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FORECASTLE YARNS. From a Sailor's Journal of his first Cruise. CAPTURE OF THE CYANE AND LEVANT.

'I say Jack Denison,' I continued, addressing an old weather-beaten tar, as broad as he was long, and so heavily spattered, that he looked, for all the world, like a line o' battle cut down: 'now's your turn; come answer to your muster and relieve the wheel: Bob has spun us a yarn as long as the fore-to-bow-line, spliced into the jib-down haul, so, now, try your hand at the bellows. Tip us a real, regular built bloody-one; none of your seven water-grog, and give it to us hand-over-fist, right off the reel, and be alive a-bout it, so that Bob won't be obliged to pipe. 'All hands open top-lights, ahoy,' before you get it half reeled.'

'Who made you commodore, and be d--d to you, long splice of a land-lubber?' says Jack, as he hauled up his courses, and cleared decks for action.—'I can spin yarns, without asking any odds of you, you bone polisher, so clap a stopper on the running part of that long tongue of yours, or I'll get Bob to seize you up in the weather-rigging, and have a dozen into you to make you clew up your jawing tactics.'

'Jack,' says I, discreetly rolling out of striking distance, 'your chat is like a reefer's orders; big words from a weak stomach; come, bear a hand, and pay out the slack, mind you don't choke us; small-helm, my boy, keep her full and by, if she'll go it.'

'You are a pretty fellow,' says Jack, 'to talk about small helm. I don't believe you ever spoke the truth but once in your life, and that was when you said you did like duff and molasses, and didn't like a hogging.'

'Avast, Jack,' says I, 'I'll haul off and repair damages.' So Jack stowed away the old soger in the north east corner of his tarpaulin, took a fresh bite of purser's plug, and tying an overhaul knot with his fists, a-thwart his bread bag, and mooring himself snugly, he began his yarn, as he did every thing but end foremost.

his fighting traps rigged, swabs and all. Now, then, look out for hard knocks and prize money. 'The officers took the hint, and in ten minutes, all hands of them were in fighting togs, and things began to look a little man o' war fashion.

'Well, we cracked on her, ring-tail, sky-scraper, jibbe-jib, and the d—I knows what not, and went spanking off, at twelve knots an hour; but the fellows ahead did their prettiest too, so that it was three bells, in the first dog watch, before we got near enough to make out much.

'We could then see, very plainly, that one of them was a cravatte, and t'other a sloop of war, and they looked like Johnny Bull's craft, so the old man ordered a bow chaser to be fired, just to make them look at us for they were a long way out o' shot; and when he had waked them, so he sent up the old gridiron to the fore-sky-sail-mast-head, so that they could see it plain. They answered a minute after, each a gun, and sent up British colors!

'Now boys,' says we, for a brush; but Johnny Bull did not think so, but pulled heel all the harder; but we gained on him, and 'twas very plain we should overhaul him, so the word was passed.

'For and aft, both sides, and amid ships, 'all hands!' Turn to and clean yourselves, white frocks, and trowsers, to muster.

'Avast, Jack Denison,' says I, 'what did you put on your muster clothes to fight in for? Get them spoiled and dirty, and some ugly holes drilled in them, prehaps.'

'Shut your youngster's gizzard, Jack, you were going to muster, as you Yankees say; and so we rigged ourselves to put Johnny Bull's eyes out, if he looked our way. 'Well, we cleared up decks, and got every thing in fighting trim; arm-rests on deck, cutlass-racks at the capstern, and forrard, put on the gratings, rove reeve-ers, sheets, and braces, slung the yard in chains, lashed the topsails, sande down decks, and got every thing read in regular built style. When we were within about four miles of the Englishmen, we trained one of our bow chasers in them, and let drive, just by way of opening the conversation, as my sweet-heart used to say; but that did not do much, but Johnny Bull, as if he had just thought what we wanted of him, began to shorten sail, as if he was coming-to for us.

'We were glad enough to see that motion, and began to think he might be a clever fellow after all, and so shortened sail ourselves, but Johnny was playing us a trick; for when we got under fighting canvass, and had lost some headway, he threw his men aloft, and his sails being only stowed up, and not half stowed, he was under all sail again in a minute. But old Stewart saw what they were at, and they found that Yankees could loose sail too upon a pinch, for we were under all, almost as soon as they were, and after them all we went.

