

THE MYSTERY

By STEWART EDWARD WHITE and SAMUEL HOPKINS ADAMS

Illustrations by Will Crawford.

CHAPTER X.

CHANGES OF MASTERS.

The next day we continued our explorations by land, and so far we were satisfied. I thought it best not to relinquish all authority, so I organized regular expeditions, and ordered their direction. The men did not object. It was all good enough fun to them.

The net results were that we found a nesting place of sea birds—the late season for eggs—a hot spring near enough camp to be useful; and that was about all. The sheep were the only animals on the island, although there were several sorts of birds. In general, the country was overgrown with fertile earth. In any case it was canon and hill. We soon grew tired of climbing and turned our attention to the sea.

With the surf boat we skirted the coast. It was impregnable except in three places: our own beach, the seal rookery, and on the south side of the island. We landed at each one of these places. But returning close to the coast we happened upon a cave mouth more or less guarded by an outlying rock.

The day was calm, so we ventured in. At first I thought it merely a gorge in the rock, but even while peering for the end wall we slipped under the archway and found ourselves in a vast room.

Our eyes were dazzled so we could make out little at first. But through the still, clear water the light filtered from below, coloring the bottom as through a sea glass. We saw the fish near the entrance, and coral and sea growths of marvelous vividness. They waved slowly as in a draught of air. The medium in which they floated was absolutely motionless. For of course, there were no reflections from its surface. We seemed to be suspended in mid-air, and only when the dipping oars made rings could we realize that anything sustained us.

Suddenly the place felt loose in panoply. The water began to tremble, and bubbles broke out, confusing themselves so thoroughly with their own echoes that the volume of sound was continuous. Heavy splashes shook the water. The boat rocked. The invisible surface was broken into facets. We advanced. From all about us glowed hundreds of eyes like coils of fire—on a level with us, above us, almost over our heads. Two by two the coils were extinguished.

Below us the bottom was clouded with black figures, darting rapidly like a school of minnows beneath a boat. They darkened the coral and the sands and the glistening sea growths just as a cloud temporarily darkens the landscape—only the occultations and brightenings succeeded each other much more swiftly.

We stared stupefied, our thinking power blurred by the incessant whirl of motion and noise.

Suddenly Thrackles laughed aloud. "Seals!" he shouted through his trumpeted breath. "They're coming!"

Our eyes were expanding to the twilight. We could make out the arch of the room, its shelves, and hollows, and niches. Lying on them we could discern the seals, hundreds and hundreds of them, all staring at us, all barking and bellowing. As they approached, they scrambled from their elevations, and diving to the bottom, scurried to the entrance of the cave.

We lay on our oars for ten minutes. Then silence fell. There persisted a tiny drip, drip, drip from some point in the darkness. It was a faint, steady, unobtrusive sound. Suddenly from far in the interior of the hill there came a long, hollow boom—o-o-m! It reverberated, roaring. The surge that had lifted our boat some minutes before thus reached its apex. The chamber was very lofty. As we rowed cautiously in, it lost nothing of its height, but something in width. It was marvelously colored, like all the volcanic rocks of this island. In addition some chemical drip had thrown across its vividness long gony streamers of white. We rowed in as far as the faintest daylight lasted us. The occasional reverberating boom of the surges seemed as distant as ever.

This was beyond the seal rookery on the beach. Below it we entered an open cleft some size to another square cave. It was now high tide, the water extended a scant ten fathoms to end on an interior shale beach. The cave was a perfectly straight passage following the line of the cleft. How far it reached we could not determine, for it was full of seals, and after we had driven them back a hundred feet or so their fiery eyes stared us out. We did not care to put them at bay.

The next day I rowed out to the Laughing Lass and got a rifle. I found the captain's cabin in the bunk, and did not disturb him. Perdosa and I went with infinite pains, tracked and stalked the sheep, of which I killed one. We found the mutton excellent. The hunting was difficult, and the quarry, as time wore on, more and more elusive, but here, too, was full of seals, and I had fresh meat. Furthermore we soon discovered that fine trolling was to be had outside the reef. We rigged a sail for the extra dory, and spent much of our time at the sport. I do not know the name of the fish. They were very gony indeed, and ran from five to an indeterminate number of pounds in weight. Above fifty pounds our light tackle parted, so we had no means of knowing how large they may have been.

