

LITERATURE.

THOU DOST NOT LOVE ME.

Thou dost not love me! take away
Those arms that twine around me;
I thought thee true as tongue can say:
I think thee—what I've found thee.
Go, take to other maids thy kiss,
Nor deem of me so lowly,
That I could stoop my heart to this,
A love so false, unholy.

I will not have thine arm so fond,
Nor hear thy tongue's deceiving:
Oh, what are words when all beyond
Is full of deepest grieving!
Take, take thy false, false kiss away,
Those eyes, those looks, that chill me;
I cannot, will not, dare not stay—
Thy falsehood else will kill me!

A RIVAL WHALE CHASE.

When we were four days out to the northward of the island I have mentioned, and everything in perfect order on board, early in the day one of the lookouts at the masthead sang out,

'Sail, ho!'

'Where away?'

'On the weather beam, sir.'

'Can you make out which way she is standing?'

'She looks as if she headed right for us.'

Our worthy skipper here took a walk up stairs, or, in other words, ascended the rigging, and seated himself on the maintopgallant cross-trees.

'On the deck, there!'

'Sir?'

'Keep close to the wind.'

'Ay, ay, sir,' responded the officer.

On we went easily for some time, the sail to windward apparently steering fair for us. We could now see her lower sails from the deck. Suddenly she altered her course, and, getting a more broadside view of her, saw at once she was an American whale-ship chasing whales.

'Have the boats all ready for instant lowering,' sang out the captain.

'Ay, ay, sir,' responded the whole crew.

All eyes were now strained in every direction to see where the whale or whales were. Every voice was hushed, and nothing was heard save the splashing of the water under the ship's bows.

'On deck, there!'

'Sir?'

'The first man that sees the whale, I will give a jacket and trousers.'

'Ay, ay, sir,' again from the men, who were mostly here and there up the rigging.

A Tahitian, who was one of the crew, and who had the lookout at the foretopgallant masthead, sang out lustily 'Dere him blows.'

'Where?'

'Dere, sir,' pointing on the weather bow.

'Dere again.'

The captain adjusted the glass to his eye, and instantly roared out. 'A large whale bending right for us! Stand by the boats, there.'

The skipper descended now to the maintop. The men were all excitement. Most of them threw off their shirts, leaving on only their trousers. The whale was coming down at a steady rate, and the American ship, under a crowd of sail, in chase. The skipper addressed the men from what they called the pulpit, the maintop, and said,

'Now, my lads we have a fair chance of the whale with that ship: let us see who will first dart an iron in to him. Back the mainyard.'

'Ay, ay, sir.'

'Keep an eye on the ship's signals when you are off.'

'Ay, ay, sir.'

The whale was now about two miles off, and a noble-looking fellow he was.

'Lower away four boats.'

Splash went the boats into the water, and the stout ashens oars were fairly doubling with the exertion the men made.

It was a time of anxious excitement. The Yankee's boats were also down, and their chances appeared equal. Our boats required no signal from the ship to guide them, as it was quite evident they saw their game. The ship was yet lying still with the mainyard aback. From the deck we had now a full view of both the whale and the boats, and all deeply anxious for the moment to strike. The boats at last eased their way in order to steal cautiously on the whale, which still steadily and apparently unawares pursued his course. Just as they had pulled close up to him, and the harpooner stood with iron in hand to start, the whale buried his head in the water. Up rose the flukes high in the air, gave a threatening shake, and descended.

A large whale generally sounds from half to three quarters of a hour, so the next business was to fill away on the ships, keep them close to windward, to prevent them dropping to leeward, and keep a good look out

from the masthead, to watch where he would break water again. Some of these fish keep the same course under water as on the surface; but, as it is a rule with many exceptions, the surface of the water was closely scanned for many miles round. As the ship now moved quickly (on a wind) through the water, she soon came up with the boats, two of which were hoisted up, and two taken in to astern. The American ship also filled away and stood on.