'The cravatte (we afterwards found she was the Cyane, and t'other the Levant, and I'll call them so 'cause it's shorter) began to blaze away at us with her stern chasers, but we told her nothing, for firing bow chasers deadens a ship's way, and we determined to put off that part of the business till we got them alongside. So we went on gaining on them at every plunge, when, all of a sudden, they began to shorten sail again.

strain, the music was drowned with the thunder of two broadsides fired together, plump at us. I never heard such music before, and I hope I never shall again, especially in a moonlight night.

'Then came his orders for bringing the ship to action. Both batteries were cast loose, tampions out, aprons, off, and loaded, with each a round shot, a stand of grape and cannister.'

'Man both batteries sung out the first luff; they were manned. 'Depress your guns for a close fire; wait for the word of command; silence fore and aft!'

'He stopped, and we hardly breathed, our decks were as still as death; and as I was only about eighteen years old, and had never been in action, I began to feel a little streaked. I was stationed at one of the quarter deck guns, and of course could see every thing, and standing still alongside my gun, I had nothing to think of, but the question whether the flat-fish wouldn't be dubbing their ugly noses into my carcass, at the bottom of the sea, before long; and I can tell you, I felt a little queer, as the shot from the Englishmen flew around us. I didn't like standing still to be shot at.

'Right ahead, about half a mile off, were the Cyane and Levant under easy sail. The Levant was a little ahead of the Cyane, and it was bright moonlight, we could see every thing as plain as day, and they blazed away at us with stern-chasers and quarter deck guns all the time; but we took no notice of it.

'Wait for the word of command,' says the first luff, again; 'not a shot must be thrown away.'

'As we neared them, their fire grew hotter and hotter, till when we were on the Cyane's larboard quarter, the sea was all in a haze.

'Port! hauled the first luff in a voice so loud, that we heard it plain in spite of the Englishmen's broadsides. Their game was to keep both on our larboard side, so that we should be obliged to divide our larboard battery between them, but Commodore Stewart knew better than that.

'We passed the larboard side of the Cyane, and luffed up between her and the Levant; they luffed too, so that we should not rake them, and then the first lieutenant hailed again.

was the side cut up by our shot; tacking and crowding all sail, threw it clear out of water, so that the carpenter had a fair chance at it, and old Nipton no chance at all. In an hour the lieutenant made report that every thing was snug again, and then took out half of their men and brought them aboard the Constitution, and manned them with our own. We didn't steal their dunnage, though, nor abuse them, as Bob says they did in the Endymion, but let each man have his bag and hammock, the same as in his own ship.

'We made Madeira in a couple of days, and came to an anchor in Porto Praya, and began to rest, and manned the Cyane and Levant as well as we could, and had men enough for old Ironsides. In a week we were ready for sea, and were lying quietly at anchor, when, one foggy morning, a small craft arrived, and reported an English fleet outside, coming in. We knew, well enough, that the English would not care a straw for the Spanish neutrality, so we cut our cables, and as the English prisoners would be in the way in a fight, we sent them ashore, and then stood out. Now, there was an old Spanish battery ashore, which commanded the whole bay; and as soon as we landed the prisoners, the d--d rascals ran to that battery, manned it, and opened upon us in fine style. That didn't please old Stewart over well, and he swore some pretty tough ones, that if he got clear of the English fleet outside, he would come back and blow those fellows into the air.

'Now, the harbor of Porto Praya has a small, bushy island at its mouth, so that there are two channels of entrance; and as the fog was very thick, the English fleet came in at one, as he walked out at the other, but they soon found their mistake, and came out again, before we could get any kind of start, and gave chase. They were five ships, two seventy fours, one razer, and two fifty gun frigates. We could not stand all that; they carried too many guns for us, and we crowded all sail to get away. We soon found that near prizes could keep with us, we could not the English squadron hull down in two hours, but there was the pinch; they were both heavy sailers, especially the Levant, and no match for old Ironsides or the English fleet either, so we had to shorten sail, to allow them to keep in company, and go to so, Johnny Bull gazed on us. Now, the commodore showed them a Yankee trick.—He ordered the Cyane and Levant to carry on every thing they could show, and then coolly dropped astern of them, and backed his maintop-sail to make the Englishmen think he intended to fight the whole bunch of them, so that they would shorten sail and the Cyane and Levant could get away, and then he would brace up again, and walk right away from them; for he knew that none of their ships could begin to sail with the Constitution.