Thus we spent very pleasantly the greater part of two weeks. At the end of that time I made up my mind that it would be just as well to get back to business. Accordingly I called Perdosa and directed him to sort and clear of rust the salvaged chain cable. He refused flatly. I took a step toward him. He drew his knife and backed away.

"Perdosa," said I firmly, "but up that knife."

"No," said he.

I pulled the saw-battered Colt's 45 and raised it slowly to a level with his breast.

"Perdosa," I repeated, "drop that knife."

The crisis had come, but my resolution was fully prepared for it. I should not have cared greatly if I had had to shoot the man—at it certainly should have done had he disobeyed. There would then have been one less to deal with in the final accounting, which strangely enough I now for a moment never doubted would come.

I had not before assumed that a man's life so you can see to what the baffling mystery had strung me.

Perdosa hesitated a fraction of an instant. I really think he might have changed it, but Handy Solomon, who had been watching me closely, growled at him.

"Drop it, you fool!" he said.

Perdosa let fall the knife.

"Now get at that cable," I com-

manded, still at white heat. I stood over him until he was well at work, then turned back to set tasks for the other men. Handy Solomon met me halfway.

"Begging your pardon, Mr. Eagen," said he, "I want a word with you."

"I have nothing to say to you," I snapped, still excited.

"It ain't reasonable not to hear a man say he's a villain in his most conciliatory manner. I'm talking for all of us."

He paused a moment, took my silence for consent, and went ahead.

"Begging your pardon, Mr. Eagen," said he, "we ain't going to do any more useless work. There ain't no business about us, but we ain't going to be busy at nothing. All the camp work and the haulin' and cuttin' and cleanin' and the rest of it, we'll do gladly. But we ain't goin' to pound any more cable, and you can kiss the Book on that."

He made a deprecatory gesture.

"Put us aboard ship, sir, and let us hear the Old Man give his orders, and you'll find no mutiny in us. But here ashore it's different. Did the Old Man give orders to pound the cable?"

"I represent the captain," I stammered.

He caught the evasion. "I thought so. Well, if you got any kick on us, please, sir, go get the Old Man. If he says to our face, pound cable, why pound cable it is. Ain't that right, boys?"

They murmured something. Perdosa deliberately dropped his hammer and joined the group. My hand strayed again toward the saved-off Colt.

"I wouldn't do that," said Handy Solomon, almost faintly. "You couldn't kill us all. And 'at good would it do? I asks you that. I can cut down a chicken with my knife at twenty feet. You must surely see, sir, that I could have killed you too easy while you were at the cable. I suppose you ain't got to be a war, Mr. Eagen. Just because we don't want to work without any sense to it."

There was more of the same sort. I had plenty of time to see my dilemma. Either I would have to abandon my attempt to pound the cable, or I would have to invoke the authority of Captain Selover. To do the latter would be to destroy it. The master had become a stuffed figure, a bogie with which to frighten, an empty vessel that a prick would collapse. With what grace I could muster, I had to give in.

"You'll have to have it your own way, I suppose," I snapped.

Thrackles grinned, and Pulz started to say something, but Handy Solomon, with a peremptory gesture, and black scowl, stopped him short.

"You call right right right proper and handsome!" he cried admiringly. "We really had no right to expect that, boys, as seamen, from our first officer! You can kiss the Book on it, that very few crews have such kind masters. Mr. Eagen has the right, and we sign to it straight."

Our eyes were expanding to the twilight. We could make out the arch of the room, its shelves, and hollows, and niches. Lying on them we could discern the seals, hundreds and hundreds of them, all staring at us, all barking and bellowing. As they approached, they scrambled from their elevations, and diving to the bottom, scurried to the entrance of the cave.

We lay on our oars for ten minutes. Then silence fell. There persisted a tiny drip, drip, drip from some point in the darkness. It was a faint, steady, unobtrusive sound. Suddenly from far in the interior of the hill there came a long, hollow boom—o-o-m! It reverberated, roaring. The surge that had lifted our boat some minutes before thus reached its apex. The chamber was very lofty. As we rowed cautiously in, it lost nothing of its height, but something in width. It was marvelously colored, like all the volcanic rocks of this island. In addition some chemical drip had thrown across its vividness long gony streamers of white. We rowed in as far as the faintest daylight lasted us. The occasional reverberating boom of the surges seemed as distant as ever.

