

THE SURPRISED AVOWAL.

When one word is spoken, When one look you see, When you take the token, How'er so slight it be, The cage's bolt is broken, The happy bird is free.

There is no unseeing That love-startled word; It were idle praying, It no more be heard; Yet, its law obeying, Who shall blame the bird?

What avails the mending When the cage was weak? What avails the sending Far, the bird to seek, When every cloud is lending Wings toward yonder peak?

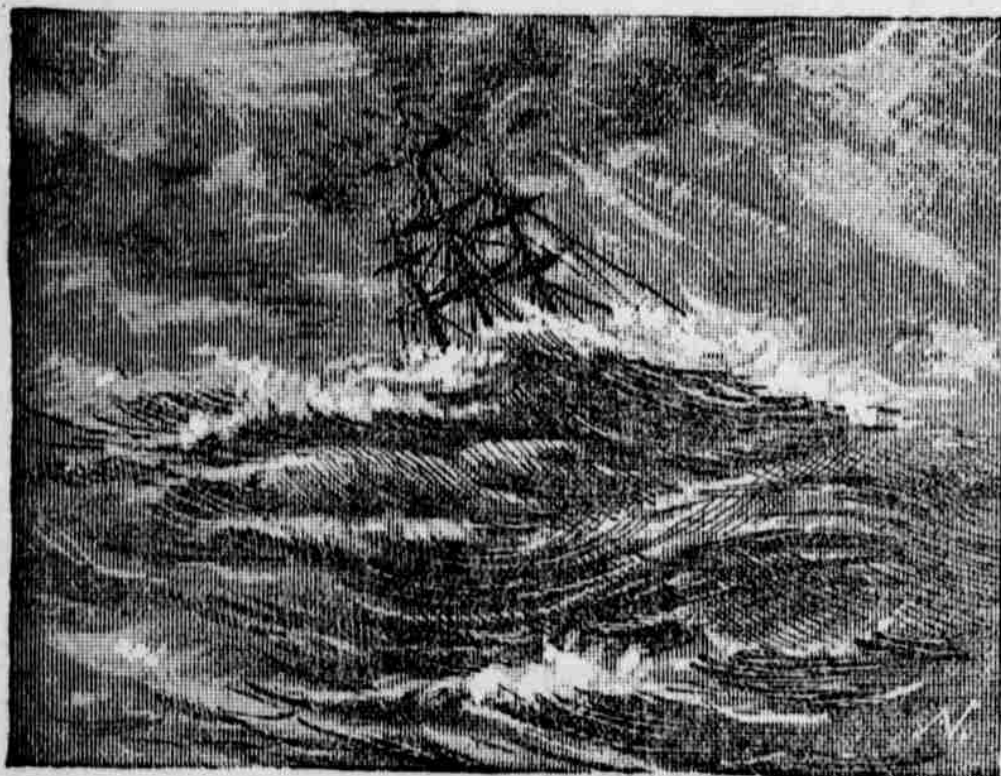
Thrush, could they recapture You to newer wrong, How could you adapt your Strain to suit the throng? Gone would be the rapture Of unimprisoned song. —Robert U. Johnson, in Century.

IN THE GRASP OF ODIN.

BY GEORGE H. COOMER.



Some 30 years ago I belonged to the ship Rollo, lying at Rotterdam, and after we had remained there some weeks our captain got a freight for Bergen, in Norway. We were to take back a load of pine lumber, but on arriving at Bergen it was found the cargo was away up the coast, at a small seaport on the Vest-fjord, and for this place, after discharging, the Rollo made sail. With light, contrary breezes, we tacked a great many times, and on one of these tacks, near the Loffoden islands, passed close by the spot where, at certain times of tide, and especially after northwest gales, rages the great Maelstrom, the terrors of which were so exaggerated by the early geographers. The ebb current had probably set us out of our course, but we saw nothing remarkable, save a commotion of the waters two or three miles away, reminding us of the Race in Long Island sound, or of Hell Gate, as it used to be in those days.



