

THE let CHAPTER
Dramatic Meeting - The
Ship - The Anchor's Weigh

ONDON was at lunch; the streets in the business and commercial quarters were falled with a seething crowd of all sorte and conditions of people, freed for one brief hour from the totl and worry of the office and shop; and in every establishment devoted to the supply of refreshments waiters and waitresses had braced themselves for the rush."

"the rush." It is neighbours, a levie, unpretentions, yet cosy and separative restaurant in one of the streets near Charing Cross which run down from the Strand to the river, was struggling in the throes of "the rush." Watters basiled cryptic messages through a speaking-tube which doubtless led to the matterious regions below; others raced to and fro with pulse of dahes, in a manuter which mught have turned any crdinary juggler green with envy, the ideals of a score of different dahes was wafted now and again through the place, as fresh supplies were sent up on the little elevator. Scarce a seast was vacant at the tables, and it ecoursed as if every man there had but one object in life—to finish bis meal and get out. But in one corner, at a table large enough to aeromized at a service with a season, and the food before them.

Athletic in appearance, bronsed, and well dressed, they presented a servicing appearance. The face of each was frank and open, and the features so similar that one might have been exclude for presuming them to be shorted and positive of the service No less busy than its neighbours

"Rick Hearn, or I'm a Dutch-man."
"Ted Howards"
Two pairs of hands shot across the table and met in a firm grip of friend-ship, and they shock there so long over the plates that a waiter, who had been watching them, found himself in a serious dilemma as to whether it would not be expedient to inform the manager that "them two swell coves in the corner and gone off their rads, sit, and would e call in the places!"

pleace!"

However, he was mercifully released from this position, and admitted to himself that "p'raps they was all right," when Rick and Ted, having recovered from the pleasant surprise of meeting, had subsided into a ranonal demeanour.

of meeting, had subsided into a rational demeanage, "To think that after all these years we should meet again!" urold Ted. "Why, we were little kids at Boldwin, and the season of the sade to be meeting to the sade to the following. And a full half-hour's reminiscences of the slid school life followed; of their joys, perty corrows, their pranks, their ambitions, and their determinations to follow all kinds of preferences when grown up, each of the slid were to bring both fame and wealth beyond the dreams of avaries. Of boys they had known. How clover young highy was a cierk at two possess a week. How dones, the dance, had made a ferture in the

coal bunness. How Watson, who declared his life would only be tolerable in the Army, where deeds of dering do might be committed by him to the astonahment of the world and glory of his country, was at that moment quietly conducting a first class butcher's business, as being the most bloodthirsty profession a man of four-floot-rine could shine in. How this, how that. The restaurant was empty ere they left for Ted's chambers in the Adelphi.
"Now look here, Rick, my boy," said Ted, as they settled down to eigers and cool dripks. "Now that we have run across each other again, I don't intend to lose sight of you. Therefore, as I am just about to go for a crusso in my new yacht, the Seamew, you've got to come with me."

A perceptible shudder passed over

for a cruse in my new yacht, the Seamew, you've got to come with me."

A perceptible shudder passed over Rick Hearn, and his face became clouded as he snawered, in a sad tone which contrasted satchingly with his previous gasets:

"I can't. Ted, old chap. I'd go to the ends of the earth with you, you know, but not if it emailed a seavoyage. No, don't stop me "—as Tod was shout to interrupt—"let me get it, over quiselly, and never refer to it again. Two years ago, my poor old dad, with his ship, the Orinoco, was foot in the Parific Cosan. The shock of the news pearly turned my brain, and I have never been able to look at the sea since without a terrible feeling of sorrow. Don't renew the subject, Peasa."

But Ted was not to be so easily thwarted.

"And fet you go melancholy mad," he said. "I should be a true chum to de that—now wouldn't I' Look here, Rick, I've made up my mind you're coming, and I usever unmake my mind."

At first Rick refused to listen, but gradually Ted's wiser counsels prevailed, and as he saw he was making beadway, he added the one climber necessary to his arguments.

"Besiden," he concluded, "you say it was only two years ago your father was lost, and that he was trading with the natives of some almost unknown islands, out of the besten track of ships. Well, before giving way to despair, did it not strike you to hope."

"What can I hope?"

despair, did it not strike you to hope!"
"What can I hope!"
"Why, that the Orinoco has foundered among those islands, the whole crew landed, and unable aworld!"
"You think that familias!" and

whose crew landed, and unable ayos to communicate with the civilized world!"

"You think that feasible?" asked Rick, starting up from his seat. "You really believe there is hope?"

"As an amsteur kind of seaman, I do believe so." said Ted. "And, if you'll only agree to it, we'll go straight off to the owners of the Orinoco and obtain a rough idea of where the vessel was supposed to be bound for. Then, with that information in our pookes, Rick, my hoy "slapping him on the beek, and graphing him had to a hearty shakened to the season will you!"

"I will. Ted; and a thousand heartfelt thanks to you for the new hope you've given me, and for your promised help in the swarch for my poor dad."

