

Eustace, the Outcast.

CHAPTER XII.

THE COURT MARTIAL. Captain Brentwood peered his private cabin in considerable perturbation. "The most unfortunate," he muttered, "that he should have behaved so, after his noble conduct in the fight. I would have given a hundred pounds that it had not happened. The Captain spoke the truth when he said that but for him victory would have gone the other way. Yet he has committed a flagrant breach of discipline—struck an officer of the ship—and subjected himself to the most severe punishment, which I cannot possibly remit. To do so would be to demoralize the whole crew, and be utterly subversive of discipline; and that must be maintained against all private feelings and considerations. I wish to heaven Grahame had been more discreet than to act so rigorously at such an inopportune moment. But duty is duty, and must be done, however disagreeable."

Captain Brentwood in his full official dress led the way to the state-room, where arrangements had been made for a formal examination of the crime reported to have been committed by Eustace Grahame—the grave and heavy crime of striking an officer. The large room was partially filled by the petty officers, a draft of seamen and marines, and those who had evidence to give of the matter which was to form the subject of the captain's enquiry. Among the latter were Jack Murdoch and Willy Somerville, who had both seen something regarding the alleged crime committed, and were forced to give evidence against their friend. Willy Somerville, as it chanced, was the only one who had seen Eustace give the push or blow, or whatever it was, and upon upon his testimony would mainly depend the conviction or acquittal of the prisoner. Willy was aware of this, and he had determined to die rather than say a word against Eustace. The captain having taken his seat on a raised bench at the end of the state-room, and the officers placed according to their rank, with a group of seamen, deeply interested in the proceedings, stood near the entrance. Eustace was led in and placed at the foot of the table, opposite the commander. He was not in fetters now, but a strong guard with muskets stood behind him. Eustace walked slowly in, with form erect, and maintaining on his countenance the air of stern manly dignity. He looked at no one but the captain, and on him he fixed a full, piercing eye, so steady and significant in its gaze that the latter felt uneasy under it. For a moment or two he tried to look the prisoner down, but signally failed, and he was fain to turn his glance in another direction. "That state-room and its occupants would at the moment have formed the subject of a striking picture. The most conspicuous figure there was Eustace himself, his tall, athletic form towering above the rest—his arms folded across his breast—his attitude loftily indignant—his calm face terribly grave, and his whole appearance statuesque. On either side were his guards, behind were the eager faces of the sailors, on each side of the table stood the officers, the most notable among them being Randolph, whose whole countenance wore a fiendish expression of triumph; and lastly, on the raised seat sat the Captain, with a plainly disconcerted and uncomfortable air. In front of the Captain a large written sheet lay upon the table, and in order to escape from the steady, penetrating gaze of Eustace, he looked upon it while he spoke.

"Eustace Grahame," he said in rather low tone, but the words were well heard amid the breathless silence of the state-room—"Eustace Grahame, this report charges you with striking a superior officer. Are you guilty of this heinous offence, or are you not?" "I am not guilty," answered Eustace, with a clear, firm voice.

"Lieutenant Graham, stand forward and make your charge," said the captain, with a momentary glance at Randolph.

"The latter, flushed still with triumph, stepped forward to the table."

"The circumstances of the case are very brief, sir," he began. "After the action, and when there was much to do in the vessel, I observed a group of idlers loitering away forward. I approached and ordered them to disperse instantly, and go to their work. All obeyed except the prisoner. I repeated the order—and still he paid no heed—treating me with impudent and contemptuous silence. I could not, of course, allow such gross insubordination to pass, and ordered as a punishment two hours at the masthead. Instantly he turned upon me, raised his hand and violently struck me."

Randolph ceased, and the Captain turned again to his paper, where he found the names and witnesses. Several of the others, with an air of reluctance and hesitation, gave evidence which, though not of a conclusive kind, was yet corroborative of Randolph's statement. No one was near enough to hear the words spoken, and with one exception no one had seen the blow. This one ex-

anxiety to see the issue, was watching from behind a hemlock, and fully witnessed the action of Eustace. He unguardedly told some of the sailors that he had, and his having come to the ears of Randolph, he eagerly seized on Willy as the principal witness. It was a deadly stroke of vengeance to make Willy the chief instrument in the condemnation and punishment of Eustace.

