?" quired Brand, with some show of in-

"I hold a certificate just for fun. I It play. But I am an idler by profes-

gratified. Polite disbelief may be a and even dreaded? compliment.

"An iller, ch? You do not strike me as properly classed." "it's the fact, nevertheless, grandfather was pleased to invest a few dollars in real estate on the sheep farm where Manhattan avenue now

had the other half." "Are both of your parents dead?" "Yes; years ago; lost at sea, too, on my father's yacht."

stands. My uncle has half; my mother

"What a terrible thing!" "It must have been something like time. My uncle lost his wife and child. too, when the Esmeralda went down,

he would marry again, but I suppose he's tired of being alone." "Probably. By the way, now that you mention it, Mrs. Vanshtart wished to see me yesterday. I could not spare a moment, so I sent her a civil mes. | notoriety, bringing in its train certain sage. She told Constance that she

thought she knew me." "Hardly likely," smiled Pyne, "if you have passed nearly the whole of your life in lighthouses,"

husband's name, many years ago." "She is a nice woman in some ways," said Pyne reflectively. "Not quite my sort, perhaps, but a lady all the time. States about '90, I think, and lost her hubby on a ranch in California. Any-

how, the old man is dead stuck on her,

and they ought to hit it off well to-

gether. The Vansittart you knew didn't happen to marry a relative of yours?" No. He was a mere acquaintance." "Odd thing." ruminated Pyne. "It has just occurred to me that she resembles your daughter-your elder daughter-not so much in face as in style. Same sort of graceful figure, only a trifle smaller."

"Such coincidences often happen in the human family. For instance, you are not wholly unlike Enid."
"Hully gee," said Pyne, "I'm too run

down to stand flattery!" "Likeness is often a matter of envi

cial rank, sonk in through the skin quite as sensibly as they are conferred by heredity. Take the plowman's son and rear him in a royal palace, furn the infant prince into a pensant, and estate, "This is the true king." You will remember it was said of the Emperor Augustus, Urbem Interition invenit mormoream reliquit (He found the city brick; he left it murble). The same noble result may be obtained in every

The college bred youth had not entered into any general conversation with Brand before. He had the tuet now to conceal his astonishment at the manner of his friend's speech.

"You fling heredity to the winds, then?" he nelead

Brand rose to his feet, as was his when deeply moved.

Thank God, yes!" te cried. A faint hoot came to them through

"One of our visitors," shouted Brand, "and here we are gossiping as though sungly seated in armchairs at the fire-

an oliskin coat.

I'll play ball with my father-in-law,

This time it was the Falcon alone, and she signaled with a lamp that it was deemed best to defer active operations until the following afternoon. The tide at dawn would not suit. She went off, and the two men returned to the grateful shelter of the

Thus far the inhabitants of the lighthouse had been given quite enough nutriment to maintain life. There was no reason why any, even the most dellcate, should be in real danger during the next forty-eight hours. But selentific reasoning and the animal justiness of mankind clash at times; in that lay the danger whose sullen shadow was deepening the lines in the corners of Brand's eyes,

some men of the watch visited him to report that all was well below. Some plifully sober now; the others were maudlin. Beyond the few words ounorth of the Scilly isles and runs into changed on this and kindred topics he was left alone with his thoughts point. The result often is that, while throughout the silent watch. Pyna little pleasure bonts can safely run slept heavily. Glancing at times at out into the bay from Penzance, there the youngster's stalwart ligure and firm, handsome face. Brand found him self reviewing the buried years. Ha thought of the days when he, too, looked forth on the world with the stern enthusiasm of triumphant youth.

He wondered, if the decades rolled back, would be decide a second time to abandon the fine career which lay at ble and nibble a piece of biscuit he his feet and withdraw his grief and his talents to the seclusion of lonely rocks

> He harbored no delusions on this point. He knew that the drama of the Gulf Rock was now filling the columns of newspapers all over the world. He and his beloved girls would be written about, discussed, described in fulsome language, pictured by black and white artists and culogized by wideawake editors eager to make much of a topic

dear to the public mind. On the rock they were undoubtedly in grave danger. Death confronted them-death at once extraordinary and that. I was only six years old at the ghastly. No tyrant of the middle ages, with all his paraphernalia for wringing truth or lies out of cringing It nearly killed him. I never thought wretches, had devised such a fate as threatened if the inconstant sea should choose to render the reef altogether unapproachable for many days. Yet f help came he and those dear to him were already steeped in unavoidable vague disabilities which he had striven

> out of the many he had endured sprang into being at a moment when his mates were incapacitated and his daughters happened to pay him a surprise visit.

"It is an insane freak of fortune," he muttered, "so incomprehensible, so utterly out of focus with common events, She is not an American. Came to the that if I were a superstitious man I should regard it as betokening the approach of some great epoch in my life. Surely, a merciful Providence would not bring my girls here to subject them to the lingering torture of hunger and thirst. I must not think of it further. That way lies madness."

> soul on the rock which divined some sinister portent in the storm. Mrs. Vansittart, even at this moment, was staring into the black void with questioning eyes. He resolutely threw back his nead as

If he would hurl into the outer dark-

ness the gibbering phantom which whispered these words of foreboding. stage merely to a

adjustment, and, to judge how the

was ascending.

YNE found Enid rosy red and I will tell you what I have decided. I

permit these things to be seen.

ing was reassuring The question steadied her to an ex-

she said and darted past him. Brand looked up from his journal He smiled, though the American

he said. "Oh, no: this is not a loss by death, but by marriage. If I were a Frenchman I would describe it as gaining a son. Enid has just received what is tantamount to a proposal."

rally astounded. "Yes. You would not expect one of the people from the Chinook to be so enterprising."