"Well well." said Ted. waving off the thanks. "I'm glad I've made you see seens, anyway. Rick. Now, I've got a plan of procedure whereby our task will be much lightened."

"Teil me," said Rick, brightening."

a cargo of cheap Brummagem jowellers, heads, etc., and trade with the natives. In that way we will not only stand a much better chance of hearing news of the lost Orinoco and crew, but we will make a substantial profit on the trip."

Rick was delighted, and not until they parted at midnight did they stop for one moment talking over the projected trip and the prospects of success.

By a Popular Author.

On the following day Rick and Tedrepaired together to the offices of Matthew Blake—the owner of the ill-lated Ornoco—in Leadenhall Street. Mr. Blake was in, and in a more agreesive and disagreeable mood than Rick had ever before seen him. Within the memory of his oldest clerk. Matthew Blake never had been affable, but on this particular morning he was in a terrible mood.

"Well," he said, as Rick and Tedwere ushered in. "What can I do for you? State your business hriefly and quicelly, for I'm busy. Come. what is it?"

for you? State you.
and quickly, for I'm busy. Come,
what is it?"
"Our business can be stated very
briefly," said Ted coolly, "and can
be speedily disposed of, Mr. Matthew
Blake. The gentleman is the son of
Captam Hearn, of the Orinoce, and
he and I wish to look over the chart
of that ill-fated vessel's route. That
is all"
"Oh, be hanged" snapped Blake.
"The thing went down a couple of

of that ill-lated vessel's route. That is all "Oh. be hanged!" snapped Blake. "The thing went down a couple of years ago, and the matter is elessed! "Still, you have the chart." persated Ted. "And suppose I tell you I won't show it, and that you may go and mind your own business!" "In that case I have two remarks to make to you. Mr. Matthew Blake. Firstly, it is our business. Secondly—Llord's Now, come. Be reasonable, and don't put us to further trouble than is necessary, or, coffin-ship owner as you are. I'll—"Enough, enough!" cried Blake. "It was not my intention to betray a gentleman into degrading humself with such language. I um a pescable, man. I spologise if I was hasty, and hope you will also—"I am sorry," began Ted, when Blake cut him short with "Welk, well, least said, soobest mended. You shall have the chart, and if you can only discover the Orizoco and care the salvage, you will be welcome to it." As he spoke, Matthew Blake went to a safe and took therefrom a pieco of folded parchment, which he handed to Ted Howard.
"Thank you, Mr. Blake," said Ted."

hank you, Mr. Blake," said Ted. " L

Rap-rap-rap!

He was interrupted by a series of knuckle knocks on the deor, following close upon which a stout, rubicund individual, with a smiling face, and wearing seafaring garb, entered. "Matthew Blake, abny!" he cried cheerily, pulling his forelock. "Ben Bowline's outen a ship."

"And what the dickens has that to do with me, you loading humbug!" roared Blake. "How dire you bourned into my private room thus, and interrupt me when I am—"

"Pardon, sir, no harm meant. Only want a ship, sir. You know Bon Bowline, sir, Don't be offended."

Blake almost ecreamed the word, as, patting his hands on his desk, he stood up, leaned forward, and glared at the untruder.

"Confound you, sir! Get out of "Confound you, sir!" Get out of "Confound you sir!" Get out of "C

Blase almost ecreamed the word, ar, putting his hauds on his desk, he stood up, leaned forward, and glared at the intruder.

"Confound you, sir! Get ous of my office! And he hauged to you for an incompetent ne'er do well!"

"You'll hexcuse me, Mr. Blake," retorted Bowline, "by! I've got good dascharges from every vessel. I've bin aboard, and, though I sails as mate, I holds a master ecrtificate, and—"Ere the sailor could finish his contence, Matthew Blake, in a paroxyam of rage, burled a beary metal inkastand full at his face.

With an adroit movement the sailor threw himself forward, allowing the missile to pass harmlessly over his head and smash, with a found crash, upon the linted of the door beyond. In another second he had disappeared through the door behaviour of the shipower—and having the required chart in their possession—"Ted and Rick left the office, with a scarcely-nurmured "good-day." At the foot of the sairs Ben Bowline was standing, chucking to himself, and looking the very supersonation of good-humour, notwithstanding the disappeachie the propersonation of good-humour, notwithstanding the disappeachie the propersonation of good-humour, notwithstanding the disappeachie the very supersonation of good-humour, notwithstanding the disappeachie the propersonation of good-humour, notwithstanding the disappeachie type of the sailor of the sailor of the supersonation of good-humour, notwithstanding the disappeachie type of the sailor o

Still, you'd take a mate's berth."

Still, you'd take a mate's berth."

Would, sir; and be thankful for it."

Then call on me to-morrow morn-

ing at ten o'clock, and I'll formal,

ing at ten occess, and in terming engage you as more of the Swamer said Ted. "Here is my card." And without another word the chuns left the jolly sailorman, and made their way to Ted's fedgings, where Rick had taken up his quarter. On the following day, Ben Boxims

On the following day, bon Bonized duly put in an appearance, was engaged, and, when the carge of Brute magen was safely stowed in the hold the Scamew set sail for the Partie Islands, where a small fortune was to be made, and where Rick Hearn was to seek his father.