Poor Willy was in a dreadful dilemma. He knew well enough that if he told the truth his testimony would ensure conviction, and he had made up his mind to keep silent, whatever the consequence might be to himself. He even meditated for a moment to follow the example of Eustace, and boldly deny that he had seen what he had seen. Only for a moment, however, did he contemplate this course, for he was largely imbued with a staunch Scotch reverence for truth, and was more than surprised to hear Eustace declare that he was not guilty. Knowing Eustace as he did, this was an answer for which he was not prepared, for he had not believed him capable of falsehood. And, to Willy's view, the reply made to the charge did look very like an untruth, and he was both puzzled and pained by it. But, strong as was his devotion to Eustace, he could not sacrifice truth even for his sake. He could and would show his unshaken friendship by silence, and silent he resolved to be. When, therefore, his time had come, and he was brought forward to the table, he was pale and his lips were firmly set together. Let one word should escape them prejudicial to his friend. His appearance deepened the intense interest of the scene, for it was generally known that his was the condemnatory evidence, and as all in the ship likewise knew that peculiar friendship subsisting between Eustace and himself, his behavior in such a trying position was naturally regarded with extraordinary interest and sympathetic feeling.

"William Somerville," said the captain, beginning his interrogations, "you were one of the group of seamen who were ordered by Lieutenant Grahame to disperse?"

Willy thought it would be quite safe to answer this question, and he did—"Yes, sir."

"And you did obey the order given?"

"Yes," was the answer again, after a moment or two of cautious hesitation.

"Did Eustace Grahame obey the order, or did he remain standing on the spot?"

This was coming clearly within the point of danger, and Willy tightened his lips and made no answer.

"Did you hear my question?" asked the captain, calmly, and in a placid tone.

"I heard it, sir," was the reply. "Then, what is your answer?"

Willy, closing his lips again as firmly as before, glanced at Eustace, and remained silent.

"Don't hesitate to tell everything you know Willy," said Eustace kindly.

Willy started for a moment in astonishment at the tranquil countenance of Eustace, and did not recover from his surprise till recalled by the captain repeating his question.

"He just stood still where he was," said Willy, drawing a long breath.

"Now, did you hear any words spoken by either Lieutenant Grahame or the prisoner?"

"No," answered Willy, very promptly and briskly.

"Did you see the prisoner push or strike Lieutenant Grahame?"

ed by the answer—"Partly both." That was enough—the evidence was exhausted and the charge established. The captain rested his arm on the table, and shaded his face with his hand. He remained there for more than a minute; then again raised his head, and, not without effort looked at the prisoner, who confronted him with a calm dignified demeanor.

"Eustace Grahame," he said, you have heard the evidence brought to support the charge made against you. That evidence, as you must be aware, substantiates the charge, and convicts you of the crime set forth. Your plea of not guilty is therefore unavailing, for it is proved to be false. If you have anything to say in your own behalf, anything to urge in explanation or extenuation before sentence is passed, I am ready to listen to you."

"I am free to speak at last, am I?" asked Eustace, with kindling eye.

"Yes, you have a right to be heard, and I am very willing to listen." Randolph's face paled at this intimation, and he stepped back into the shade; but the others drew closer that they might hear the prisoner's address. They had not a minute to wait, for Eustace, drawing himself still more proudly up, thus began:

"For the first time, then, has justice and acknowledge I right met together in my experience under the heavy wrong which I have been made to suffer; and Captain Brentwood, I cannot regret the circumstance which has given me an opportunity to address you. When first brought on board this ship I sought such an opportunity, never dreaming that it would be denied; but you refused to listen, and the very attempt I made to speak to you was treated as presumption, and forcibly prevented. Glad am I, therefore, to find that I have now the right to speak, and to be listened to, and you may depend upon it that I shall take advantage of it to the utmost.

"You have said, Captain Brentwood, that the charge preferred against me is substantiated by the evidence, and that my plea of not guilty has been proved false. I intend that the contrary is the case. I trust I have too much honor and self-respect to be capable of uttering a falsehood in any circumstances. I declare that I am not guilty of the charge preferred against me, and I made the statement in the expectation and with the desire that the whole truth should be told, because none of the witnesses except he who made the charge knew it in its entirety. I admit everything, however, that has been told. I freely admit. I never had the slightest desire to conceal it, and in the face of all that you have heard, Captain Brentwood, I repeat the statement—I am not guilty of the charge preferred. What is the crime charged against me? It is that I struck my superior officer. Randolph Grahame is not my superior officer, Captain Brentwood, and you know it. I am in this ship against my will. By the foul exercise of an arbitrary, a despotic power, and for the purpose of gratifying a vindictive revenge. This man, Randolph Grahame, my younger brother, was enabled to have me removed from my peaceful home, and dragged ignominiously on board this ship, where I was clothed in the garb and placed in the position of a common seaman—I who am as much a gentleman by birth and education as any one who now listens to me—"

"Captain Brentwood, exclaimed Randolph, passionately, 'I claim to interrupt this language. He says I am his younger brother, when he knows we are not full brothers at all.'"