IN THE GRASP OF THE STORM.

A good breeze would have carried the ship through it in perfect safety, nor would it have swamped a fishing boat. Standing into the Vest-fjord, we finally dropped anchor in a snug harbor, before the little Norwegian hamlet which was to furnish us with a cargo. Here were great piles of lumber all about the shores. It was wholly pine, for we were now in latitude 68, where no other timber will flourish, and where even the pine itself almost reaches its northern limit.

What a cold and lonely region it was! The captain's wife and little boy were on board, and the sight of them kept a warm place all the time in my heart, as if so much of bright New England still survived for us, though we were away up in the Vest-fjord. A Dutch brig, called the Zuyder Zee, was likewise there.

She had sailed a week before ourselves from Rotterdam, and by a singular coincidence her captain also had taken his wife and little boy. But the little blue-eyed fellow was no more about the decks. We had seen his pretty face at the rail, as the brig went out of Rotterdam, and again as she went out of Bergen, and little Charlie Rivers, climbing upon the bulwarks of our ship, had hailed him in childish tones as the Zuyder Zee swept past us.

Mounting upon the head rail, while his father and mother were below, he had fallen under the brig's bows and was never seen again.

The bereaved mother, coming on board of us, as we lay at anchor, took little Charlie in her arms and cried bitterly. Mrs. Rivers cried, too, and from that moment she was continually apprehensive of some accident to her little one.

The two vessels finished loading at the same time, and the brig and ship got under way together, to go down the fiord.

This is very wide and long—a sea in itself—and in rough weather one of the most dangerous places in the world. But now all was pleasant. Thousands of sea-fowl circled around the vessel, and the distant shores of the Loffoden islands had a warm, misty beauty.

This state of things, however, did not long continue. The weather thickened, as if preparing for a storm; then the breeze left us, and we dropped anchor in deep water, in order not to be set out of our course by the tide.

Soon afterward it began to blow heavily, yet the wind, being from the northwest, our anchorage, under one of the islands, was so sheltered that we did not drag.

It was a furious gale, making everything creak aloft, and we thought how the Maelstrom would roar after such a northwester.

But snug as we were for the time, there still remained the apprehension of a shift of wind. And, surely enough, the gale at length hauled southwest, driving the sea directly in upon us through the mouth of the fiord.

The ebb tide opposed the wind, and the tumult grew fearful. The sea was tremendous. It carried away the Dutch brig's deck load, her longboat and yawl, while both vessels pitched bowsprit under at every plunge, rolling "scuppers to," and fast taking along their anchors.

The brig dragged faster than the ship, and being to windward, came near getting afloat of us, as, stern foremost, tugging back on her chains and deluged with water, she sagged slowly past.

Indeed, her mainyard struck our own as the two wallowing vessels rolled toward each other; and afterward she lay tumbling for some minutes, so close to our quarter that we could almost have jumped on board of her.

At this moment, little Charlie Rivers was with his mother in the cabin. The stern lights were open, and, standing on the transom, Charlie was gazing from one of them on the foam that curled and swashed past the counters of the ship.

Suddenly he caught sight of the Zuyder Zee, and in some way losing his balance, while straining his neck to look at her, out he went.

Mrs. Rivers had just missed him as he disappeared. She leaned out to catch him, as the Rollo's stern settled in the eddy beneath, and she, too, was gone.

Those on deck knew nothing of the catastrophe, until, as the Zuyder Zee

head us off; the air became foggy, and, in making a turn, we approached so near the maelstrom as to hear its heavy roaring.

The order was given to put the ship in stays, but scarcely had we gone on the opposite tack when it fell entirely calm, and we were at the mercy of the tide.

"See all clear for letting go anchor!" was the next order.

And the Rollo soon swung to her chain, with sheets and halyards let go, and courses, topsails, topgallantsails and royals clewed up and lazily slatting as she rolled.