THE 2nd CHAPTER Ocean Mystery - Muting rd-The Mutineer's Legacy I DON'T understand it!

"It is a mystery to me Cannot you suggest some

A Cannot you suggest some acolution. Ted;"
Rick Hearn and Ted Howard sets conversing in gloony tones as they learned idly over the taffrad of the Seamew, whose clean-rut hows sets ploughing through the placed blue waters of the Partie. Beth chains looked more than usually anyous and leoked more then usually anyous and leoked more then usually anyous and hy Captain Bance and myself, we should have made the Tropic of Caprieon and sighted the islands south of it ten days ago. Yet, here we are blundering around anywhere, unall not one of the knows where we are ikely to put in."
"Day Jones's locker, I should say, unless we strike lucky and regain our bearings," said Rick thoughtfully. "But it we not that only which worries me, Ted; it is the fact that the crew like that of Columbus, when he didn't find America quick enough to please 'en, are getting more and more didn't find America quick enough to please 'en, are getting more and more didn't such that the crew like that of contented every day. Unless we either sight land or make some definite statement as to when we shall do so, I fear there will be a muting."

"Nonzense" ceturned Ted. "Id

mutiny."
"Nonsense" returned Ted. "Id.
"Nonsense that dared to

shall do so, I fear there will be a mutiny."

Nonzense "ceturned Ted. "Id like to see the crew that dared to mutiny while Ben Bowline was second in command. Why blees we Rick, in spite of his polly face and hearty manners. Ren Bowline is a dozen Captain Kettles rolled mot the for keeping men in order."

I only hope it is so "said Beid dubiously. Meanwhile all I've get to say is that I wish I was well out of this mess. I've missed the main object for which I vasted these partiand all my hope in that direction of this mess. I've missed the main object for which I vasted these partiand all my hope in that direction of the most of the work of the form of the most of my father. I must conclude that the worst has happened."

A long silence ensued, during which the chuma penfed heavily at their cigars, and contemplated the vast waste of sea around them. At Ted said.

"We shall be pretty rich when we get home. Rick, even if we don't do another single deal. The stuff we've home. Rick, even if we don't do another single deal. The stuff we've burtered at the islands we've already called at has brought in a decert sized fortune apiece."

But Rick did not arswer, He did not seem to care how even had dealing been laden with diamonds. His thoughts were of the belowed father whom he believed to have found a grave in those beautifully blue suppliced waters which now faccuated his gate.

placed waters which now facinated his gaze. Instinctively Ted divined his chun's thoughts, and glided slessly away, to enjoy the remainder of the cigar and to talk over the struation with Captain Bunce in the latter state toom. For some ume Rek stood stock still, then, from force of habit, glencing at his revolve to assure himself of its readiness for exercise, he wandered for and mattering strangely to himself. Just then Captain Bunce came in deck, and was making his way to the bridge when, just as he was about to place his foot upon the steps, a heavy martinapike was hurled at him from above.

place his foot upon the steps, a heavy markinspike was hurled at him from above.

The misselle grazed his sleeve, and striking the deck, rebounded clear over the burden for the sea. "What swab flung that marke pike?" reared Burece as he leap to the bridge and came face to far with jody Ben Bowline. "Confeasit, Bowline, I.—"

"Well, now, keelhaul me for tool of a son of a seasook." creel Bowline, aghast. "I hope that market here have the tool of a son of a seasook." "You hope so, do you? I've hope for a son of a seasook." "You hope so, do you? "What did you fling it for he thursdered.

"What did you fling it for he how," said Bowline apologeteastic. Some swab had left that spake there, and I meanter sling it into sea, I never need you comm. It I



had—well, drop me to Davy Jones if I wouldn't ha' been more careful. I'm sorry, cap'u, that I made a mis-take, an' I'm glad there ain't no harm come of it."

take, an' I'm glad there ain't no harm come of it."

There was no resisting the jolly salorman's easy, frank explanation, and, laughing at himself for being a construct of sait, Bunce glanced at the course, and, sait, but the course, and, fully forgivine the constituent in a few moment.

But there was one man aboard that ship who had neither forgotten in nor ship when the consultation with a consultation with the whole incident, and the course, when the course of his observations was that five minutes later he crept stealthily on the bridge. The first thing he noticed was shat the mate had lashed the whole; then he saw that Ben Buncticed was shat the mate had lashed the whole; then he saw that Ben Bunct as, with a small metal instru-

As Rick conghed, Bowline turned quickly, a look of guilty terror on his face. This was quickly gone, however, and succeeded by a smile of the most sensal invasible.

garckly, a look of multy terror on haface. The was quickly gone, however, and succeeded by a smile of the most genal jovalaty.

"Fine day, ar," he said, "Pitw was it go to his o'canves to ketch At what he considered the finest-acted piece of hypocray he had ever witnessed, Rick's temper got the better of him, and he flew into an ungovernable rage.

At what he considered the finest-acted piece of hypocray he had ever witnessed, Rick's temper got the better of him, and he flew into an ungovernable rage.