"Well, in any case, I would not have quaintance of eighteen hours," observed Brand, with equal deliberation.

"She was given to me by the winds and waves, yet she is dear to me as my own child. I chall miss her great-

conditions were favorable." Brand found no hint in his face of the tildden thought in his words.

"Y-yes. They pointed him out to me "No. His mother is Lady Margaret Stanhope, being an earl's daughter, but his father was a knight. He has been paying attentions to Enid for a year and more to my knowledge and to his

you interpret this?"

"Then I call that neat. I take off

"I may be trespassing on delicate

not go well?

"Mr. Emmett told me."

"Able men, the best of sailors, the

Since the attempt on the lock Con- trayed the prevalent anxiety. best to speak boldly and let men know the truth, not alone as to their present desperate plight, but revealing the measures he had devised for the promake up his mind to launch out into a

its telling might at least be deferred. It is offfimes easy for a man to deelde upon a set course, but hard to follow it. "A week!" he murmured, "Perhaps

making believe that they were playing some comedy. "Hilden in the kitchen lockers, I could obtain only distilled water. You must persuade the girls in the morning that something went wrong with the

me further.' "Any chance of a row in the morn

"I think my heart will break." muttered Brand, "But look! The lamp! It Indeed, a fresh gale seemed to be

able blundering of blind chance, When the rock was left in peace after the fall of the tide Pyne promised to keep the light in order if Brand

When they begin to diet on colza there | maintained, and a time was coming will be trouble. A few of us, ready to when he would need all his strength,

packed bedroom. Brand yielded. He lay on the hard

The lighthouse keeper slept until long dungeon. They began to loathe it, to

silence and suspicion. watch escorted the bearer of a tray load of provisions to the occupants of the coal cellar. Does hunger look that way?"

boat was evidently a person of consequence. Indeed, Brand imagined, long before Pyne was able to verify the impression, that the newcomer was Mr. Cyrus J. Traill, whom he had faffed

stance, telling him the state of the sick during a hasty visit, had not mentioned So he sent the needed assurance and tion of some human agency. "Suppose no effort can be made to To his great surprise the answer

consided in dragging out several of

mind was canvassing the probabilities of success or fallure for the venture of the afternoon. It was high water about 3 o'clock, and, in his indement, with "Will try again next tide." the wind in its present cuarter, about

placed him on the sick list.

"That's true enough." he agreed, though he wondered why she raised no question concerning the message she who dared to say what they all thought. Their feet shuffled in sup-Had she forgotten the unways of her port. The other, faithful to his trust, words overnight? He had carried her was tempted to fell the man, but he days,"

said. "What a story they will build day. Dey can'd do dat und be hungry up in the New York papers! It will like us,"

was obviously anxious that he should crowded community made itself disa-"Say when," observed Pyne calmly greeably apparent. Men drew apart from each other singly or in small

tomb of the next. No longer was there competition to look at land or sea from in the workshop.' "Good heavens! Did he drink any of settling down a pall of blank, horrible "He and his mates have emptied the tin. Eight are helplessly drunk, the Even Constance vielded to the com-

Brand's eyes glistened.

"Yes. I was just going to summon

healthy child properly educated."

the choriling of the wind.

Ride:

He hurried to the gallery, putting on "We must win through, and I gue a

quoth Pyne to himself as he followed.

Service room Brand forbade further talk, Pyne must rest now and relieve him at a o'clock. The youngster needed as feather bed; he was asieep in annalingly quick time. There is a supper less hunger which keeps people awaks at night with a full larder in the Louise The crude article differs from the cui tured one so greatly that the rean who hungers of necessity cannot sleep too much:

givery hour the officer on duty and the less drunken mutineers were

Long forgotten ghosts were resurrected, shattered ideals built up again.

Miss Constance and Miss Enid, while happiness, during the decades. No the little ones themselves did not know | cloud had arisen to mar the complete that the she dragons whom Pyne content of his life. The blossoming of feared so greatly gave them surrepti- the girls into delightful womanhood was tions doses from the last tin of con- an increasing joy to him, and it was densed milk, retained for their exclu- passing strange that his little household should be "Do you mind my saying that you pool of events in the very hour when are a good bit of an enigma?" he haz- their domesticity seemed to be most assured. The changeful moods of the elements found no counterpart in his "Just so. I was never so happy as nature. He, knowing the sea, did not when I took a trip as fourth englower expect it to remain fixed in one aspect, on a tramp in the gulf of Florida. But Whether in calm or storm, the conthat didn't signify being tied to a long trary would surely happen ere many nosed offer for the remainder of my days had passed. But life was a different thing. How came it that at the very close of so many years of assocircion with the fickle ocean she should play such a trick on him and his daughters, infold them with perils, had a mechanical twist in me and gave snarch them from the quiet pleasures of the life they had planned for the future and thrust upon them, even if The lighthouse keeper inughed so they escaped with their lives, a pubdey are chokin' mit Mr. Pyne all der traturally that the younger man was licity which he, at any rate, abhorred

to avoid for over twenty years. And all this because one fierce gale "I did not quite mean to convey that impression. I knew a man of her late

There was at least one other troubled

Although the lamp needed no attention just then, he climbed to the trimming ical action. He carefully examined the

the watch to help in filling every vesronment. Characteristics, mannerisms, the sub-e distinctions of class and socan gather a large supply if it rains