Prisoners and Captives
By H. S. MERRIMAN
Chapter IX
Our voyage, about a half-mile later, brought us to the rail of the large island, and we drove straight to the nearest village. The place was a mere village, consisting of a single house, surrounded by a small clearing. The house was a small, rectangular building, with a thatched roof and a few small windows. The village seemed to be deserted, and there was no sign of life. We approached the house cautiously, hoping to find someone who could give us directions. Finally, we saw a figure at the door, and we went inside to ask for help.

The man who met us was very friendly, and he spoke to us in English. He told us that the village was deserted, and that the only people who lived there were a few old women and a young girl. He also told us that the only way to reach the nearest settlement was by boat, and that we should avoid the large island at all costs. We thanked him for his help, and continued our journey.

As we walked through the village, we saw a small church, built of stone, and surrounded by a small fence. The church was very old, and it had a small bell tower. We also saw a small school, and a few other buildings, but nothing seemed to be happening.

We continued our journey, and soon we came to a larger settlement. The place was very busy, and there were many people walking around. We saw a large market, filled with fresh produce, and a number of shops, selling all sorts of goods. We also saw a few small churches, and a large railway station, with a number of trains parked nearby.

The next day, we continued our journey, and we came to a large city. The place was very crowded, and there were many people walking around. We saw a large market, filled with fresh produce, and a number of shops, selling all sorts of goods. We also saw a few small churches, and a large railway station, with a number of trains parked nearby.

We continued our journey, and soon we came to a smaller village. The place was very quiet, and there was no sign of life. We approached the church, and we saw a few people sitting inside. We knocked on the door, and a young man came out to talk to us. He told us that the village was deserted, and that the only people who lived there were a few old women and a young girl. He also told us that the only way to reach the nearest settlement was by boat, and that we should avoid the large island at all costs. We thanked him for his help, and continued our journey.

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