



The story opens on the shores of Lake Huron, in the autumn of 1772. Frank Ellery, a trapper, refused to act as guide to a lieutenant of the King's infantry, desiring to return to Boston with his servant, Benly, on his birthday.

Chapter II. BOSTON TOWN.

From the dark sky looked down the frosty stars. The trapper and the Indian sat side by side upon the box of the stage, were sunk in thought.

"Boston," said the driver. Boston, the trapper drew a breath and leaned forward. He saw the lines of streets, and even distinguished the faces of houses in the distant dots of yellow.

Other roads joined theirs at the foot of the hill, and now increased the steady stream of people moving toward Boston. Here was a couple, there a group of men, and again was a wagon-load of men.

Anthony cursed them promptly. "May their eyes drop out!" they never find their way home! they their lives never brew them another dish of tea!"

The road was continually more crowded; they went slower. Crossing the Neck they heard the water lapping the beach, and the traveler sniffed the salt smell.

The stage turned aside at the first cross street and came into the crowded ways. The harbor breeze of mid-December cut their faces, but the traveler breathed it eagerly.

Though the streets were freer, he could not miss the signs of political excitement. At the hour when the town-meeting sat in silence within the Old South church, waiting the answer to its final petition to the governor, and pondering John Rowe's question, "Who knows how tea will mingle with salt water?"

Thus all the movement in the streets was in the direction of the Old South, and where the stage drew up at the tavern in King street, there was quiet. The passengers descended, the stage drove around to the yard, the young Tories entered the tavern, and only the elder and Dickie stood below the emblem of the Bunch of Grapes.

A little man came hurrying out; "Oh, Master Dickie!" "Well? asked Dickie. "Oh, it's you, Nick. What is it?" "Humphreys is sick."

The little man nodded, and with the importance of a bearer of news he mingled the tribute of regret. "Almost at his end."

"Very much?" "Well, Nick, I'll come at once." But his name was called again. "Tie uncle."

A lean and threadbare man came into the circle of light. He stooped slightly at the shoulders, running his hand forward so that his eyes peered out shrewdly from under his brows, as if with suspicion.

"Yes, he's ill," replied his uncle, his eyes not meeting Dickie's, but resting on his sleeve. "To ill, in fact, for you to go. So come with me."

"I've waited here a half-hour," cried the little man, who was listening. "Mr. Humphreys wants to see him here."

The merchant turned on him. "But I have just been there. The doctor came and ordered you, Dickie, lad, come with me." He smote his neighbor on the shoulder, and in a ghastrly fashion smiled. "Come home, I've much to tell you."

"You see," said Dickie to Nick, "I'd best not go. I'm obliged for your trouble, but I'll humphreys I will come in the morning. Good night." He went with his uncle.

The traveler stood by the tavern wall and followed them with his eye, and when he reached the door, he saw the two men, one in a ghastrly fashion, and the other in a ghastrly fashion, and the little man, recognizing that nothing had happened, made no pause for ques-

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