'That was a pretty saucy trick, I'm thinking, one frigate heave to, for two seventy fours, a razer, and two frigates as big as herself! whew-w! But, after all, this trick didn't do much good, so the English followed on crowding all sail, so the Commodore braced up again, and then heave out a signal to the Levant, which was falling astern of the Cyane every minute, to tack ship and stand back to the Porto Praya, to take shelter under the Spanish neutrality, while we and the Cyane went on. She tacked accordingly, and the English admiral detached two frigates, (the Newcastle and Acosta, forty fours,) to give her chase, while he and the rest of the squadron bore down after us.

'Now, Commodore Stewart knew well enough, that if the Newcastle and Acosta kept on after the Levant, they would certainly catch her, so he shortened sail again, backed his maintop-sail; and fired a gun to windward, hoping that the English Admiral would then recall his frigates to take the Constitution, and so the Levant would escape; but there he was mistaken. The admiral knew that his seventy fours and razer were enough to take us; so he let the Acosta and Newcastle go on, while he crowded on after us. When Commodore Stewart saw that that trick had failed, he heave a signal to the Cyane to shift for herself, and then bracing up again he made all sail, and in an hour the English hailed off, finding they could not catch us.

'When we came into New York, in April, the Cyane was at anchor, off the Battery; and the Levant took refuge in Porto Praya, and the English broke the Spanish neutrality, as we knew they would, and managed with two fifty gun frigates, to take a sloop of war of twenty two guns, with thirty men to man her.'

FROM FRASER'S MAGAZINE. THE YOUTH, THE SERPENT, THE COW, AND THE FOX. An Arabian youth, mounted, according to the custom of his country, on a fleet and sure footed camel, was journeying over the vast desert of Keremaun; he was in pursuit of the caravan, and arrived late one evening in the borders of a forest, great as the power of Allah, and extensive as the plain of destruction.—The travellers had proceeded onwards, and on leaving this their last halting place, some negligent wretch had omitted to extinguish his fire. The sparks being still

alive, and the western gale springing up, had fanned them into a flame; which, spreading from brake to bush, and from bush to tree, speedily set the whole forest in a blaze. The youth, arrested in his progress, was gazing on the awful spectacle before him, when on a sudden the voice of a lamentation reached his ear.

He looked about and beheld, at a little distance from him, surrounded by the all devouring element, a largeserpent, writhing as it seemed, in the last agonies of death, bound and fastened as he was in the fetters of the flames.

On observing the approach of the traveller, the serpent lifted up his voice and said, "O youth! pity my miserable condition; and although we are, it is true, natural enemies, yet extend a helping hand, and save me from the wretched fate which, without assistance, instantly awaits me."

The youth had drunk deep of the bitter cup of adversity, and from experience had learned the value of kindness and compassion. He said, "Although we are taught the maxim, that to serve the wicked is to injure the good, yet thy condition is so deplorable and thy destruction so sure unless I help thee, that I will for once act contrary to the advice of the wise." Having said this, he fixed his wallet to the point of his spear, and stretching out the hand of assistance, desired the serpent to take speedy advantage of the means of escape offered to him. The serpent lost no time in coiling himself up in the bag, and was drawn safely out of his perilous situation.

"Go," said the youth, "whosoever thy inclination may lead thee, and henceforward out of gratitude for the service now rendered thee, abstain from injuring man."

"What!" asked the serpent, "dost thou require me to abandon the dictates of my very nature? Knowest thou not that there is an inherent principle fixed within me, which bids—nay, commands—me to do all the harm I can to every son of man? I cannot and will not give up that disposition, which was planted within me by my Creator; and stir I will not from this spot, till I have inserted my deadly fangs both into thee and into thy camel."

"Did I not but this instant," replied the youth, "render thee an important service? And among what class of God's creatures is it the custom to return evil for good? and with what tribe is it held right to supply the pure stream of kindness and affection with the foul dregs of cruelty and ingratitude?"