The maelstrom roared louder and louder, for the tide was ebbing, and its greatest force would be at the turn. The late gale, which had at first been from the northwest, must have given it awful power.

In half an hour the fog lifted, the sun shone clearly and we could see the tremendous surges rushing around the fearful pool like monsters in a pit.

It was to the west of us, and as the air to the south grew clear we observed a tall brig drifting slowly toward the fearful vortex.

"The Dutchman! the Dutchman!" cried all our men, in a breath.

For everyone saw that the vessel was the Zuyder Zee.

She had no anchors, no boats, and the current was carrying her steadily toward that place of terror, where the sea god Odin would grasp her by the keel and hurl her thundering below.

"Clear away the yawl!" shouted Capt. Rivers. "Come with me, four of you!" he added, springing over the taffrail. "Stand by the tackles! Lower away and cast off!"

Three of my shipmates and myself went with him. How we sprang to the oars!

The Zuyder Zee was reached. Mrs. Rivers and little Charlie, together with the Dutch captain's wife, were put into the boat, and all hands besides, ten in number, taken with them.

With a complement of 18 persons our little yawl felt the tide in a way that placed her in terrible danger, but at last we succeeded in reaching the ship in safety.

As we did so the Dutch brig went into the whirl. What a sight it was! Around and around she swept, now standing nearly on end, now lying over till her yards dipped in the water, and all the while—headforemost, sternforemost or broadside to—going with frightful speed.

Then the hull disappeared; the lower masts were swallowed; the royal yards went out of sight. She was gone.

We arrived safely at Rotterdam. But who can describe the caresses showered upon little Charlie through all the passage? The Dutch mother, who had lost her boy, seemed to love the American child almost as her own; and when we sailed from the old Holland seaport she wuffed him tearful kisses as his small face looked back to the quaint drawbridge where she stood.

EMPLOYING CONVICTS PAYS.

North Carolina's Penitentiary Self-Supporting Through the Prisoners' Industry.

The North Carolina penitentiary was self-supporting last year for the first time in its history of a quarter century. From 1853 to 1889 the appropriations for its maintenance averaged \$100,000 a year. Then, under a change of policy, the annual expense dropped to \$37,500, which was the figure until 1893, when a further reduction was made to \$23,000 a year. The achievement in 1896 was under the management of Augustus Leazer. He thinks it could be done again, "not probably every year, but certainly, if the present policy is maintained, self-support should be attained or approximated every year." This result, the convict labor demagogues may be grieved to learn, was accomplished by keeping the convicts profitably employed in farming. They not only grow their own subsistence, but cultivate sufficient cotton to pay the expenses of management, their crop of cotton last year being 2,659 bales, valued at over \$77,000. There would have been 400 more bales of cotton were it not for a disastrous flood on one of the convict farms, which also destroyed 100,000 bushels of corn. As might be expected, this outdoor employment of the convicts has a good effect on their physical condition. The present rate of mortality among them, the manager reports, barely exceeds that of some of the best regulated towns in the state, while the mortality rate among the colored convicts is much less than the rate among the negroes in the large towns.—N. Y. Post.

For the Defendant.

A Welch county court judge recently had before him a case in which a printer sued a pork butcher for the value of a large parcel of paper bags with the latter's advertisement printed thereon. The printer having no suitable illustration to embellish the work, thought he improved the occasion by putting an elaborate royal arms above the man's name and address, but ultimately the latter refused to pay. The judge, looking over a specimen, observed that, for his part, he thought the lion and unicorn were much nicer than an old fat pig. "Oh, well," answered the butcher, "perhaps your honor likes to eat animals like that, but my customers don't. I don't kill lions and unicorns. I only kill fat pigs." Verdict for defendant.—Answers.

HE GOT THERE FIRST.

The Ready Wit of a Bellicose Old Gentleman.

