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the arms had been transferred, a tug slipped up, quietly made fast to the lighter, and towed it away. I went aboard the tug to direct operations, and we steamed to Barnegat Light to meet the Laurinda, which had left Philadelphia the previous morning. General Nufiez came out from Atlantic City in a launch and joined us. We met the Laurinda at the appointed place, well outside the three-mile limit, and our cargo was put on board of her, along with fifty Cubans who were to assist in landing it. She was ordered to proceed slowly to Navassa Island, where I told Murphy I would meet him in twelve days with the Dauntless, and General Nufiez, Dr. Castillo, and I returned to the city on the tug. The empty barge was anchored in the upper bay, and we were landed

## FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

booming away out front, evening loader and loader. "Think she's got enough steam to take her round the Gridiron, Sam?" he said. "She'll blow in," Flotsam said. "Tell the engineer to open her up wide, an' jump back an' gunne a hand at the bellum. We got to run for it!"

Jetsam came back with a spluttering of bare feet on the bridge. "I told 'em who we are, and I told where we was goin', and I told 'em Ships Bottom boat'd meet us," he spluttered. "Thay ain't had any vegetables for two months; on'y salt horse," he said. "The apples is puttin' 'em all to sleep."

Flotsam stared at him in consternation. There wasn't any question of their being in charge. The skipper had sagged down in his chair, snoring. Apples act on men of a finer nature like chloroform, almost.

Right out in front of them the deck of the freighter seemed a mile long. The big sea coming in over her bows struck her like big fists, with the sound of cannonballs; she wallowed and rolled, and then, creaking and groaning, she swung away. Flotsam sprang up on the leeward side of the wheel, pulling it over; Jetsam looped the lashing round the spokes.

"She's rolling now! Hang on!" Flotsam shouted. "Have they got the fires going?" "The engineer's got her wide open—big fat feller he is, woffin' apples!" Jetsam jangled. "D'y'e think we can make it, Sam?"

"Course we can make it! Look out for the cat!" Flotsam said. "By jinks! There's Ships Bottom!"

THE Mynheer Vanderdecken, laboring and pounding, had spun round on her heel; huddled onward by storm and her own clogging power, she rushed inland. There was little for Flotsam and Jetsam, clinging to the wheel, to do, except to keep the rudder amidships.

The storm at her back now, the mist opened shoreward. Off the lee bow, lifting high on the white-capped rollers, a red flare shone out—Barnegat Light.

"She's headin' straight on the Gridiron. We got to swing her round on the north end. Close shavin'!" shrieked Flotsam.

"An' jam her in the inlet!" Jetsam panted. "An'—Look!"

Dead ahead under the pounding bows, through the deep rumbling line of white surf on the beach, flinging water from her white sides, came the Ships Bottom lifeboat.

"Look in the stern!" Flotsam shouted back. "That's Pop Birdhall—you can tell his Horace Greeley hat!"

Consternation fell on the boys. They had no way of knowing that the whole population of Barnegat village was roused over the fate of the wonderful new life-saving boat—sent off to sea with never a thought of the two boys scouting somewhere along the beach.

They only knew, with suddenly jumping hearts, that they had been instrumental in losing the little torpedo model—"Gene to sea on her own hook. Ketch us menkeyin' with Government property again!" And there sat the village constable, law's terror, with a white hat, with the brass buttoned inspectors, in Ships Bottom's boat.

"Fetched Pop out to arrest us!" said Jetsam gloomily.

"We're takin' her in—this old sea wagon ought to square things," said Flotsam, swallowing hard. He wasn't thinking of salvage then. "We can wheel her in, an' run her aground, an' dive overboard, an' duck!"

"Drown? Yes, we all drown! You little merrymen wreck my ship—so?" The dazed skipper, suddenly roused, lurched out of his chair. Bewildered, he gazed at the terrors ahead—the imminent surf, the reef rocks, roaring and spray washed, and the white lifeboat, flashing out of the sea, right ahead of the onrushing Vanderdecken.