"It is the practice of you men said the serpent, and though to render a service is, abstractly considered to do good, yet when misapplied, as in the present instance, it becomes a sin. I will therefore punish your presumption and folly that your example may be a warning to others. I will sell you the very article I purchased in your own market; you will surely buy for once that which yourself all the year, in great alarm, bent the knee in supplication to the earth; but compassion was a stranger to the adamant heart of the serpent who called out, 'Prepare quickly and say whether I shall live these first or thy beast.'

ly aid, must have sunk under the burning rays of the sun. Mark the result, he no sooner begins to derive the advantage of my assistance, and to recover from the fatigue of his journey, even while he is yet reposing under the shade I cheerfully gave him, than he locks above and around him saying how gracefully bends you branch! it will serve me for a bow. This limb, how beautiful, how straight! I will give it for a handle to my spear. He is regardless of the injury he inflicts—evens them from my body, and so recompenses me for the service I have rendered him. I am thinking how I can best afford him shelter, while he is meditating upon the readiest way to tear me up by the very roots."

"There was, exclaimed the serpent, are the two witnesses you required: prepare instantly to meet your fate."

"Life," answered the youth, "is dear to all, give me one chance more. Had it not been for you another witness I would wait no longer, but will then submit to the will of God."

It happened that a fox was standing near, and was listening with great attention to their dispute. We will ask the fox, said the serpent; and when he pronounces judgment against thee, I will delay no longer."

Before the young man could put his question, the fox shouted, "Man always returns evil for good; but pray, sir, what service do you pretend to have rendered the snake, that you should have made yourself obnoxious to punishment? The youth replied all that had passed. 'You appear an intelligent person,' answered the fox; 'why, therefore, do you state so contrary to reason and common sense?—You know it will become a wise man to advance any thing that is opposed to truth and justice.'

The snake assured the fox that the words of the young man were true, and directed his attention to the bag, hanging at the saddle-boy; by means of which he had been drawn out of the flames. 'Now,' said the fox, 'I know thou speakest what is false; for how could a serpent of thy great size be contained in so small a compass?'

The deluded serpent bent on the destruction of the youth, was anxious to prove to the fox the truth of his assertion, and offered to convince him by again placing himself within the bag. The fox, said that it indeed he should insert himself with his own eyes, he could no longer doubt; and would then fairly and impartially decide between them. Upon this the young man stretched open the mouth of the bag, and the serpent, deceived by the words of the wily fox, coiled himself up in it as before.

The fox justly called out, 'O youth! thou hast now thy enemy in thy power give him no quarter he is in thy hand, spare him not.'

INTEMPERANCE.

Could I call around me in one vast assembly the temperate young men of our land, I would say—Blessed be the name of the Lord! how in the dew of your youth. But look well to your footsteps; for viper and scorpion, and adder, surround your way—look at the generation who have just preceded you—the morning of their life was cloudless, and it dawned as brightly as your own—but behold them litten, swollen, enfeebled, inflamed, debauched, idly poor, irreligious, and vicious—with halting step dragging towards to an early grave! Their bright prospects are clouded, and their sun is set never to rise. No house of their own receives them, while from poorer to poorer elements they descend, and to harrier and harder fare, as improvidence dries up their resources. And now, who are these that wait on their footsteps with muffled faces and sable garments? This is a father—and that is a mother—whose grey hairs are coming with sorrow to the grave. That is a sister, weeping over evils which she cannot arrest—and there is the broken-hearted wife—and there are the children—hapless innocents—for whom their father has provided the inheritance—only of dishonor, and nakedness, and woe. And is this, below-d young men, the history of your course—in this scene of desolation, do you behold the image of your future selves—is this the poverty and disease, which as an armed man shall take hold on you—and are your fathers, and mothers, and sisters, and wives, and children, to succeed to those who now move on in this mournful procession—weeping as they go? Yes—bright as your morning now opens, and high as your hopes beat, this is your doom, and your night, unless you shun those habits of intemperance which have thus early made theirs a day of clouds, and of thick darkness: If you frequent places of evening resort for social drinking—if you set out with drinking, daily, a little, temperately, prudently, it is yourselves which, as in a glass, you behold.