

The Franklin Times

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BEN ROLL'S ACCUSER

OR THE LOVER'S MEETING

"Ay, ay, now," murmured Ben Roll to himself

The speaker was a sailor almost seventy years old

The persons to whom he had alluded in the remarks he had just made to himself

Mr. Fenton had contrived to make himself agreeable to Grace's elderly aunt

Grace was now returning from a visit to some relatives in England

While there she had received a letter from William Walters, a young naval officer

Late one afternoon she went to her trunk and opened it

To obtain it she was obliged to remove a small satchel

This emitted a ringing sound; in fact it contained all her jewelry

After reading her letter she went to lock her trunk

Soon after, while all hands were at work on deck

Next morning Grace, on opening her trunk

"One of your men—the one you call Ben Roll—was in the cabin yesterday afternoon"

"The Captain went into the fore-cabin, where old Ben sat upon his chest reading a book"

"Roll," said the captain, "something has been stolen. I must search your chest"

"Ay, ay, now, it is a mystery to me how that came there!" he said

"I know nothing about it sir"

"For an instant the old sailor's eyes flashed; then he bowed his head sadly"

"Well, well," he murmured, "I know nothing about it"

But Ben's denial of the crime which he was accused had no avail

Wharton identified her satchel at once

"I don't now how it came in my chest, Miss," said the old sailor

"Come!" cried the captain, sharply, "tell her what you have done with the jewelry and restore it, or I will have to find a way to make you"

"No, no, don't punish him," said Grace

"Ay, now, bless you for them words. I see you believe me, Miss," said Ben

"It won't do to be soft-hearted, Miss Wharton," said the captain

"You will lose all that way. I have had experience with these fellows"

"But he seems to tell the truth," responded Grace

In spite of all her pleadings in his behalf, old Ben was shut up in the run, where the captain informed him he would be kept with no better fare than bread and water until he should be ready to restore to Miss Wharton her stolen jewelry

Days past, and not a day went by that Miss Wharton did not beg the captain to liberate the old sailor; but in vain

"You are too good-hearted," said the passenger, Mr. Fenton, to her

It was a sunny afternoon, and the two was on deck at the time he made this remark

"Perhaps you may deem me bold on so short an acquaintance, but may I hope that you will permit me to add that I love you, that you will allow me to strive to win this beautiful hand, and—"

"What's this? What'd ye want?" inquired the captain, who had been looking through his spyglass at a vessel which had lately hoove in sight off the weather bow

"We want you to free Ben Roll," said one who acted as spokesman

"The irritated skipper did not wait for him to finish, but cried: "Go forward, and mind your own business"

"No," said the man, "if you do not let him out of that run—which is enough to kill one of his years—we will take it upon ourselves to do it"

Instantly the captain called to the stewards to bring his pistols, and to his officers to assist him

"For God's sake men," she cried, "be violent! I hope I will be able soon to persuade your captain to liberate Ben Roll"

Her earnest pleadings, her grace, her beauty were not without their effect

"Then the captain whispered to one of his officers, and a moment later this person hoisted the colors at half-mast

His purpose was apparent. The distant vessel was soon approaching. Her commander had noticed the signal at the ship's gall

"AN ARMED CUTTER," murmured one of the officers, as the stranger drew nearer

val captain, was seated in the stern

Eagerly, Grace's bright eyes were turned toward the sturdy form

"It is he!" she cried, as the launch drew nearer

"Grace Wharton!" were his first words, as he perceived the girl

"Ben Roll!" cried Walters; "did you say the sailor whom you have accused of theft and confided in the run and in whose behalf your men were going to misty, is old Ben Roll?"