But Flotsam and Jetsam had no time to fool with a half delirious man. Together

late at night at a deserted dock on the Jersey side of the Hudson.

It was not until I got home that I was picked up by the detectives, four of whom were anxiously watching the house. They knew I had not forsaken them for nothing; but they had no idea what I had been up to. When they discovered that we were planning another expedition to Cuba and got on our trail they were thrown off the scent in a way that was new to them.

To be continued next Sunday

In the next installment of "A Captain Unafraid" Detamite Johnson will tell of Frederick Pinstone's entry into Cuban affairs. This, as all other parts of the series, is a condensation of Captain O'Brien's historical records, which are being prepared by Horace Smith.

Continued from page 7

they rapidly explained the lay of the land, snapping an order at the surprised big man to help with the wheel. In spite of his swollen hands, the skipper's strength saved them.

"Barnegat Beach? I know him! It is on der hydrographic chart. Ach! if you had come one day sooner; for today is my insurance with Blopp's run out! Nether mind—you are by Heaven sent—mit apples. Der apples will I eat—the salvage; it will cut der ship—ah!"

"The boys had time to bother with his grumbling. "Rise her right in, Sam!" said Flotsam, his head in the clouds, and "Shave the big rock!" Jetsam shrieked. "Then wheel her hard to port—she'll slide through the Swirl Cut like grease!"

"The skipper drew a deep breath. "But der lifeboat—!" he began.

"Rouse her!" said Flotsam, gritting his teeth.

"Der block—minim' will—we got right o' way," said Jetsam. "Sides Pop can't jump us in this seaway."

"Go! I forgot—" Flotsam let go the wheel, springing at the whistle cord. The wail of the steamer's siren mingled with the whistling of the wind. He leaped down the cord and was back at the wheel. "That'll show 'em we've got command!" he cowered. "Takes steam; but der crash'll fetch her in."

Creaking, groaning, and wailing, the Mynheer Vanderdecken bore down on the lifeboat like a ship in torture. There was a yell, clipped short, and a white flash, and Ships Bottom boat was astern. Casco and his mates caught a glimpse of a big, staggering man in the wheelhouse and two little figures in striped bathing suits clambering like monkeys on the other side of the wheel.

"It's Flotsam an' Jetsam!" Ships Bottom roared. "They're wheelin' in that Flynn Dutchman smooth as hips—with the whistle tied down! The young privateers!"

MORE than Ships Bottom saw the crush of the derelict Mynheer Vanderdecken. All Barnegat hastened to the beach when the moss covered Hongkong tramp swung through the narrow inlet safely up on a low sand bank behind Ships Bottom Life Station, with a final burst of steam and clatter of broken engines.

Keeper Johnson, goggling from the boat-house runway, saw the barnacled hull head safely over, and the two striped little figures who dived hastily into the bay, fetching up on the far side of the inlet.

"It's them kids!" said Long Johnson. "Nobody but us an' them could a fetched her in safe in this water. What're they skipper for? 'Fraid o' bein' heroes?"

Two hours later the Ships Bottom lifeboat came in, towing the disabled breeches buoy boat. They found a grinning beachcomber at the station, with a grimy note written on a sheet of picked up wrapping paper.

"Them two kids is scared to death down the beach," he said. "Promised me a jack-knife for bein' ambassador o' peace—if ever they find the dory."

Captain Casco haw-hawed over the paper and gave it to the Inspector, and the Inspector, smiling broadly, read it. Easy to see Flotsam and Jetsam weren't afraid of being heroes!

"She hit us wen we wasn't lookin'," the boys wrote. "She's all right fer a boat, on'y she got cold feet wen they was men's work to do."

"P. S. Cap'n Vanderdecken owns the ole Flying Dutchman."

"P. S. She'll bust him all she's worth to pay salvage."

"P. S. We don't want no salvage."

"P. S. We got the cat. They's more apples in my coat for them poor fellows."

"FLOAT-SAM & JET-SAM."

"Flotsam and Jetsam—driftwood? I guess not!" said Captain Casco proudly. "Chips o' the old block, they are!"

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