

A WITHERED ROSE

BY MANDA L. CROCKER.
"Throw it away! It is dead—
Has lost its spell of delight—
I know; but I will not let it
Lay on her bosom last night.

UNCLE BEN'S STORY.

BY GEORGE H. COOMER.

Uncle Ben was long past going to sea, but his stories of the deep were always interesting, for they were tales of experience, and not of imagination.

"At that time," he began, "sailors had more to dread than now, for they were in constant dread of imprisonment by the British. Sometimes they would be picked up while on shore in the English ports, and whisked off on board a man-of-war; but oftener they were seized on the broad ocean—taken right off their own decks, and compelled to serve among strangers.

"How would it look at this day for a British officer to come on board an American vessel and order the captain to muster his crew, just as slaves are brought out for an auction sale in the West Indies? Think of it! What would the newspapers say? What would the President say? Wouldn't there be a call to arms from Maine to California?"

"But habit," the old mariner resumed, "is everything. Our people had got in the way of looking upon England as having a kind of ownership of the ocean, and it took them a long while to forget this inherited feeling.

"Why, some of our vessels, brought to the British cruisers, would be left with hardly men enough to work them into port. And yet, our folks took it as a matter of course, seeming to think that nothing could be done about it. Wasn't England the 'mother country' they said, and the 'mistress of the ocean'?"

"Before going to sea, I got what was called a 'protection,' telling where I was born, how old, how tall I was, and what color my eyes were. The very fact that an American sailor should be obliged to procure such a writing, with such an object, was enough to fill one with shame. But, still worse, the thing did no good.

"A 'protection,' in so far as regarded the danger of impressment, was worth just its weight of blank paper, and no more. It is true that the British professed to seize only their own countrymen; but, in reality, they paid no attention to any affiliation of birth. 'We want men, and will have them,' they said; and that ended the matter.

"All my sea-going acquaintances had the like passports, subscribed and sworn to in proper legal form, and as humiliating, under the circumstances, as if in so many words they had asked John Bull to grant the bearers the liberty of sailing on his big pond.

ping, and the canvas on her mainmast holding her where she was. Then a Lieutenant, with a number of marines, came on board of us. The vessel alongside, he said, was his Majesty's brig Falkirk, Captain Downs.

"First he asked for the Rebecca's papers, and, having read them, ordered our Captain to have all mustered aft.

"You have no authority," said Captain Eddy, "to command me in such a manner. My men, I presume, are all on deck, and you can see them. I shall make no special muster of my crew."

"The British Lieutenant looked surprised and angry. 'Go forward, Corporal,' he said to the petty officer of the marines; 'take a couple of men with you, and rouse out any of his Majesty's run-a-ways that you find in the fore-castle. I will teach you, sir,' he added, addressing Captain Eddy, 'to respect an order coming from one who bears a commission from the King of Great Britain.'

"No one was found in the fore-castle, for the very good reason that we were all above-board. And now the Lieutenant proceeded to arrange us in a rank before him, ordering up his marines with their bayonets to compel obedience.

"We numbered eight before the mast, all having 'protections,' made out in good faith, and supposed to cover the necessary ground. With a strong appearance of contempt the British officer went through the farce of reading them. Then he tore in two my own and those of three of my shipmates, crumpled them in his hand, and threw them overboard.

"You four are all English," he said; "that is plain enough. I care nothing for your lying Yankee protections; you have only to get into that boat and return to your duty to your King and country."

"We refused positively. But what was the refusal of four unarmed sailors, with the bayonets of ten marines at their breasts, and a twenty-gun brig-of-war lying hardly a cable's length away?"

"Sir," said Captain Eddy, turning to the Lieutenant, "I appeal to your humanity and your honor. These young men are my neighbors when at home. They are true-born Americans. I have known them from childhood, and have always been well acquainted with their families. If you take them away, you commit an outrage such as even your own Government would not sanction."

"I have heard such talk before, said the officer. 'It is what they al-

started. He must have felt himself to be dealing with no ordinary man, and the idea probably flashed upon him that, after all, there might be trouble. If such a thought, however, entered his mind, it was accompanied by the assurance one that with his superior officer, and not with himself, must remain the responsibility of the act he was committing.

"But whatever view his Majesty's officer may have taken of the case, to ourselves the Captain's words brought an unspeakable relief. We knew our man, and felt sure that he would not desert us. Besides, we had all previously heard that, though England winked at such outrages, her laws did not countenance them; and so we felt that what Captain Eddy had said in that direction had been no idle talk.

"No sooner had we reached the Falkirk's deck than the order was given to brace forward, and shrilly repeated by the boatswain's whistle. This whistle for us a most depressing sound, and I have never heard one since without a kind of sad feeling at my heart. It seemed, beyond all else, to tell us where we were. Every command on board a man-of-war, as you may have heard, is first given in words and then emphasized by the pipe.