"Then liberate him at once. He is innocent if indeed he be the same Ben Roll who once served aboard a craft of mine. Let me see him"

"Ben was at once conducted on deck

"Thank you, sir, thank you!" murmured old Ben, a tear in his blue eye

With a bound he confronted him, and seized him by the collar

"Have you searched this man's trunk?" he inquired sternly, of the skipper

"Why no; he's a passenger, and—"

"Search his room if I warrant you will find Miss Wharton's jewelry there"

"No, no, gasped Fenton, "I will not have my room searched. No one has a right to search it"

"Listen," said Walters to the skipper, "I know this man to be a rascal, and I suspect him to be a thief"

Now, stretch tell us how you managed to get that satchel in old Ben's chest," cried Walters

"If you promise to protect me from these men," said Fenton, pointing to the ship's crew, who stood glaring at him fiercely, "I will confess"

"Go on," said the skipper, "I promise"

"Well then, it was dark when I stole the satchel of jewelry, which I had had my eye on for some time

"I put the jewelry in my valise. Then I contrived to slip into the storage unobserved, and from there, through the hold, I made my way to the fore-cabin, working at the time, and as Ben's chest was unlocked, I had not much trouble to get the satchel in it"

"I knew it was his chest by his name spelled in red letters on the lid. And now I will inform you that my reason for selecting Ben as my accomplice was because I knew well enough that he was aware of my character, or at least he had suspicions of it, as he, too, had served aboard the Spartan, and had known me aboard that craft"

"Fearing he would contrive to tell Miss Wharton who I was, and thus prejudice her against me, I thought it best to put him in such a situation that his word would not be credited"

"And what was Miss Wharton to do?" cried Walters laughingly

"I wanted to try and win her for my wife," was the answer

waited so long, and which he now told her he had only delayed until such times as he should have won his commission as captain in the navy

The happy girl gave him a favorable answer, and the twin was married a year later, after they again met in the United States

Mr. Fenton had not reached America as a board the "Greenport"

Fearing that the crew of the vessel might do him harm, he contrived, unobserved, to leave the craft in the dingy on a certain dark night, while she was off the Cape de Verde

Excitement in Texas

Great excitement has been caused in the vicinity of Paris, Texas, by the remarkable recovery of Mr. J. E. Corley, who was so helpless he could not turn in bed, or raise his head

Every body said he was dying of consumption. A local druggist, Dr. King's New Discovery was sent

After a few days of use, the patient was cured, and he is now able to do his usual work

A man may talk and talk and not be a bore if he talks to you about your good points

THE REMEDY UNANIMOUS

W.D. Salt, Druggist, Bippus, Ind. writes: "I can recommend Electric Bitters as the very best remedy"

"I am gaining flesh rapidly," as the thief remarked when he ran away with a ham

CHILDREN

Often need some safe cathartic and tonic to avert approaching sickness or to relieve colic, headache, sick headache, indigestion, flatulency, and the complaints incident to childhood

It is curious, but a man is called a master when he goes slow on food

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SIMMONS LIVER REGULATOR

Headache

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I had given myself up as lost because of inherited scrofula

Everything for purifying the blood without benefit until I used Parker's Tonic, and now I can say it has cured me

A lady's jacket is certainly not a coat of male

A party paid ten dollars for a horse at an auction sale

A gross answer—Twelve dozen

People who cannot spend the season of winds and cold rains in Florida should keep Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup in the house

HE WENT CRAZY HIMSELF

Wife—Has the Emmons, Jury brought in a verdict?

Yes, you said I said they brought her insane

Well, didn't you?

No, I didn't; I said that they brought her insane

That's what I said you said

No you didn't

I tell you I did

You're insane yourself

That's what you said the jury said about Mrs. Emmons

Yes you did

Husband grabs the table cloth and smother his wife and then he goes crazy himself

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PROTECTION

The result of what is called the protective policy are now plain enough

It has built up the cotton fields and the wheat fields of India

It has driven our pork and butter out of Europe

It is persuading France to exclude our corn and wheat and other agricultural products

It is persuading us to spend millions upon armaments, and to follow the other nations of the earth in the policy of jealousy, hatred and war

In return for all these evils what has it given us? A few sickly manufactures which cannot stand alone, and a million working people on the strike

Verily this is the protection which the wolf gave the lamb, to New York Star

MOTHER'S FRIEND

MAKES CHILD BIRTH EASY

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