At what he considered the finest-acted piece of hypocray he had very witnessed. Been bowline, when I came up?"

"I don't expect a landman to understand sich things," replied Ben said; for the property of acting at Mr. Blake's office in London. Thank Heaven my eyes here of acting at Mr. Blake's office in London. Thank Heaven my eyes here been opened in time, and your beautifulty hanned and well-executed piece of acting at Mr. Blake's office in London. Thank Heaven my eyes have been opened in time, and your beautifulty to this outburst, and the property to the property of t

don. Thank Heaven my excussion of possed in time, and your schemes will yet be nipped in the bad."

Ben Bowline had histened quietly even amingly, to this outburst, and guietly and respectfully:

"I am very sorry, Mr. Hearn, to see you like this, and I would be the last to offer you any indignty. Still, aboard ship discipline must be maintained, and as you are on the bridge against all rules, unless you go below as once, I shall have to see some and the storest of the still and the s

"Don't be so sure!"
It was Rick who spoke, and he burst into the room with the exclamation as he overheard the captain's less words

Bunce and Ted turned quickly and eyed the new-comer an mute assunish-

ment. "Don't be so sure!" repeated Rick excitedir. "The compass of the Reamew as wrong—all wrong! And the man who has altered it is "Who!"

"Who?"
Ted and the skipper uttered the very simultaneously as they jumped rom their seats.
"Ben Bowline!"
A burst of hearty laughter from

his two companions met Rick Hearn's

his few companions met Rick Hearn's reverlation, and, in heated tones he should be a former of the should be a few in the should be a few

"Hark !" It was Ted who interrupted, as he held up a fincer to enjoin silence.
"What is that?" he cried breath-

least, deadly silence fell upon the trio as, plannly to their ears came the sound of tramping feet overstand.

"I was foolishly rash, and have precipitated matters." said Rick.

"The seoundrel has decided, now that I have unmasked him to act at once. Great Scott, Ted, what is to he done?"

ladder leading to the bridge, and swarmed nimbly up, keeping, for a few seconds, concealed behind the weather-cloth.

weather-cloth.
By cautiously peeping over the cdge, they could see Ben Bowline, standing upon a hogshead, harangung a crowd of sailors which was composed of the entire crew of the

when and Bunce looked decidedly longthild. You are sure, Rick, "said Ted, for a pause, "that your maginaments are sure to be a sure of the sure crew of the control of the sure crew of the sure

ing dead at Bowline and the men he was endeavouring to corrupt.

"The first man who makes a hostile movement deat" he cred sternly. And as two more pairs of Colta peeped over the edge of the rail, the crew stood aghast. Not as complete the country of the cold of the rail, the crew stood aghast. Not as complete the country of the cold of the rail of the

As he spoke he moved towards the bridge, but neither of the tro thereon fincied.

"Men of the Seamew," hawled Ted, "Do as you please. Follow the mutuneer or me, whichever you like, on the winning sole. Now, then, esparate. All men who wash to uphold, their name as good British lare assemble to etarboard. Skunks, to port.

assemble to etarocard. Stuties, to port:

The sea not much alternight in This remarks, but, backed up as the sea when by there paint of cornidable-looking Coits, and the tone in which he had epoken, the words had a magical effect. Half the crew immediately flew to the starboard bulwarks, and, with a ranging cheer, they acknowledged Ted's bravery in facing the mutineers. The sea of t



matter," said Ted, coolly taking out a pair of Colt revolvers, and glacoting as them. "It would certainly laws been better had you been a little more cautions, but, as matters have come to a head—why, then, we must fare them I don't believe your story at first, Rick; but, by Jove, it seems that you were not far wrong."

I would be the said of the little with the sound of footsteps cedsed, and nothing could be heard but the swith of the sea against the yacht's side, so would be heard but the swith of the sea against the yacht's side, so for an all the said and the sea against the yacht's side, so would be heard but the swith of the sea against the yacht's side, so forward. For a "Biod listening intention to the footsteps coded, and nothing could be heard must be three men in For a "Biod listening intention to the sea against the yacht's side, so will be said, "and that raceal Bowline heard of the bridge," he said, "and that raceal Bowlin well heele, chuma." For a sea, Burce and Rick extended the bridge, he said, "and that raceal Bowlin well heele, chuma." For a sear, Burce and Rick extended the beautiful search, a pair of fully-loaded Colle, and tapped significantly the boxes of cartridges in their pockets.

"The sock, a pair of fully-loaded Colle, and tapped significantly the boxes of cartridges in their pockets." Then follow me! This has got to be nipped in the bud, or we're as good as being Davy Jone's guesses in no time.

As he epoke, Ted led the way from the said, the first properties of the properties of the properties of the properties of the properties.

no time.

As he spoke, Ted led the way from
the cabin, and, the trio, proceeding
cantiously, and with savre a sound,
made their way on deck. Dodging
behind whatever shelter they could
get, they reached the companion-

that, ere a single man could possibly reach the bridge, each cartridge would have accounted for a serious

reach the bridge, each cartridge would have accounted for a serious injury.

