

the fate of the dog, and he likewise was desirous of making off with a good cargo of doubloons which he had stowed about his person, and which he might probably be called on to account for if the fact should become known. At all events, he got clear off, spent his ill-gotten wealth, and was pressed into his majesty's service,—had been watchmate with Brailwell in the frigate upon the Mediterranean, and one first watch, during conversation, the subject of the wreck was broached; it led to further explanations, and the anxious lover had no doubt that the father of Annie was the person implicated. For a gallant action in cutting out a felucca, and general good conduct, William had been promoted to the quarter-deck, and Mr. Brailwell, the young officer by Annie's side, was master's mate of his majesty's ship. On their return to England, both obtained leave of absence, (William becoming responsible for his shipmate's reappearance), and hastened to the nesh, where learning what had taken place, they immediately set out again, and had only arrived the previous evening.

"The hand of Providence does indeed seem to have been wonderfully displayed here," said the judge with pleased solemnity.

"But your lordship is not yet aware of the full extent," uttered the counsel for the prisoner, "nor should I introduce the subject here, but that villainy may meet its due. I will not take up much of your lordship's time. Have I your permission to proceed?"

Curiosity will at times overcome every child of Adam,—even the grave judges of the land are subject to it. His lordship assented if it would not occupy much of the public's time.

"My lord," said the counsel, "the brother of the prisoner,—the first witness in this case,—was driven from the country for his rogueries, and after tossing about in various parts of the world, he was at last located at one of the Dutch settlements on the coast of Africa, in the service of a wealthy merchant, whose wife and children perished at sea, or in other words, the only intelligence heard of the ship, was her driving from the Downs during a heavy gale of wind, without a pilot, and parts of her frame came ashore, in Hosley Bay, and cases, trunks, even one of the boats, were picked up near Landguard Fort, at the entrance to Harwich. The date corresponded exactly with that on which the event occurred that brought you old man to the bar, and revolving every circumstance in his mind, the outcast felt convinced that Annie was the daughter of his wealthy master. They landed in this country about ten days ago, and Jonas Bligh persuaded his employer to let him take a journey to the nesh in order to make inquiry,—having communicated only just as much as was calculated to stimulate the father's mind. For a day or two he remained in secret, prosecuting his research till he became satisfied of the accuracy of his anticipations, and then making himself known to the prisoner, he demanded the girl for his son in marriage; but finding the suit was refused, he resorted to intimidation; this also failed, and then revenge prompted him to become the double-dipped villain that he is. You, my lord, must see his motive for this marriage, and I shall say no more about it. He was taken into custody and detained, and his master hearing nothing from him, arrived last evening in his progress to the nesh, and put up at the same inn with our gallant young friend here. The trial was the all engrossing topic. By those accidents which frequently happen in public rooms, the parties fell into acquaintance; explanation ensued,—and need I tell the rest my lord? This good girl," and he took Annie's hand, "found her real father, who is now sitting beside her; and if any doubt had remained, it was removed this morning by the production of the dog's collar, having on it the name of the gentleman himself."

A thundering, irrepressible burst of applause,—the unrestrained voice of nature itself,—shook the very building:—the judge arose and waved his hand to command silence, but fell back overpowered in his seat. David, who before knew nothing of all this, uttered a deep groan, and sank within the dock; and several minutes elapsed before tranquillity was restored. The judge directed the acquittal of the prisoner, who was discharged from custody and received in the arms of his friends.

"And now," added old Martin, "what do you think of my tale of The Two Light-houses?"

"Excellent, my friend, most excellent," answered I. "But what became of the parties afterwards?"

He threw down his net, and rose up as he replied, "Annie and Brailwell were married, and he lived to be a post captain. David left the light-house to reside with Annie's father. Richard went to sea, and never was heard of again. Jack Binnacle died in Greenwich Hospital—"

"And Jonas?" inquired I, impatiently interrupting him.

"What became of the scoundrel Jonas?"

The veteran looked hard in my face as he answered, "Jonas?—Why, sir, Jonas was buried in a four-cross-road."

**PUBLIC LIBRARIES.**—"I think public reading rooms the best mode of educating young men. Solitary reading is apt to give the head-ache. Besides, who knows that you do read?"