There is a small town in one of the eastern states, not far from Boston, whose inhabitants take great pride in their vicinity. They try every new invention, and if it has any sort of merit it is sure to be assigned to duty in some part of the place. Two portly gentlemen, one a sea-captain and the other a lawyer, both retired from active life, were the prime movers in the experiments and adoptions, and, naturally, in the course of time they failed to agree. Extreme jealousy then prevailed, and a bitter animosity sprang up between them.

Unfortunately these two gentlemen lived next door to each other—in fact, so close were their houses that the side walls almost adjoined. One very windy night the lawyer was reading a book in his study when a terrific crash up stairs startled him. Upon investigating he found that an unruly chimney had ruthlessly hurled itself through his roof, doing considerable damage. That in itself was a matter of great annoyance, but when he discovered it was the sea-captain's chimney that was responsible, his wrath knew no bounds. Hastening down to his library, he pulled out his law-books and hunted up similar cases, devising and scheming how he could secure satisfaction from the detestable captain. While thus engaged a note arrived from his enemy that read as follows: "Sir,—If you don't return those bricks at once, I will put the matter in the hands of the law."—Harper's Round Table.

Paper Made for German Only.

An attorney who has won renown because of his appearance in behalf of many alleged murderers came into the state's attorney's office this morning with a lead pencil in his hand. He looked about him, right and left, seeking paper whereon he might tell somebody what he thought of somebody or other, and his eye lighted upon a German newspaper man, scribbling at a table. "Ah, my friend," said the attorney, "will you lend me some of that paper?" "Certainly," said the German, passing over a generous block, "but I must tell you that you can't write English on that paper. It will take German writing only." And the attorney believed him, and, laying down the block, tried to get some paper from a law clerk who happened in.—Chicago News.

Catarrh Cannot Be Cured

with Local Applications, as they cannot reach the seat of the disease. Catarrh is a blood or constitutional disease, and in order to cure it you must take internal remedies. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces. Hall's Catarrh Cure is not a quack medicine. It was prescribed by one of the best physicians in this country for years, and is a regular prescription. It is composed of the best tonics known, combined with the best blood purifiers, acting directly on the mucous surfaces. The perfect combination of the two ingredients is what produces such wonderful results in curing Catarrh. Send for testimonials, free. F. J. CHENEY & CO., Props., Toledo, O. Sold by all druggists, price 75c. Hall's Family Pills are the best.

There was a young maiden named Grace, Once the prettiest girl in the place; But she's changed a great deal, Since she took to the wheel, For she now has a bicycle face. —Up to Date.

Hale's Honey of Horehound and Tar relieves whooping cough. Pike's Toothache Drops Cure in one minute.

The man who has a strong will is often strong in nothing else.—Ram's Horn.

The worst of winter is to slip and sprain. Best cure—St. Jacobs Oil.

Gray hairs and wrinkles may come, but a happy heart is always young.—Ram's Horn.

When bilious or costive eat a Cascaret, candy cathartic, cure guaranteed. 10c, 25c.

It is a rare man who gets anything but bills and kicks in his letters these days.

Whenever a boy says he is not hungry, it is a sign he is polite.

Cold creeps down the spine, then Lumbago. St. Jacobs Oil creeps in, then cures.

The world's creed is: "He is the best man who wears the best coat."—Ram's Horn.

200 BUS. OATS, 173 BUS. BARLEY.

M. M. Luther, East Troy, Pa., grew 200 bushels Salzer's Silver Mine Oats, and John Breider, Mishicot, Wis., 173 bushels Silver King Barley per acre. Don't you believe it? Write them!

Fodder plants as rape, teosinte, vetch, spurry, clovers, grasses, etc., in endless varieties, potatoes at \$1.50 a barrel. Salzer's seeds are bred to big yields. America's greatest seed catalogue and 12 farm seed samples are sent you by John A. Salzer Seed Co., La Crosse, Wis., upon receipt of 10 cents, and this notice, worth \$10, to get a start. [K]

She had been looking at herself in the glass. "I suppose I'll get used to it," she said, "but after what we've been through in the last few years these tight sleeves actually make me feel immodest."—London Figaro.