Men of the Seamew," they hard Seam Bowline about. "men of the Seame Bowline about. "men of the Seame Bowline about grasp. This ship is laden with enough treasure to make every manjack of you independent for life. And what stands between us and these riches! There politroons who haven't the pluck of a weevil, and who dare not rause a hand against us! Who, I ask, who is better entried to the cargo than those who for securing it? No one! "It is easy." In worth of securing it? No one! "It is easy." In worth on, "to overpower these three men, take the ship to a South American port, repainted and renamed. There we could sell her, realise on the precoust earge, and make a fortune apiece. Further, when we get home to England, there is the seurance money. We can drive it all out and then separate member of the sailors greeted the search with an another properties.

separato."

A number of the sailors greeted this speech with an approxing cheer, but there were many there to whom it was abhorrent, and no specious arguments of the mate seemed able to alter their minds. A sileme fell upon the erowd lads. "Come, my lads." What do you think of the idea." Every man shout his opinion. Come—yes, or no."

As he shouted the word, Ted How-ard appeared over the bridge weather-cloth, a revolver in each hand, point-

re the loral party had flung themselves tooch and nail upon the mutineers, and a terrible highest result for the party had flung the nearest weapon handy, and belaying-pine, marinspikes, and pulley blocks were freely used.

"It would be folly to use our revolvers in that meles," and Ted.

"Once, we must see what we can do.

A second later the trio had leagt the bridge-rail, and as they swarmed down to the deck they sent half a dozen shots whazing over the beads of the mutineers, drowning the reports in a ringray about of encouragement to their own supporters.

In any supporters, and the flunger took, and Bunce flunger took, and better the trion of the contrast of the intrinsted seamen, and laid about them right heartly writh heir (clubbed revolvers.

This sudden appearance, and the ferceit of their ondsught, made a wonderful difference in the struggle, and, with many a broken head, the and, with many a broken head, the choroughly put down now, it would simply break out again. Therefore, apringing to the head of his near. Ted, using his clubbed pistol carryentially shoulded: "Down with 'early man," and "Down with 'early men' Down."

geneally, shouted:
"Down with 'em, my men! Don't
give in till every swab's in irons."
The words had a good effect upon
his followers, but a still better one
for Bowline, to whom they seemed to

bring more forubly home the desperatences of his position. Summoning all his courage, he turned, gave west to a fearful yell of defiance, and, as he lad for two of his mode, and we he lad for two of his mobile was turned at one fell swood, and denly, and the take of battle was turned at one fell swood with the lad for the lad fo

Ted. Rick, and Captain Dumes avana-nism.

"Mr. Hearn. I deserve—thes. 1— repent," he moaned leebly. "Feel-in my coat-pocket. Packet. Yes. That—feer you. Ring off—my fun-ger. 1—give it you. Take it. Den't. —Eng.—England. Ab-bh. "—Eng.—England. Ab-bh." The three men locked at each other in solemn selence, and their lips moved in pracer as Ban Bowline's spirit took flight.

"He is dead! Poor follow!"
It was Ted who spoke, and, with-out another word, the trio turned away,

THE 3rd OHAPTER.
Land Ahead — Mystery Island — A
Dramatic Meeting — Terrible
Happenings.

WO days later, the crew,
thoroughly repentant now
that they were rid of Ben Bowline's evil counsels, were forgiven and allowed to resume their old poets. There was little fear, now that the only dangerous man aboard was dead, that they would break out

posts. There was little fear, now that the only dangerous man aboard was dead, that they would break our again. Ted was convinced of the suncerty of their repentance.

Burning with cureosity as to the contents of the universions package. Rick would have given all be possessed to tear it open as ease. But he had given a promise to the dead man, and he perforce had to abuse by evidently contained documents on the dead man and he perforce had to abuse by evidently contained documents of the dead man in the property of the dead man in ring upon his finger. It was a curious bauble, that ringuishes a curious bauble, that ringuishes was rough, and, non-tone examination, proved to be accepted to the contained was rough, and, non-tone examination, proved to be accepted to the contained was rough, and, prontour examination, proved to be accepted to the contained of the contained was rough, and for the examination of a curied-up snake, and for the eyes two of the most brilliantly estimiliating rubbes Rack had ever seen were set in the head, while the fangs were of tiny but instrous pears. The appealations upon it by the chains were cut in the had, while the fangs were of tiny but instrous pears. The appealations upon it by the chains were cut in the had, while the fangs were of tiny but instrous pears. The appealations upon it by the chains were cut in the had, while the fangs were of tiny but instrous pears. The appealation and there with flowering the pear the content pears and there with flowering through down to the warrs edge, giving the place the appearance of some gorpoone park which had been laid out at gigantic expense. The state here was clearer than had ever before been seen, it own goas to see the bed of the ocean many Lathous levels and waving earneed.

Buddeally, as the anchor dropped, a

tramendous shout went up from the island, which the voyagers had hitherto imagined to be unhabited, and aimost amultanously the air was riven with the beating of a hundred dom-toms see over a thousand queer-looking natives rashed out from concealment into the open, and then stood stock still, in evident amagement, gazing at the yacht.