"The prisoner must not be interrupted. Lieut. Grahame," observed the captain. "He has the right to speak at this juncture, and that right it is my duty to see that he enjoys. What he does say it is my province to judge, and any misstatement he may make will be to his own prejudice."

"My eye, how he does pay out his jaw tackle," whispered the boatswain to the Sergeant of Marines, in reference to the manner in which Eustace had been addressing the captain. "I've been aboard a man-of-war man and boy for forty years, and never afore did I hear a blue-jacket speak in such a way to the commander. It's as good quarter-deck lingo as ever came through a speaking-trumpet." The sergeant nodded his approval to the remark, but made no further reply, for Eustace had again begun to speak.

"No," he remarked, with a proud scornful tone, "we are not full brothers. We are sons of the same father, whose second wife is his mother, and I'm glad to think that our relationship is no closer. But I shall not trouble you, sir, with private family affairs. Were your authority such as I am bound to recognize, I would feel called upon to enter more minutely into these, to give you an idea of the provocation I received ere I struck the blow for which I am now called to account. But I renegeate your authority altogether, and protest against any formal arraignment here as a part of the monstrous wrongs to which I have been subjected. Rendered helpless by a physical force which I had no power to resist, I was degraded to the level of a common seaman, and ordered to do the duties of such a position. I was deprived of my liberty—that sacre-

birthright of every Briton—subjected to insult and ignominy, and placed under a usurped authority, which I was not morally bound to obey. Captain Brentwood, I ask you to say how you would have acted under these circumstances? What I might have done but for the accident which kept him below for so many weeks, I do not know; but having thus been freed from his hateful presence, I had no means of evading, and let my conduct in the ship during these weeks testify to my self-restraint. I set myself to learn and discharge the duties of a common seaman, and my comrades will, I dare say, bear witness that I succeeded in the effort. You, yourself, Captain Brentwood, may have seen how I acquitted myself in today's engagement. In the circumstances I would have been justified in refusing to take part in the fight, but, sir, my patriotic feelings prompted me to do what no usurped authority would have drawn from me. I threw myself heart and soul into the conflict, and I was ready to sacrifice my life in defending the ship and assailing the foe. It was free, spontaneous service I rendered in doing this—it was no acknowledgment of the authority which had been wrongfully exercised over me. The fight was done, the victory was gained, and I and a few others who had fought hard for it were taking rest, when my vindictive foe approached, and insulted me with the abuse of a power which is his as an officer of this ship, but which individually I had nothing to do. Knowing what I had suffered at his instigation, knowing how basely he had plotted my ruin at home, and what cause I had to scorn and loathe him, I indignantly ignored his presence, and paid no heed to his insolence. His order to go to the mast-head I treated with silent contempt; and he had the audacity to lay his hand on me to drag me forward. That act was provocation beyond endurance, and I pushed him from me as I would the vilest reptile that crawls the earth. For this assertion of my manhood I was laid in irons—for this act, which every feeling in my soul rises up to justify, I am surrounded here; and you, Captain Brentwood, have taken it upon you to judge and punish me. You have not a shadow of a right to either one or the other. I am your equal, sir, and am as free from your jurisdiction as the cloud that sails along the sky. At your hands I have received as great a wrong as one man can inflict on another, and now you crown your injustice by subjecting me to the mockery of a trial. Is it not so? Dishonor and degrade yourself by continuing to be the fool of a mean and base a wretch as ever wore His Majesty's uniform, but the time will come, Captain Brentwood, when you will have to answer for such a flagrant and culpable abuse of your power. Here I publicly demand the courteous treatment due by one gentleman to another so long as the ship remains on the high sea, till an opportunity comes when I can return to Scotland, after which I frankly tell you, I shall seek such redress as public opinion and the law of the land shall give me."

Eustace ceased, and, folding his arms across his chest, stood silent and indignant as before. He had spoken with an air of great calmness and firmness. There was no display of passion or vehement feeling. He had indeed looked stern and indignant when he proclaimed his wrongs and characterized the treatment he had experienced; but he maintained a perfect self-command, and the air of one who felt and was justified in feeling, himself, the equal of whom he was speaking to. Capt. Brentwood frequently remarked as he went on, and pressed his lips hard, but did not interrupt him. The sailors were perfectly amazed at his audacity in uttering such words to the commander. Lieutenant Saughton was more and more confirmed in his impression that Eustace had been deeply wronged, and Randolph, while boiling and burning with rage and fear, vainly watched at the captain's countenance, to notice the effect produced upon his mind.