As we were now situated, we had an opportunity also of testing the sailing qualities of the respective ships. On we went, 'pitching into it like two horses cantering.' After having run a short distance on this tack, the ships hove about, each captain endeavouring to outmaneuver the other, and the crews of both obeying the orders given, in silence and with increased alacrity. The captain was now pacing the deck and looking round with increased uneasiness, and at last called the steward to pass him a glass of brandy and water to try what luck that would bring.

This being done, away he tramped up and down again. As the time drew near the eyes of all, except the man at the wheel, were strained.

'Fore and aft there. Cover every inch of water with your eyes.'

'Ay, ay, sir.'

'There he blows on the lee quarter. There again.'

'Put the helm up, square away the yards, mind the steering of those boats astern, and stand by to cast off,' were all orders given, and as quickly obeyed.

The other, I may now call her, rival ship, did the same; and both ships were right before the wind under a press of sail, and making the white water fly right and left from their bows. Our ship from having a bounding stag for a figure-head rather indifferently carved, indeed resembling more an ass's head than that of a stag, was familiarly called by us the 'Jackass,' and, by way of a lark, some of our lads tied a bunch of vegetables temptingly before him to try and verify the old adage of 'Persuasion better than force.' At all events, on we went whizzing through it, soon showing the other ship her stern.

'Hurra for old England! we have the best of it.'

The American even set his lower studding-sail, but all would not do. We neared the whale fast. When about half-a-mile to windward of him, the stern boats were cast off and set their sails to increase their speed; the ship rounded to, lay still, and we dropped two more boats. The other ship by this time passed our stern, rounded to, and lowered his boats, all again having an equal chance of paying their respects to this huge fish. Again we had a close view: boats and fish appeared intermingled.

'Now then, my hearties,' cried the captain.

In three different boats the boat-steerers stood up to strike; it was a moment of great suspense and excitement; away flew the harpoons from two boats; a tremendous plunge of the fish throwing foam about in all directions, covering and shading all from view with the spray. We could distinguish two or three oars sent high into the air. The disturbed water subsided, and one of our boats was towed along rapidly clear of the throng.

'Hurra! hurra! hurra!' burst loudly on board our ship: the cheer was wafted to our fast boat, the officer of which acknowledged it by waving his cap three or four times over his head.

The whale now altered his course to windward, and went rapidly through the water. He headed right for our ship, all the rest of the boats pulling as hard as they could after the one fast to the whale. It was certainly a sight highly animating. On he came for us, causing fresh uneasiness lest he might strike the ship.

'Back the headyards,' shouted the captain.

On the fish came, his enormous head nearing us every minute.

'He's into us! He's into us!' muttered the skipper turning pale with anxiety.

The ship had gathered sternway on her just as he came up, and he foamed through the water close under our bows; in fact, so close that the iron poles which were sticking in him close to his hump grazed the ship's cutwater. It was an extremely providential escape. If the ship had not had sternway at the time he would have stove in the bows.

Such things have been attended with extremely disastrous circumstances before now. The crew of the fast boat was now hauling in the line and approaching close to the body of the whale. By and by the line in the boat was bowed, and the boat ranged up alongside the ash. The officer now handled his lance, and pushed it with both hands into him.

'Haul in the line again, straighten, dart again and again,' and a thick spray of florid blood was blown from his spout hole.

'Dart again.'—A quiver of the flukes.

'Stern all,' and the boat slacked her line to get out of the way.

The whale was only a short distance off, and bleeding profusely, so that the water in its wake and for some distance around was quite red. It raised its huge body half out of the disturbed water, and gave a heavy plunge. The boat payed out more line to keep further off. The fish then commenced running in a circuit, at a very irregular and rapid rate. Some of the other boats had by

this time came up: one of them pulled too close to the whale, and with a blow from the flukes of the fish was knocked to pieces. After this exploit the whale beat the water furiously, turned on his side, and died.