All hands assembled forward, to vagerly scrutines the curious crowd, and revolvers were hurriedly served out in case of a hostile demonstration on the part of the natives.

The latter were diminitive in stature, not one being bigger than the average English child of ten; their heads were large and mellectual in appearance; they wore peculiar costumes, made evidently from leaves sewn together with fibro; and these were lavishly adorned with some of the most wonderful precious stones set in gold that the chums had ever set eyes on. The spears they carried had bejewelled handles, and was tipped with the precious metal.

It would be difficult to judge which party were most astonished, the natives or the voyagers. For some time there was dead silence, then, as one of the pigmies stepped out and flung something aboard the yacht. Teds face lit up.

"You need have no fear," he said, as he picked up the object, which turned out to be a massive gold anklet set with a huge fortune in diamonds. "I have had more experience among unknown and eavage cribes than meet men, and have no hesitation in taking this see sign that we are to be received in a friendly way."

hesitation in taking this as a sign that we are to be received in a friendly way."

The others crowded round and gased in open-mouthed wonder at the precious bauble.

"Great Scott!" said Rick. "This seems like a page out of the 'Arabian Nights.' Ted. Why, if they'll opin yellow to life. Why, if they'll opin gavy enough to make every maniack of us multi-millionaires for life. Wealth beyond the dreams of avariee sounds pairry to this."

"Of course they il let us land," said Ted. "They're as friendly as if they'd known us for years."

Ted went ashore alone, first, and parleyed with some of the most gorgoosky dressed of the tribe, returning half an hour later with the intelligence that the pigmies actually spoke a little broken English.

The chart and marine-books were referred to, and it was discovered that such an island as this was supposed to exist, but that the supposition was regarded as mere sailors supervition. Up to the present no one had found the.

to exist, but that the supposition was regarded as mere salors supposition. Up to the present no one had found at.

Seeing at a glance how the mouths of the crew watered at the sight of the wealth evident on even rowed fails.

Seeing at a glance how the mouths of the crew watered at the sight of the wealth evident on even rowed fails the sight of the wealth evident on even rowed fails the sight of the wealth evident on even rowed fails the sight of the wealth evident on evidence on consisting a quantity of Brummagem is wellery, and the other empty, he instructed them to walk about the siland and do what barrecing they could. Whatever gold or precous stones they could obtain in exchange for the had been supplied, they had been supplied their had full permission to keep for the had been supplied their had full permission to keep for the had been supplied they had full permission to keep for the had been supplied they had full permission to keep for the had been supplied they had full permission to keep for the had been supplied they had full permission to keep for the had been supplied they had full permission to keep for the had been supplied they had full permission to keep for the had been supplied they had full permission to keep for the had been supplied. "White chief" exclaimed Rick and Captain Bunce went off together, each carrying two largs sacks intent upon profit and pleasures. The chums started. "White chief" exclaimed Rick and Captain Bunce went off together, each carrying two largs sacks intent upon profit and pleasures. The chums and some themselves understood in English tolerably reall, were laboriously pointed above themselves willing to conduct the winter mental to the had been supplied the had been supplied to the had been supplied the had been supplied to the had been suppl

exchange rudely-made articles of gold set with wonderful stones.

By dusk their entire stock was gone, and it was with difficulty they persuaded the little natives to leave the vessel. Many, in their disgust at not being able to do more business, flung their gold and jowels on the deck, declaring brokenly that they were not worth taking away.

The Seamew's cargo was now probably the most precious that hever floated, not excepting the Spanish galleons of old and the treasure-shape of ancent pirates. The seamen returned to the ship in high feather, each one baring a sack of gold and diamonds as heavy as he cared to carry.

These were all scaled up by Ted and Rick, and deposited in the hold with the rost of the cargo, each sack bearing a label showing the name of the owner, and it was agreed that this should be the men's share of the preceeds, each one to receive his own special sack of wealth when the Seamew should put anto English port. No distinction whatever was made between the ex-mutineers and the others; and, with the true generosity of the typical British tar, the loyal-site never dreamt of suggesting any difference. The completest harmony reigned, and every one was more than satisfied. All discipline was relaxed now, and until the early hours of the morning the salors lounged about the deck, making wonderful plans for the future when they should return to England, not as common sailors, but as men of wealth.

On the following morning Ted Howard and Rick Hearn went ashore of sugare miles in extent—and the natives.

On all hands strange verstation

of square miles in extent-and

of square miles in extent—and the natives.

On all hands strange vegetation and queer earth-structure met their gaze, and as they passed through each little hamlet they could not help noticing that everything of metal was made of gold. The island was intersected with scores of rapid, little, shallow streams, and, upon examining these, the chums found that the sandy beds were fairly glittering with gold-dust and tiny nuggets ranging in size from a pin-head to a pca.

What puzzled them, most, however, was the fact that, although, as far as was known, this place—which they had christened "Mystery Island"—had never before been vasited by an Engishman, the natives seemed to know the language.

The mystery was soon to be solved.