To the same point all eyes were turned when Eustace ceased to speak, and it was noticed that though the captain was very pale, he was very resolute. There was evidently a struggle of feeling going on in his soul, which the knitting of his brows indicated as being in favor of duty, and so it speedily turned out.

"Prisoner," he said, and his voice was strangely altered, "I have listened, if not patiently, yet silently, to your very extraordinary and injudicious address, resolved that your right to be heard would not be interfered with, though you were abusing that right to a terrible degree. It is beneath my dignity and would be subversive of my position as commander of this vessel to reply to your abusive words. I may say, however for the sake of those who heard you if not for your own sake, that I did not sanction the proceedings of which you complain, without knowing and approving of the grounds of your seizure. In your address you have misrepresented and concealed matters of which I am well informed, and have clearly shown how truthfully your character was represented to me. Further than this, I will not condescend to allude to this matter."

"I am very sorry to see you in the position you now occupy, and to have the unpleasant duty laid upon me of punishing the one who behaved so gallantly in this day's engagement. With every word of what you said on that point I cordially agree, and have to state that your allusion to your conduct during the fight was far more modest than the circumstance warranted. You rendered most essential service both in the defence and the assault, and I am bound to say that your heroic exertions tended not a little to secure the victory. This makes it all the more painful for me to deal with the very great crime of which you have been convicted. It is, of course, impossible that I can give any weight to your plea that Lieutenant Grahame is not your officer. He is a second lieutenant of this vessel, of which you are one of the seamen, and his authority is as binding on you as on any of the ship's company. The offence, then, is fully established—not only by the testimony of others, but by your own admission; and now it becomes me to deal with it in such a way as shall go to prove to all on board that a crime so enormous cannot be lightly treated, even in the case of one who has behaved so gallantly in action as you have done today. In ordinary circumstances the crime is a capital offence, and though I shall be merciful in consideration of your heroic behaviour during the engagement, yet for the sake of discipline, which can in no circumstances whatever be neglected, I must impress on all on board the terrible nature of the crime you have committed. I therefore sentence you to receive fifty lashes."

"What?" roared Eustace, in a voice of thunder, "you dare to carry your monstrous, infamous tyranny to this extent! Great God, has truth and justice gone out of the universe? Am I given up to be the object of the foulest oppression which ever disgraced this earth? Capt. Brentwood, you are not serious in this. Frightfully as you have already abused your power, you will not, dare not, prostitute it so inhumanly."

"Silence, fellow," roared the captain, roused now into rage. Lieutenant Grahame, he added, turning to Randolph, "I commission you to see the sentence carried into effect immediately."

Randolph smiled sardoniously and bowed a ready consent.

"Not this degradation, then," cried Eustace, "Murder me at once. Use your power to this extent, and in mercy kill me. Nay, I will save you from the guilt of murder by leaping over the side of the ship. Let me go to seek refuge from dishonor in death."

The captain paid no attention to this wild adjuration, but was about to retire when Willy Somerville started forward and stood before him.

"Save him frise this, sir. Save his frise this," he cried. "I saved your life the day, but it wasna that ye might destroy Maister Grahame."

The captain was staggered, but only for a moment.

"Yes, my good fellow," he answered, "You did save my life, and I will not forget it. I will repay you in some way."

"Repay me in this way," exclaimed Willy, vehemently. "I ask nae return but this. Dinna indict on Eustace a punishment that he diana deserve."

"My lad, you ask what it is impossible for me to grant. If I were to consult my private feelings only, I would do it at once; but I never sacrifice public duty to private feelings. Stand by, you request is useless. The sentence must be carried into effect."

"Then let me bear it," cried Willy, with noble generosity. "Gie me the fifty lashes then, but oh, dinna dishonor him."

"Hush, Willy," said Eustace, firmly. "No one shall suffer the ignominy but myself. If they will perpetrate the fiendish cruelty I can accept of no substitute. But a heavy reckoning shall yet overtake them."

"Away with him," shouted the captain, with an imperious wave of his hand. Randolph, his whole soul thrilling with its culminating triumph, advanced, and ordered the guard to seize the prisoner and take him on deck."

TO BE CONTINUED.

As if by Magic. This is always the case when Polson's Nervine is applied to any kind of pain; it is sure to disappear as if by magic. Stronger, more penetrating, and quicker in action than any other remedy in the world. Buy a bottle of Nervine today, and try its wonderful power of relieving pain of every description. Pain cannot stay where it is used. It is just the thing to have in a house to meet a sudden attack of illness. Only 25 cts. a bottle. Sample bottles only 10 cents at J. Wilson's.

