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AN OLD SALT'S YARN.

A Treasure Found in a Cleverly-Made Wooden Leg.

The Whale and the Fish—A Jonah-Like Escape from Death—A Novel Combination of Wine Cellar, Bank and Safety Deposit Vault.

An old man sat on the edge of the string-piece of a South street dock ingeniously splicing a hawser, and his only companion was a short, black clay pipe, from which he puffed spasmodically clouds of rank plug tobacco smoke with much energy and satisfaction.

There was no crutch beside him, and the reporter was curious to know how he managed to get about the deck of a vessel with such a primitive-looking limb, when he rose from a narrow plank from the deck to the deck of a rakish-looking little schooner, with a remarkable cat-like agility.

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"You are, indeed!" emphatically responded the astonished reporter, taking a seat by his side.

"Yes, and few on 'em's smarter nor me to this day at sea—as I always says to my eldest son, Bill, who owns part of that there schooner. But, of course, I ain't up to much scaling a riggin' or going aloft nowadays—which was the cause of my losing my right leg, and subsequent adoptin' of this here apparatus."

"How long have you worn it?"
"Thirty—yes, thirty-two years ago last October, I was blown off the yardarm of Cap'n Samuel's peerless clipper ship, the Dreadnaught—going to the eastward. There was a gale, and all hands were piped up to reef and shorten sail, when the first thing I knew I kinder lost me footing on the 'stirrup' of the lower foretopmast yard and was thrown on deck."

"And—"

"And this here leg that used to be so badly broken that it had to be amputated at the knee the next day by the ship's surgeon, and when we arrived in Liverpool I was taken to the Seamen's Hospital and laid up for repairs."

"Then," continued the ancient mariner, after regarding this wooden extremity with much admiration for several moments, "I became acquainted with another crippled sailor who died of consumption. 'Take this, Joe,' says he, pointing to this here leg. 'Tain't much, I know,' says he, 'but may be useful when you get well' and with that he died."

"Did it fit?"
"Yess, to a T, and one day I was examining of its wonderful mechanical construction inside, when I found beneath a secret plug in the hollow part of the leg here a wad of bank notes that took my breath away. Two hundred and fifty pounds, sir, as true as I'm Cap'n Joseph Saltus, of Gloucester."

"What did I do with 'em? Why, bless your heart, put 'em back again and never let on to nobody I'd found 'em for fear (in a confidential whisper) his poor relations'd hear of the discovery and expect me to settle up. Then, after I had been in the hospital two months, 'Cap'n Sam' visited me personally, kind soul! and insisted on my 'returnin' to his ship and acceptin' of a job at the galley. My cruise as assistant cook aboard the old Dreadnaught came mighty near ending in a watery grave."

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