This was beyond the seal rookery on the beach. Below it we entered an open cleft some size to another square cave. It was now high tide, the water extended a scant ten fathoms to end on an interior shale beach. The cave was a perfectly straight passage following the line of the cleft. How far it reached we could not determine, for it was full of seals, and after we had driven them back a hundred feet or so their fiery eyes stared us out. We did not care to put them at bay.

The next day I rowed out to the Laughing Lass and got a rifle. I found the captain's cabin in the bunk, and did not disturb him. Perdosa and I went with infinite pains, tracked and stalked the sheep, of which I killed one. We found the mutton excellent. The hunting was difficult, and the quarry, as time wore on, more and more elusive, but here, too, was full of seals, and I had fresh meat. Furthermore we soon discovered that fine trolling was to be had outside the reef. We rigged a sail for the extra dory, and spent much of our time at the sport. I do not know the name of the fish. They were very gony indeed, and ran from five to an indeterminate number of pounds in weight. Above fifty pounds our light tackle parted, so we had no means of knowing how large they may have been.

Thus we spent very pleasantly the greater part of two weeks. At the end of that time I made up my mind that it would be just as well to get back to business. Accordingly I called Perdosa and directed him to sort and clear of rust the salvaged chain cable. He refused flatly. I took a step toward him. He drew his knife and backed away.

"Perdosa," said I firmly, "but up that knife."

"No," said he.

I pulled the saw-battered Colt's 45 and raised it slowly to a level with his breast.

"Perdosa," I repeated, "drop that knife."

The crisis had come, but my resolution was fully prepared for it. I should not have cared greatly if I had had to shoot the man—at it certainly should have done had he disobeyed. There would then have been one less to deal with in the final accounting, which strangely enough I now for a moment never doubted would come.

I had not before assumed that a man's life so you can see to what the baffling mystery had strung me.

Perdosa hesitated a fraction of an instant. I really think he might have changed it, but Handy Solomon, who had been watching me closely, growled at him.

"Drop it, you fool!" he said.

Perdosa let fall the knife.

"Now get at that cable," I com-

manded, still at white heat. I stood over him until he was well at work, then turned back to set tasks for the other men. Handy Solomon met me halfway.

"Begging your pardon, Mr. Eagen," said he, "I want a word with you."

"I have nothing to say to you," I snapped, still excited.

"It ain't reasonable not to hear a man say he's a villain in his most conciliatory manner. I'm talking for all of us."

He paused a moment, took my silence for consent, and went ahead.

"Begging your pardon, Mr. Eagen," said he, "we ain't going to do any more useless work. There ain't no business about us, but we ain't going to be busy at nothing. All the camp work and the haulin' and cuttin' and cleanin' and the rest of it, we'll do gladly. But we ain't goin' to pound any more cable, and you can kiss the Book on that."

He made a deprecatory gesture.

"Put us aboard ship, sir, and let us hear the Old Man give his orders, and you'll find no mutiny in us. But here ashore it's different. Did the Old Man give orders to pound the cable?"

owing to the precipitation of the cliffs, and the rise of the arroyo bed, it was impossible to see more. Handy Solomon felt the defenses carefully.

"A man would think, sir, it was all a cannibal island," he observed. "It's all right and d-d-like here. It would make a ship's guns to batter her down. A man might dig under these her two game logs, if no one was against him. Like to try it, sir?"

"No," I answered gruffly.

"From that time on I was virtually a prisoner, yet so carefully was my surveillance accomplished that I could place my finger on nothing definite. Someone always accompanied me on my walks; and in the evening I was herded as closely as any cattle.

Handy Solomon took the direction of affairs of my hands. You may be sure he set no very heavy tasks. The men cut a little wood, carried up a few pails of water—that was all.

Lacking incentive to stir about, they came to spend most of their time lying on the beach, watching the sky. This in turn bred a languor which is the sickest, most soul- and temper-destroying affair invented by the devil. They could not muster up energy enough to walk down the beach and back, and yet they were worried to death by the insects. After a while they became irritable toward one another. Each suspected the other of doing less than he should. You who know men will realize what this meant.