### A BATTLE OF CATS.

If ever there is one hour in the whole twenty-four in which cats combine in themselves all the "horribly disagreeable" that attaches to nuisance and abomination, it is most assuredly in that hour,

"When weary mortals seek repose,"

and all "the brute creation" is as "dead asleep" as door-nails, cats alone excepted. Their meetings, their conferences, their disputes, their arguments, their love-feasts and their quarrels, are all arranged in that "witching hour" when the wide dark world is as Wordsworth has it,

"Quiet as a nun—breathless with adoration."

The following descriptive account of one of these unholy night-watches is given by a correspondent, who was "on the spot." He was a witness to the whole transaction, and can therefore "vouch for its truth."

### A BATTLE OF CATS.

"How sweet the moonlight sleeps upon the slates!"

Miss Tabitha having made an assignation with Tom Tortoiseshell, the feline phenomenon, they two sit curmurring, forgetful of mice and milk, of all but love! How meekly mews the demure, relapsing into that sweet under-song—the purr! and how curls Tom's whiskers, like those of a Pashaw. The point of his tail, and the point only, is alive; insidiously turning itself, with serpent-like seduction, towards that of Tabitha, pensive as a nun. His eyes are rubies, hers emeralds, as they should be; his lightning, hers lustre; for in her sight he is the lord, and in his she is the lady of creation.

"O happy love! when love like this is found!  
O heartfelt rapture! bliss beyond compare!  
I've paced much this weary mortal round,  
And sage experience bids me this declare:—  
If earth a draught of heavenly pleasure share,  
One cordial in this melancholy vale,  
'Tis when a youthful, loving, modest pair,  
In other's arms breathe out the tender tale."

Woman or cat, she who hesitates, is lost. But Diana, shining in heaven, the goddess of the silver bow, sees the peril of poor Pussy, and interposes her celestial aid to serve the vestal. An enormous grimalkin, almost a wild-cat, comes rattling along the roof, down from the chimney-top, and Tom Tortoiseshell, leaping from love to war, tackles to the red rover in single combat—sniff, snuff, splutter, squeak, squall, caterwaul, and throttle!

"From the soft music of the spinning purr,  
When no stiff hair disturbs the glossy fur,  
The whining wail, so piteous and so faint,  
When through the house puss moves with long complaint,  
To that unearthly, throbbing caterwaul,  
When feline legions storm the midnight wall,  
And chaunt, with short snuff and alternate lull,  
The dismal song of hymeneal bliss."

Over the eaves sweeps the airy hurricane. Two cats in one, like a prodigious monster with eight legs, and a brace of heads and tails; and through among the lines on which clothes are hanging in the green, and break the fall, the dual number plays squelch on the miry herbage.

The four-story fall has given them fresh fury and more fiery life. What tails! Each as thick as my arm, and rustling with electricity, like the northern streamers. The red rover is generally uppermost, but not always, for Tom has him by the jugular, like a very bull-dog, and his small, sharp, tiger-teeth, entangled in the fur, pierce deeper and deeper into the flesh, while Tommy keeps tearing away at his rival, as if he would eat his way into the windpipe. Heavier than Tom Tortoiseshell is the red rover by a good many pounds: but what is weight to elasticity—what is body to soul? In the long tussle, the hero ever vanquishes the ruffian.

Cats' heads are seen peering over the tops of walls, and then their lengthening bodies, running crouchingly along the coping-stones, with pricked-up ears and glaring eyes, all attracted towards one common centre—the back-green of the inextinguishable battle. Some dropping, and some leaping down, from all altitudes; lo! a general *meele*! For Tabitha, having through a skylight forced her way down stairs, and out of the kitchen window into the back area, is sitting pensively on the steps;

"And, like another Helen, fires another Troy!"

Detachments come wheeling in the field of battle from all imaginable and unimaginable quarters; and you now see before you all the cats in Edinburgh, Stockbridge, and the suburbs. Up fly a thousand windows from ground-flat to attic, and what an exhibition of nightcaps! Here elderly gentlemen, apparently in their shirts, with head night-gear from Kilmarnock, worthy of Teppitomy's self; behind them their wives, grandmothers, at the least, poking their white faces, like those of sheeted corpses, over the shoulders of the fathers of their numerous progeny; there chariest maids, prodigal enough to unvell their beauties to the moon, yet, in their alarm, folding the frills of their chemises across their bosoms; and, lo! yonder the captain of the Six Feet Club, with his gigantic shadow, frightening that pretty damsel back to her couch, and till morning haunting her troubled dreams! "Fire! fire!" "Murder! murder!" is the cry; and there is wrath and wonderment at the absence of the police-officers and engines. A most multitudinous murder is in process of perpetration there, but

as yet there is none; when lo! and hark! the flash and peal of musketry; and then the music of the singing slugs, slaughtering the catti, while bouncing up into the air, with Tommy Tortoise clinging to his carcass, the red rover yowls wolfishly to the moon, and then descending like lead into the stone area, gives up his nine ghosts, never to chew cheese more, and dead as a herring. In mid-air the phenomenon had let go his hold, and seeing it in vain to oppose the yeomanry, pursues Tabitha, the innocent cause of all this woe, into the coal-cellar, and there, like Paris and Helen,