During their explorations they met the gorgeonaly-bedecked pigmy whether the strength of the "Seamew," and the little fellow's face was the picture of arxious perpicxity.

"What's the matter, old chap?"

skand, spears in hand, stood on guard at the door; but they stepped asside, and allowed the trao to enter. The interior of the cabin was in semi-darkness, and the chums, as they followed their conductor in, could just perceive the form of a white man, in tagged European dress, and with a flowing white beard, lying on a rude couch in a center of the room.

They stood still, at a little distance from the figure, while the pigmy advanced to the couch and endeavoured to awake the sleeper. While he was thus engaged, the chum's eyes grew more accustomed to the gloom, and they could now plainly see the features of the white man on the couch as awaking from his slumbers, he turned his face towards them.

"Father!"

Rick fairly screamed the word, and the next instant he was shaking the invalid's hand wildly.

To diversibe that dramatic meeting between Rick and his father would be impossible. It was a full hour ere they ceased repeating each other's names, uttering congratulations, thanks, and declarations of their happiness.

[What rejoiced Rick most was that

What rejoiced Rick most was that his father's complaint was merely What rejoiced Rick most was that he father's complaint was merely grief and melancholy, and his arrival had cured it like magic. When at length they emerged from the cabin together, and joined Ted-wino had discreetly retired—Mr. Hearn was as well as possible, and the little pigmy ran off to tell his brethren that the whites who had come in the big cance were magicants.

ran off to tell his brethren that the whites who had come in the big canoe were magicians.

It was with some difficulty that the little fellows were induced to take leave of their white chief when he escayed to board the yacht; but at length, on his promising to return some day, they were pacified; and, amid a thunder of tom-toms and a mighty shouting, the two chums and the white chief were allowed to row to the yacht's side in the gig.

Orders were promptly given to weigh anehor—for Ted feared the natives might at the last moment want their chief back again—the engines were started, and, with a hearty British cheer from the crow, the Sesmew stood out to sea at full steam.

'Thank goodness, we're well away from Mystery Island!' said Ted, as the vacht glided away. "I'd as soon stand on the side of an active volcano. Take my word for it. Rick, there'll be a slap-up earthquake there in about Rumble—rum

Rumble-rumble-rumble!

a siap-up cartiquake there in about Rumble—rumble—rumble!
Like the sound of distant thunder it came. Suddenly the sea around them rose in angry waves. The yacht was pitched about like a cork; and, looking landward, they could see the ground rocking as if it were liquid.
Then from the centre of the island a mighty column of flame and molten carth shot up hundreds of feet into the air. Then came a sound as of a million pieces of ordnance being discharged, and Mystery Island sank beneath the angry waves, never again to be seen by the eye of mortal man.
Every soul aboard the Seamew was awed by the grandeur and magnitude of the occurrence. It was a sight for the gods. Not a lip was there but quivered at the thought of the dominate the property of the Seamew was pointed to England.
"As near a shave of being wrecked as ever I've had!" muttered Ted, as he led Rick and his father below. "Come, we'll strady our nerves, and trouble Captain Hearn for his story."

THE 4th CHAPTER. Homeward Bound-The Exile's Narrative - Unmasked - Con-

EATED around the dining-saloon table, before a sump-tuous repast, Rick and genial Captain Bunce were burning to near the narrative of the ex-white chief of Mystery Island; but Ted forbade it until the meal was disposed of, and the four were comfortably settled to wine and eigare afterwards. Captain Hearn—who, after a visit to the ship's barber and the wardrobe, looked himself again—was about to begin, when he caught sight of Rick's

"Where did you get that?" he

"It was given me by a man who was killed in a muthy aboard this vouse."

killed in a mutiny aboard this vousel."
"His name?"
"Ben Bowline."
"Description!"
Rick gave it.
"He is the man," said Captain
Hearn. "But, stay, I am anticipating. I shall have something to say
about that ring presently, Rick.
Listen!"
"It is nearer three than two years

all events, when my provisions had run out, and I was starving. I sighted land. None too soon. Scaree had I set eyes upon the dark streak on the horizon ere I fainted, and when I re-covered consciousness it was to find myself in the midst of a howling crowd of premise.

covered consciousness it was to find myself in the midst of a howling crowd of pigmics.

"To cut a long story short, they were more than friendly. They almost worshipped me, and made me their chief. I have, as far as physical comfort was concerned, had all one's heart could wish for while on the island; and, as the natives—who were just about twenty times more intellectual than the average white man—quickly picked up my language, I found no difficulty on that score. But the solitude, the knowledge that you, Rick, were mourning me as dead—she intense longing to see a white face, to tell on me, and I should have had a complete nervous breakdown had you not turned up when you did."

Such was Captain Hearn's story in a nutshell, simple enough at first blush; but it set both Ted and Rick thinking deeply: and, long after the others had retired for the night, they sat in their deck-chairs aft, earnestly discussing it in low tones from behind the two bright points' light at their cigar-tips." I think you ought to do it," Ted

the two bright points and the cigar-tips.

"I think you ought to do it," Ted said emphatically. "The man's dead, and what we do now cannot make the slightest difference to him, although it may make a deal to us, and—and—comeone."

someone."