The atmosphere of our camp became surly. I recognized the precursor of its becoming dangerous. One day on a walk in the hills I came on Thrackles and Pulz lying on their stomachs gazing down fixedly at Dr. Schermohrn's camp. This was nothing extraordinary, but they stared guiltily to their feet when they saw me, and made off, growling under their breaths.

All this that I have told you so briefly, took time. It was the eating through of men's spirits by that worst of corrosives, idleness. I conceive it unnecessary to weary you with the details.

The situation was as yet uneasy but not alarming. One evening I overheard the beginning of an absurd plot to gain entrance to the Valley—that was an attempt to do away with me, convinced at last that I should in some way warn Percy Darrow.

That seems a simple enough proposition, does it not? But if you will stop to think one moment of the difficulties of my position, you will see that it was not so simple. I could not appear. Darrow still visited us in the evening. The men never allowed me even the chance of private communication while he was with us. One or two took pains to stretch out behind us. Twice I arose when the assistant did not expect me, but he was not at all surprised. He had seen me in his part way back. Both times men reluctantly escorted us, and as respectfully separated us from the opportunity of a single word apart. The crew never threatened me by word or look, but they understood each other. I was not permitted to accompany the Laughing Lass without escort. Therefore I never attempted to visit her again. The men were not anxious to do so; their awe of the captain made them only too glad to escape his eyes. That empty shell of a past reputation was that of curiosity. It shielded the arms and ammunition.

As I look back on it now, the period seems to me to be one of merely potential trouble. The men had not taken the pains to crystallize their ideas, and they were not yet plotting their long pipes. Each was content with four bits for the gulls. I expect to sell them for a good price.

Next morning they shook off their lethargy and went seal-hunting. I was practically commanded to attend. This attitude had been growing of late; now it began to take a definite form.

"Don't you want to go seal-hunting?" or "Mr. Eagen, I guess you'd just go along with you to stretch my legs," had given way to "We're going fishing; you'd better come along."

I had known for a long time that I had lost control of them; and that perhaps humiliated me a little. However, my inexperience at handling such men, and the anomalous character of my position to some extent consoled me. In the filaments brushing I could discover some so strong as to support an overt act on my part. I cannot doubt, that had the affair come to a focus, I should have warned the scientists even at the risk of my life, and that I should have occasion to show you, in all probability I could see my way to little besides acquiescence.

We killed seals by sequestering the bulls, surrounding them, and clubbing them at a certain point of the forehead with the butt of a gun. The first bull they fought, and how quickly they succumbed to a blow properly directed. We stripped the mask with its bristle of long whiskers, took the gull, and dragged the carcass into the surf where it was devoured by fish. At first the men, pleased by the novelty, stripped the skins. The blubber, often two or three inches in thickness, had then to be cut away from the peat, cube by cube. It was a long, slow, and odoriferous job. We stunk mightily of seal oil; our garments were shiny with it, the very pores of our skins seemed to ooze it. And even after the peat was fairly well cleared, it had still to be tanned. Percy Darrow suggested the method, but the process was long, and generally unprofitable. With the acquisition of the fifth greasy, heavy and ill-smelling piece of fur the men's interest in peltries waned. They confined themselves to the tanning of the blubber.

Percy Darrow showed us how to clean the whiskers. The process was evil. The masks were, quite simply, to be advanced so far in the way of putrefaction that the bristles would part readily from their sockets. The first bull they managed to get out on line. A few moments later we heard a mighty squawking, and rushed out to find the island ravens making off with the entire carcass. Protection of nothing had to be rigged. We caught seals for a month or so. There was novelty in it, and it satisfied the lust for kill. As time went on, the bulls grew warier. Then we made expeditions to outlying rocks.

Later Handy Solomon approached me on another diplomatic errand.

"The seals is getting shy, sir," said he.

"They are," said I.

"The only way to do is to shoot them," said he.

"I've agreed," said I.

"A queer errand," he said.

"We've got no cartridges," he insisted.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the book," asserted Pulz pugnaciously. "How do you know that?"

"I've approved Handy Solomon," said he. "If we could get 'em, we wouldn't know how to use 'em."

"We wouldn't know how to use 'em," said Pulz.

"The book," said Thrackles.

"Well, the