"With a large number of hands in the after-braces, the yards were swung around till the sails were filled and the brig gathered headway. All except ourselves were for the moment busy, but we, who had as yet no stations allotted to us, stood looking on.

"Our eyes were directed toward the Rebecca, and we saw also her main yard swing around in the same manner. But instead of standing upon her original course, she followed straight after the Falkirk.

"We had seen Captain Eddy himself putting all his strength upon the mainbrace, to assist his sorely diminished crew in hauling the yard around; and now we perceived him at the huge tack of the mainsail—his own head and those of his few men being in plain view above the bulwarks, as a long pull, and a strong pull, and a pull all together," was given upon the heavy rope.

"The Rebecca was by no means a dull sailing ship, and she was now walking right along. It was not to be expected, however, that she could keep up with a brig-of-war, and of course the Falkirk dropped her somewhat astern, although the difference in speed was much less than would have been looked for.

"Captain Downs conferred earnestly with his Lieutenant, and seemed to be uneasy. At length having run for a dozen miles upon his first course, he

concluded to tack ship, the wind not suffering him to stand directly for the English Channel.

"Our topsail had scarcely done shivering as the vessel filled away upon the new tack, when, looking toward the Rebecca, we saw that she also was in the very act of going about.

came on his Majesty's service, and steered for the immediate actors?"

"Upon his own side he might plead the countenance of immemorial custom; but would he not be confronted with that broad construction of English law which is the guarantee of personal liberty? And besides, would not the Yankee Captain be abundantly impressed men?"

"Every moment we were getting nearer to Portsmouth and Spithead; but so, too, was the Rebecca. Soon the affair of our impressment would be noised over all England, and thence borne to the ears of our countrymen at home. Soon Captain Eddy and the remainder of his crew would stand up in the English courts, testifying to the wrong that had been done us.

"Our feelings were intense. We ceased to regret what had happened. We thought only of the noble sympathy and resolute conduct of our true-hearted Captain. How wretched our condition for this day. Everybody pays his compliments to the channel. It is a lovely sheet of water. I looked at it quite as with great joy, solemn, soul-filling eyes, and leaving ghost. It is not a wide channel, but it is a very busy one.

"I went at once to the Victoria. I have seen asked to say attend the royal wedding and shall remain a week at this town, perhaps. This could not attend the Sarsenbergs wedding on account of illness among my stock, but I even happened to be near London again when there was a royal wedding. I would not crawl out of it on those grounds.

"I took a club train from Paris at half past 4 in the evening and came via Calais and Dover to London. The ride was devoid of incident. The channel has my compliments, as they are. Everybody pays his compliments to the channel. It is a lovely sheet of water. I looked at it quite as with great joy, solemn, soul-filling eyes, and leaving ghost. It is not a wide channel, but it is a very busy one.

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NYE AMONG ROYALTY.

THE FAMOUS HUMORIST ATTENDS THE FIVE WEDDING.

To attend the Royal Bride a Beautiful He-Made American Present—Viewers the Marriage Vagant in a Rain-Storm—Bret Hart and Eucher.

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ENAMORED OF THE CHASE.

The Adventures of a Chicago Youth Who Was Seized with an Ambition to Go West and Slay the Bison of the Plains.

Finally a carriage went by, with a little stout old lady who had caught sight of a good-natured man in a red coat and full habit, and a slender girl in a long, white veil and her other dress, and told that these three were the Queen, the Prince of Wales and the bride. If they saw me they disembarked very much.

I was tired, and had sent to the house my butter dish with my card, printed in our own job office, where all kinds of plain and

watched the inaugural parade till my eyes were red; once when I looked at the centennial parade till my teeth got loose, and once when I watched the wedding party if London.

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Johnny Murphy, of Chicago, reads of Red Eye, the noble Indian fighter and buffalo slayer.



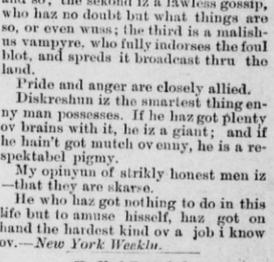
Fired by the exploits of Red Eye, he takes to the chase. "Ha, the noble game!"



The noble game at bay.



Johnny returns from the chase—Chicago Ledger.



Josh Billings' Philosophy.

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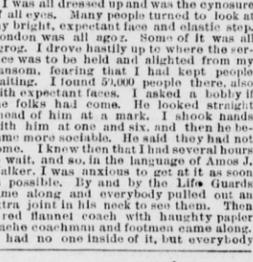


NYE MEETS BRET HARTE.

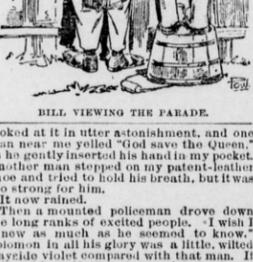
NYE MEETS BRET HARTE.



GOD HELP THE RICH, THE POOR CAN BEG.



NYE AND THE HOTEL MANAGER.



BILL VIEWING THE PARADE.

BILL VIEWING THE PARADE.