A Wide Awake Druggist. J. Wilson is always alive to his business, and spares no pains to secure the best of every article in his line. He has secured the agency for the celebrated Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, the only certain cure known for Consumption, Coughs, Colds, Hoarseness, Asthma, Hay Fever, Bronchitis, or any affection of the Throat and Lungs. Sold on a positive guarantee. Trial bottles free. Regular size \$1.00. (3)

Pain from indigestion, dyspepsia, and too hearty eating is relieved at once by taking one of Carter's Little Liver Pills immediately after dinner. Don't forget this.

Canned Goods. WARRANTED.

- Chicken 2 lb Tins, Pigs Feet " " Corn Beef " " Tongue " " Mackerel (in Tomatoe sauce), Salmon (extra quality), Lobster, Mackerel, Sardines (French), Peaches (American), Blueberries, Tomatoes, 3 lbs tins, Green Peas (French), Green Beans, Green Corn (American), French Mushrooms, Potted Chichen, Ham & Tongue Mustard and Ginger in 1 lb jars

CHAS. A. NAIRN.

Square, Goderich, Jan. 23, 1884.

DANIEL GORDON, CABINETMAKER

Leading Undertaker. Has on hand now the LARGEST STOCK of First-Class Furniture in the County, and as I now purchase for cash, will not be undersold by any one. I offer Tapestry Carpet Lounges, from \$5.00 upwards. Whatnots, good, from \$2.50 up. Sewing Machines, from \$10.00 up, and everything else in the same proportion. AT THE OLD STAND Between the Post Office & Bank of Montreal. GORDERICH, 1813-14. Oct. 18th, 1883.

GORDERICH PLANING MILL

ESTABLISHED 1835.

Buchanan, Lawson & Robinson

MANUFACTURERS OF Sash, Doors & Blinds

DEALERS IN ALL KINDS OF Lumber, Lath, Shingles and builder's material of every description.

SCHOOL FURNITURE A SPECIALTY. All Orders promptly attended to. Goderich, Aug. 2, 1883. 1803-4.

GORDERICH BOILER WORKS

Have just received a large stock of BRASS & IRON STEAM FITTINGS

BOILERS & ENGINES

New Salt Pans and Boilers. Built on Shortest Notice. Mail orders for new work and repairs will receive prompt attention.

CRYSTAL & BLACK, Works near G. T. R. Station. Goderich, Feb. 23, 1884. 1717

Wanted to be Known!

THAT YOU CAN GET CHOICE CONFECTIONERY, CANNED FRUITS AND FISH, TOBACCO, CIGARS, &c. Domestic and Foreign Fruits. Officers of the Best Brands Fresh and Smoked Salt Water Fish in season. A full assortment of all kinds of Nuts. Oysters served in Every style. ICE CREAMS IN SEASON. Floral Designs, Wreaths, Crosses, Bouquets, etc., made to order. Flowering Plants & Vegetables in Season.

E. BINGHAM'S RESTAURANT

Count House Square, Goderich, Ont. Dec. 20, 1883. 1822-3m.

D. K. STRACHAN, PRACTICAL MACHINIST,

Keeps on hand a supply of material for the repairing of

Mowers and Reapers

Sulky Hay Rakes, Plows and Agricultural Implements and Machinery Generally. ALL WORK THOROUGHLY DONE

D. K. STRACHAN, GORDERICH MACHINE SHOP. Goderich, March 27th, 1884. 1836-2m.

GOLD for the working class. Send 10 cts for postage, and we will mail you gratis, a royal, valuable box of sample goods that will put you in the way of making more money in a few days than you ever thought possible at any business, no capital required. We will start you. You can work all the time or in spare time only. The work is universally adapted to both the young and old. You can easily earn from \$5 to \$5 every evening. That all who want more may test the business, we make this up: send 10 cts to all who are not well satisfied we will send \$1 to pay for the trouble of writing us. Full particulars, directions, etc., sent free. Fortunes will be made by those who give the whole time to the work. Great success absolutely sure. Don't delay. Start now. Address: BRADDOCK & Co., Portland, Maine.

on Us! YOUR Field Seeds. out a fresh supply of Kinds, L. ASSORTED. and Druggist, 1838. TAILOR, Wear to Choose From. Reasonable Price, IN TOWN. Always kept on hand Socialty. As, THE SQUARE. Railway Co. ACCORDING TO PRICE PAID FOR THE FERTILIZERS WITHOUT CONDITIONS. DOMINION CARRIAGE WORKS, GORDERICH, ONT. ALEX. MERTON, MANUFACTURER OF FIRST CLASS CARRIAGES. Paper. Latest Designs. Patterns and Fashions. BUTLER'S