The people have the promise blest Of an approaching calm; The orators will take the rest And so will Uncle Sam. —Washington Star.

The Famous West Coast Hotels.

The famous hotels of the west coast of Florida are all open. The magnificent Tampa Bay Hotel, aptly termed a "modern wonder of the world," with its casino, swimming pool, theatrical auditorium, etc., situated on Tampa Bay; The Seminole, at Winter Park, in the lake region of Florida; The Ocala House, at Ocala; The Hotel Kissimmee; the Belleview, at Belleair, overlooking the Gulf of Mexico; The Inn, at Port Tampa, and the Hotel Punta Gorda, at Punta Gorda.

The Plant system of hotels is under the management of Mr. D. P. Hathaway, Tampa Bay Hotel, Tampa, Florida.

Mr. J. J. Farnsworth, Eastern Passenger Agent, 201 Broadway, New York, or Mr. L. A. Bell, Western Passenger Agent, 312 Marquette building, Chicago, will give full information regarding any of these hotels, together with rates via rail or water.

Palace Car Porter—"Kin I brush de dust out yer clothes, boss?" Traveler—"There's no dust in my clothes, Sam." "Well, yer doesn't look like yer was dead broke, boss." —Youker's Statesman.

In winter sciatica is worse. Any time St. Jacobs Oil is the best cure.

A man encourages notoriety in everything except his love affairs.

Cascarets stimulate liver, kidneys and bowels. Never sicken, weaken or gripe, 10c.

No one likes hologna sausage outside of a saloon.—Acheson Globe.

Purify Hood's Sarsaparilla

Your blood now with a course of Hood's Sarsaparilla and be strong and vigorous when the change to warmer weather comes.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is the best—in fact the One True Blood Purifier. Hood's Pills are the only pills to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Advertisement for Farm Seeds, including a circular logo with text: 'FARM SEEDS', 'Salzer's Seeds are Warranted to Produce', 'John Breider, Mishicot, Wis., astonished the world with a yield of 173 bu. of Salzer's Silver King Barley per acre. Don't you believe it? Just write him. In order to gain, in 1897, 50,000 new customers, we send on trial 10 DOLLARS WORTH FREE 10c. 25c. 50c. 75c. 1.00. 1.50. 2.00. 2.50. 3.00. 3.50. 4.00. 4.50. 5.00. 5.50. 6.00. 6.50. 7.00. 7.50. 8.00. 8.50. 9.00. 9.50. 10.00. 10.50. 11.00. 11.50. 12.00. 12.50. 13.00. 13.50. 14.00. 14.50. 15.00. 15.50. 16.00. 16.50. 17.00. 17.50. 18.00. 18.50. 19.00. 19.50. 20.00. 20.50. 21.00. 21.50. 22.00. 22.50. 23.00. 23.50. 24.00. 24.50. 25.00. 25.50. 26.00. 26.50. 27.00. 27.50. 28.00. 28.50. 29.00. 29.50. 30.00. 30.50. 31.00. 31.50. 32.00. 32.50. 33.00. 33.50. 34.00. 34.50. 35.00. 35.50. 36.00. 36.50. 37.00. 37.50. 38.00. 38.50. 39.00. 39.50. 40.00. 40.50. 41.00. 41.50. 42.00. 42.50. 43.00. 43.50. 44.00. 44.50. 45.00. 45.50. 46.00. 46.50. 47.00. 47.50. 48.00. 48.50. 49.00. 49.50. 50.00. 50.50. 51.00. 51.50. 52.00. 52.50. 53.00. 53.50. 54.00. 54.50. 55.00. 55.50. 56.00. 56.50. 57.00. 57.50. 58.00. 58.50. 59.00. 59.50. 60.00. 60.50. 61.00. 61.50. 62.00. 62.50. 63.00. 63.50. 64.00. 64.50. 65.00. 65.50. 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