The men in the stoven boat, which was ours, were picked up by the others, and three thundering cheers from both ship and boat ended the conflict. I must here record, that though we took the whale from the other ship, and though we were of rival nations, a hearty good will prevailed on both sides; our people pleased at their success, the others at our not letting the whale escape. We now made a board or two with the ship to windward to reach the whale, and, having put on a heavy fluke rope, hauled him alongside and hoisted up our boats. As the sun was now setting to the westward, in all the beauty of a tropical sky, we made everything 'snug' for the night. The American ship crossed our stern, wishing us all joy of our prize, and stood away to the northward. Such was the scene and termination of this animated and rival whale chase.

It always seems unaccountable to those looking on, and even to those in the boat, how it can get stoven or broken up, and men knocked out of it by the whale, without some serious damage and loss of life being the consequence, yet so it was with us. The boat's bow was struck clean off, and, of course, filled with water. The men resorted to the usual method of keeping themselves afloat, by supporting themselves on oars, a bruised arm to one of the men, and the damaged boat, which was afterwards made as good as new on board, we escaped this time.

When all were safe on board the jabber of the crew was continued to a late hour, and, I may add, until sleep put a stopper on their tongues. As for our evening in the boat it was extremely lively. The captain, and, indeed, I may add, all the officers, were in high spirits at having saved ourselves and jockeyed Jonathan out of the fish; and with the exception of a few men on deck to look after the whale and ship, all had 'turned in' to rest themselves for the following day.—*From Cutler's Adventures on the West Coast of South America.*

THE FIGHT OF THE GRAMPUS.

The mate had been looking out with a spyglass, and observed a sail to windward.

'Jump aloft, one of you who has good eyes, and tell me what you make out of that craft with the suspicious rake in her masts, on our weather bow!'

'Ay, ay, sir!' they again sung out, in full chorus; and away several scampered up the shrouds, pell-mell. Among the rest was perceived the slight figure of a lad, who ascended with remarkable agility, and left the others far behind. The mate could scarcely credit what he saw, and gazed aloft in amazement.

'Maintopgallant, there!' hailed the mate.

'Ay, ay, sir!' replied Isaac, in as gruff a voice as he could muster for the occasion.

'What sort of craft is that to windward,—and how is she standing?'

'It is a small black schooner, all legs and arms,' replied Mr. Maintopgallant: 'and she is bearing down upon us under a press of sail! Now she runs up a flag, which you can make out from the deck with the glass; and, by the flash, and the smoke she makes, she has just fired a gun!'

Presently, a dull, heavy report came booming on the breeze, and a thundering sound echoed against the side of the ship. The glass was bent upon the approaching schooner, whose hull had not yet entirely risen out of the water. Her flag was found to be French.

'Steward—call the captain!' cried the mate, in alarm: 'Forward, there!'—call all hands on deck—stand by to put the ship about!'

'Ay, ay, sir,' echoed along the deck, and every sailor stood ready at his post for prompt action.

Seth and Jethro now appeared on deck, wondering not a little at the uncommon stir on board, and surprised to find every man ready, whenever the word should be given, to put the ship on a new direction.

'What does all this mean, mate?' demanded the captain: 'why would thou change the course of the ship?'

'I did not intend to do so without your concurrence,' replied the mate; 'but I thought it best to have every thing ready for prompt manoeuvring. We have a suspicious looking sail on our weather bow, and she shows French colors. By the rake of her masts, I should not be surprised to find her a clipper, with a long tom amidships; for she has given us a gun already.'

'Rather a dangerous neighbor for us, surely,' said the captain, 'especially if she should prove one of those piratical rascals that sometimes cut up our commerce. Keep her away, and see if she follows us,' continued he, lowering the point of his glass.

Away went the Grampus with a free wind, snorting, as it were, like a race horse, and ploughing handsomely through the seas on her altered way.

The Frenchman steered for, and gained gradually and steadily upon, the Grampus; and the event was most anxiously looked for by all on board. The ship, deeply laden as she was with oil, was of great value, and, as Seth thought, eminently worth preserving. But the Frenchmen were determined she should change owners,—for they managed their little craft with great skill, and altered their course in chase whenever Macy changed his. The breeze was brisk, and suited the schooner to a crack; while the laden ship, though the fleetest of her class, could not show her heels to advan-