"When first entranced, in Canaë's isle they lay,  
Lip pressed to lip, and breathed their souls away!"

The fearless pair begin to purr and play in that subterranean paradise, forgetful of the pile of cat corpses that in that catastrophe was heaped half-way up the currant-bushes on the walks, so indiscriminate had been the stages. All undreamed of by them, the beauty of the rounded moon, now hanging over the city, once more steeped in stillness and in sleep!

No battle was ever more admirably described, no field-marshal's despatch ever described the onslaught and victory over an enemy with more punctilious precision; the rapid interchange between thought and action is most vividly portrayed; Caesar's *veni, vidi, vici*, is a fool to it, begging the Roman general's pardon; and the anti-cruelty-to-animals climax, of the slug-slaughtered cat chief, gives a most sanguinary finish to the whole "affair," and puts the sign and seal of "inimitable" to the whole.

EPHON.

\* Blackwood's Magazine—"Notes Ambrosiana."

**IMMENSE ELEPHANTS' TEETH.**—"He told us that he had a house full of ivory, and despatched some eunuchs for two large teeth. In a few minutes they came. He exultingly asked, 'Can you afford to buy them?' at the same moment two magnificent teeth were brought in, exceeding in size any thing of the sort I had ever seen. At the roots they were about two feet and a half in circumference, and gradually tapered to the point; it took two able-bodied slaves to carry one of them; they were each about eight feet long, and of a dark tinge. I endeavoured in my own mind, to picture the enormous size of an animal capable of carrying such a weight attached to his head. I should suppose that each tooth could not have weighed less than from two hundred to two hundred and fifty pounds. We had one on board weighing one hundred and forty pounds, which we purchased off Addacoodah, and those which we then saw were nearly twice as large. The king asked me if we had goods sufficient to purchase them; to which I replied, we had, provided he did not ask more than their real value. I inquired what he would take for them, as I should like to come to an agreement before going on board; but he replied, they were the king of teeth (Sulikeep Gowawa)."—*Laird's Africa*.

**RAT EATING IN SOUTH SEA ISLANDS.**—"In a meeting held with the Christians, our advice was earnestly solicited upon several topics; among which was 'rat-eating.' As Mangaia was not so abundantly supplied with fish as some other islands, and as there were no animals except rats, when I visited it, these formed a common article of food; and the natives said they were exceedingly 'sweet and good'; indeed, a common expression with them, when speaking of any thing delicious, was, 'It is as sweet as a rat.' They find no difficulty in catching them in great numbers, which they do in many ways, but principally by digging a hole, and strewing in it a quantity of candle-nut (*aleurites*), and when a sufficient number of rats were in the hole, they drew a net over it, and secured them all. Having obtained as many as they wish, they singe the hair off on hot stones, wrap them up in leaves, and bake them. Saturday was their principal rat-catching day, as they were desirous of having 'animal food' to eat with their cold vegetables on the Sabbath. They now wished to know our opinion as to whether it was sinful to eat them. I informed them that we were in the habit of looking upon rats as exceedingly disgusting; but not perceiving anything morally evil in the practice; I could do no more than recommend them to take great care of the pigs and goats I had brought, by which means they would speedily obtain an abundant supply of animal food: far superior to that which they esteemed so sweet and good."

**LETTER WRITING.**—"When shall I catch a glimpse of your honest face-to-face countenance again? Your fine dogmatical sceptical face by punch-light? O! one glimpse of the human face, and shake of the human hand, is better than whole reams of this cold, thin correspondence; yea, of more worth, than all the letters that have sweated the fingers of sensibility, from Madam Sevigne to Sterne and Shenstone."

**BARGAINS.**—"Next to the pleasure of buying a bargain for one's self, is the pleasure of persuading a friend to buy it. It tickles one with the image of an imprudency, without the penalty usually annexed."