

she is the 'Spitfire,' Captain Stoker. I was the pilot on board of her last summer in the Bay of Fundy, and he hates the Yankoes like pyson. He'll be down on us afore we know where we be, and snap us up as a duck does a June-bug."

"Can't we dodge among the islands?" said I.

"His boat will cut us off."

"Go into shoal water up the river?"

"Wus and wus! that way he is sure to nab us."

"Well, can't we show him our heels?"

"With this breeze that is a comin', he has the heels of us."

"Well," said I, "Pilot, this is a bad box, and no mistake; but I have got out of many a wus fix afore now, by keepin' a cool head and a steady hand. Face him; don't let him run arter us. Let us give him chase."

"I'll bother him, see if I don't. He won't know what to make of that bold move. It will take him all aback, wus than a shift of wind."

"I'll tell you now, though I never mentioned it afore, and don't want it spoke of to anybody. I am an officer of high rank in our Government, and have my commission with me. Let him touch us if he dare. Put her about; the breeze is here now, and beat up to him." The order was executed in a moment. "Mate," said I, "do you see that are vessel there?"

"Yes, Sir."

"Well, she is a man-of-war. There is a warrant out arter us. Clear up the deck and swab it as dry as a bone."

"We shall be sued," said he, "had up in the Admiralty, and smashed in costs. I know'd that would be the eend of it, all along."

"Go forward, you coward," said I, "immediately, and do your work, or I'll appoint another officer in your place. This is no time for drivellin', you blockhead. Send the second mate here. Mr. Bent," said I, "where can we hide these wet lines?"

"I can stow them away," said he, "in the studdin'-sail."

"Exactly," said I. "Do it at once. Get the fish-barrels headed in and loaded with ballast-stones, ready for sinkin', and make all clean and snug."

"Aye, aye, Sir."

"Eldad, beat the schooner so as to lose all you get amost. All we want is to gain time."

I then went below, and explained all to the Captin. He began immediately to protest against resistance, as we were unlawfully employed; when I said, "Cutler, I will take all responsibility; I must assume command here for a little while;" and I went to the desk, took out the case containin' my commission, letters, &c., and said, "Read them over. Now, Eldad," said I, as I returned, dressed up