Rick seemed hard to convince upon the point, but at last vielded, and the chums repaired to Rick's cabin, where the mysterious packet left by Ben Bowline was opened and the documents it contained duly perused.

The main enclosure was a full confession of the dead miscreant's mis-

Address all cam-munications to "The Principal, B.F.C.C., Room 25.2 Carmelite House, Carmelite St., London, E.C."

The Lessons are the Copyright Property of the College, and must be returned with Papers for Revision.

deeds, while the others communicates which, if they were pend, an English court of law, would another man at present living.

First thing on the morning is

First thing on the morning to ing, the mysterious document and a closures were laid before Capt. Hearn, and for the rest of the versus the crew were at a loss to understand why Rick and his father were in was particularly high sprite. Likewith were puzzied to guess for wair reason Ted suddenly ordered their to be repainted, the name changed to the repainted, the name changed alterations made in the appearance of the vacht.

alterations made in the appearance of the yacht.

"There," said Ted, when the alterations had been completed, "if there, any shipping intelligence about the arrival of a.y. Seamen before we gave it ourselves in Leadenhall Screet London, you call me the longest long shoreman that ever breathed?"

Next day the Seamew berthed amongst a forcet of masts in the West India Dock.

India Dock.

Ted determined to unload, and with all possible speed her cargo was transferred to a Lombard Street bank, including the sailors' shares, which he refused to let them touch for a fee days, well knowing how quickly there would lose their newly-acquired waste were they allowed to take it away at the contraction.

All this having been arranged little party of four, conessing of Cartains Bunce and Hearn, with Te. Howard and Rick, chartered a four Howard and Rick chartered a four-wheeler, and were driven with all speed to Aldgate Pump, where they alighted and made their way to the offices of Matthew Blake, expouner. Leadenhall Street. Leaving the others in the corridor, Rick entered the office, and, after the usual prelimi-aries, was admitted into the presence of the shipowner.

"I have come to inquire," he said,
"whether you can give me any further
information regarding the fate of my
father's ship, the Orinoco."

"Sunk," said Mr. Blake. "That's all I know. What the dickens do you mean by coming here and wasting artime with such foolish questions." I had almost forgotten the whose matte

matter."

"But I had not," retorted Rek.
"And there are others whomemories are as good. I want you to
teil me all you know—."

"I have told you that your father and all the crew went down with her:
"You are sure she went down!"
Rick glanced keenly at the other as he spoke, and Blake winced. Then effew into a terrible passion, and, ordering Rick out, he opened the door, only to come face to face with Capsan Hearn and his two friends.
Then followed a dramatic scene as.

Hearn and his two friends.

Then followed a dramatic scene as with Ben Bowline's confession and other proofs displayed, Captain Hearn related how Blake had been in the habit of sending out ships, heavily instruced, with Bowline as mate, the latter's duty being to star up mutiny, kill the captain, and seize the shup. Those vessels, it appeared, were at once re-painted, re-offristened satisfor a small foreign port, and there sold, the proceeds being divided amongst the crew, and the insurance going to Blake. The Orinoco had been one of these, and Ben Bowline had sailed on the Seamew with his old purpose, but in that case Blake was to

sailed on the Seamew with his old purpose, but in that case Blake was to divide the price the vessel would have fetched had the mutiny succeeded. At the conclusion of the indictment. Matthew Blake, who saw before his lifelong imprisonment, turned active pale, the hunted look in his eyes changed to one of terrible desperation, and as Rick and Ted moved towards him he sprang from his seat, dashed across the room, and, with a five learn with the proof of the control of

A tremendous fortune, which was equally divided between Captains Bunce and Hearn, Rick and Ted was realised from the proceeds of its Mystery Island expedition, and Ted was to it personally that the share of every other member of the crew was so invested as to make each individual rich for life.

rich for life.

There is nothing to darken Reiksbrow now, and it would be impossible to find in the foar quarters of the globe four men who are happier than Ted Howard, Captain Bunes Captain Hearn, and his son Rick, who found him in so dramatic a fashion when having been mourned as dead, be wisharuishing in splendid solitude as the white chief of "Mystery Island."

THE END.

The Boys' Friend Correspondence College

2, Carmelite House, Carmelite Street, London, E.C. OPEN TO READERS ONLY.

THREE COURSES NOW AVAILABLE:

Civil Service (comprising actual examination papers as set by the Civil Service Commissioners at past examinations for Boy Clerkships, Male Sorters, Customs, Excise, Second Division, &c.).

(2) Pitman's Shorthand (under special licence of Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, Limited).

(3) English Composition and Essay Writing.

COUPON. Twelve of these Coupons, or six of these and six from next Thursday's issue of "The Boys' Herald," entitle a reader to herst lesson if he is a new student of or any other lesson due if he is already a student of the B.F.C. The Coupons must be sent in within a week from date of issue. Address

B.P. Vol. 5. No. 251.

TUESDAY. | WEDNESDAY. | THURSDAY. | THE BOYS' HERALD. |

OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR:- TUESDAY.