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A MATTER OF JUSTICE.

(Concluded From Yesterday.)

"It takes a lot more than a mere nigger with his head in a noose to scare me," said Kettle.

"What rifles? No, nobody's said 'rifles' to me, did they?"

"Supposing they were rifles, what then?"

"Oh, he expected me to broach cargo and bring them here ashore to him."

"The deuce you do. And who might you be, anyway?"

"I'm sure the prophet's welcome to you, 'Look here, my man. Pass down a rope's end from aloft there, and let me get on deck, and I'll give you a sovereign cash down and a berth in my steamboat's stowhole if you want more."

"Does he, indeed? Then you can tell him Mr. Nagley runs a bank here."

"You impudent black cannibal. You'll be one of the animals those passenger lines carry along to eat the dead babies to save the trouble of leaving them overboard."

"I wonder what spifficating is?" mused Kettle, but he did not remain cudgeling his brain over this for long. It occurred to him that if this negro could come and go so handily to the outside of this underground prison there must be a stairway somewhere near, and though he could not enlarge the slit to get at it that way it might be possible to burrow a passage under the wall itself.

posed him. He found and scraped his only remaining match and saw that he was in another bottle shaped chamber, similar to the one he had left, but in this there was a doorway. There was pungent smoke here also, and though its slenderness came to him as a blessed relief after what he had been enduring, he lusted desperately for a taste of the pure air outside.

The door gave way to his touch, and he found a stair. He ran up this and stepped out into the corridor where Rad had lured him to capture, and then walking cautiously by the wall so as not to step into any more bottle traps he came to the place where he calculated from their conversation, Murray would be lurking.

There was no sound of any kind, but he was not to be lulled by the silence. He was not to be lulled by the silence. He was not to be lulled by the silence.

"But Murray, in the other prison, had smelled the reef before and was able to put a name to it promptly."

"What are you working at?"

"The deuce you do. And who might you be, anyway?"

"I'm sure the prophet's welcome to you, 'Look here, my man. Pass down a rope's end from aloft there, and let me get on deck, and I'll give you a sovereign cash down and a berth in my steamboat's stowhole if you want more."

"Does he, indeed? Then you can tell him Mr. Nagley runs a bank here."

"You impudent black cannibal. You'll be one of the animals those passenger lines carry along to eat the dead babies to save the trouble of leaving them overboard."

They fell upon Rad el Moussa placidly resting among the cushions of the divan, with the stem of the water pipe between his teeth and his mind (probably) figuring out plans of campaign in which the captured rifles would be an astonishing work.

Kettle had no revolver in open sight, but Rad had already learned how readily that instrument could be produced on occasion, and had the wit to make no show of resistance.

"Now, Mr. Rad el Moussa, I advise you to understand what's going to be said to you now, so that it'll be a lesson to you in the future."

"I came to you not very long ago, asking for your card to the captain, but you say business was about the mate here, and you said you were calling yourself. Whether you are or not, I don't know, and I don't really care, but anyway I paid for justice in hard money, and you said you'd give up the mate. Now, Rad el Moussa, I advise you to understand what's going to be said to you now, so that it'll be a lesson to you in the future."

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