THE EVENING NEWS.

Monday, - - April 22, 1872.

THE DIVER'S PARTNER.

[CONTINUED.]

Well might that morose personage cast line after line into the sea if this was the sort of catching he made! I saw at once why he staid out until after dark. It was to haul in his prize unobserved. I determined he should have his labor for nothing this once, at any rate. I would tie his lines to a mass of rocks, and let him pull that up! I should want some cord for this purpose, and remembering the coil in the hold of the vessel, I went back to seek it.

While I was groping my way in the hold I felt a sudden jerk at my signal line, which, as you are aware, is attached round a diver's waist. I supposed it must have caught on some projection on the wreck. The next minute I found it must have broken, for it hung loose.

As I put my hand behind me to the knot of the signal line to make sure that this was the case, I experienced a violent push from behind, which flung me down on my face. Before I could recover myself, or even wonder what was amiss, I felt my hands caught in a slip noose, drawn forcibly together behind, and bound fast by the wrists.

By this time I had guessed who was my assailant. Bleggs had managed somehow to return very much sooner than he should have done, and had come down and surprised me.

As soon as he had finished tying my hands he turned me over on my back, and putting his foot on my chest, stood looking at me for a minute or two. Even at that moment it struck me how strange we must look—one man looking at the other with triumph and hatred, the other gazing at him with alarm and anxiety, but the countenance of each hidden from the other by the strange expressionless diving helmets.

He raised me to my feet, when a violent struggle ensued. But he was my master: I was powerless with my hands so; he forced me back against an upright support, and lashed me to it.

I felt a sense of relief, for I knew that, although he had cut my single rope, my staying down long after he ascended would alarm the men in our boat, and some means would have been taken to free me. There were one or two men among the crew who could dive a little, and there were two spare dresses on the island, in case of accidents.

But I had miscalculated my enemy's malice. You may have observed in a diver's helmet two little brass disks, perforated like a nose of a watering pot. One of these is constantly in use allowing the superfluous or vitiated air to escape. The second is in use in case the other be clogged or damaged. Both are arranged so that on being turned half round they are closed, and shut in the air, whereupon the diver becomes so buoyant that he rises at once to the surface.

Bleggs came up to me, made a mocking bow as if to take farewell, and then closed both the escape valves of my helmet. All the horror of my situation flashed on me. He intended to murder me. With every stroke of the air pump would come a great pressure of air, which by its increasing weight would kill me after the most awful tortures.

Before I had recovered from the shock Bleggs had disappeared, and already the strokes of the air-pumps seemed to beat on my brain like sledge-hammers. I writhed and twisted and tore at my fastenings with the strength of a desperate and the fury of a mad man. The agony became intense. All of a sudden I felt I held some hard substance in my hand. It was the knife I had picked up. I had instinctively gripped it hard, even in my struggle with Bleggs. But it was closed. Still the pressure increased; I felt as if my hand would burst; my eyeballs seemed filled with fire; my breath was choked; my brain began to swim.

Now or never thought I. After some vain struggling I managed to hold the knife against the timber with the back of one hand, and with the other open its blade. Directly it was open and thrust into my diving-dress, which, with the pressure of the air, was distended like a balloon. With the bubbling sound that denoted the escape of the air through the hole thus made came an immediate sense of relief. The hope of escape from such imminent peril gave me new courage and fresh strength, and I speedily released myself from my bonds, and was saved.

The hole I made was in the leg of my trowsers. I took some of the cord that had bound me, and after tying it as tight as I could round my leg above the hole, was able to turn on my regular escape valve and breathe with comparative freedom.

In a few moments I had gained the deck, and, closing the valve was rapidly borne to the surface. I came up just under the quarter, and as I laid my hand on the rope ladder to climb up the side, I heard Bleggs' voice:

"Governor's a long time down. Something queer there; wouldn't let me stay down — signaled me to go up at once. Found the swag, p'r'aps, and wants it for himself! I wonder when he means coming up?"

"Now!" said I, climbing up, and showing myself over the bulwarks. Bleggs fell back as if he had been shot.

"Seize him, and bind him hand and foot!" said I to the men, who obeyed me with some wonder, and very readily. Luckily he was too surprised to resist. When I told the story of his villany the crew were for throwing him overboard then and there, but this I positively forbade.

At this moment, looking in the direction of our fisher friend, I saw him preparing to slip his cable and make for shore. I immediately ordered three of the crew into the boat and give chase. They caught him after a smart race.

To make a long story short, we traced the stolen treasure to this man's hut on the opposite side of the island to ours, and he and Bleggs were taken before the nearest magistrate, and the whole case laid before him.

Then I learned the manner of Blegg's rapid return. Apparently guessing my suspicions, he had gone to the island instead of going to the main-land, had broken into the stores, and found the paper. This he showed to the man who was with him, saying he fancied he had seen some, and so of course there was no need to go on shore.

The magistrate discharged Blegg's accomplice. The treasure-ships were not our property, and the man was not in our employ, so that there was no case against him.

To be continued.

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d243 tf

C. P. R. R.

February 8th, 1872.

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Leave going East.			Arrive from East
*4 00 p m	7.30 a m	San Fran	8 30 p m †2.30 p m
4.35 "	7.35 "	Oakland.	8.00 " 1.50 "
4 10 "	7.50 "	San Jose	8.30 " 2.10 "
5.35 "	8.35 "	...Niles...	7.05 " 12.45 "
8.25 "	11.25 "	Lathrop	4.41 " 9.41 "
8.48 "	11.50 "	Stock'n	4.07 " 9.07 "
10.45 p m	1.45 p m	Sacra'to	2.20 p m 7.15 a m
Arrive from the West			Leave ein West

Sacramento, Colfax, Reno & Ogden.

Leave going East			Arrive from East
2.00 p m		.Sacra'to.	2.00 p m
5.40 "		..Colfax..	10.20 a m
1.00 a m		...Reno...	2.10 "
9.10 "		Win'mcc	4.15 p m
12 00 m		Battle M't	1.25 "
4.40 p m		...Elko...	8.45 a m
6 20 a m		..Ogden..	5.20 p m
Arrive from West			Leave going West

Explanation.

For trains running from San Francisco, take the left hand columns and read downwards.

For trains running towards San Francisco, take the right hand columns and read upwards.

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