

"Well, I'll tell you how to escape it."

"Thank you," said he, "I shall be everlastingly obliged to you. What must I do?"

"Turn pirate."

"And be hanged," said he, turning as white as a sheet.

"No," said I, "no cruiser will ever be sent after *you*. Turn pirate on this coast, rob and plunder all the gulls, dippers, lapwings, and divers nests on the islands and highlands; shoot the crew if they bother you, make them walk the plank, and bag the eggs, and then sail boldly into Halifax under a black flag at the top, and bloody one at the peak, wear a uniform, and a cocked hat, buckle on a sword, and call yourself Captain Kidd. I'm done with you, put me on shore, or send me on board of one of our vessels, and fish for yourselves. I wish I had never seen the 'Black Hawk,' the captain, Enoch Eells, or yourself. You're a disgrace to our great nation."

"Oh, Mr. Slick!" said he, "for goodness gracious sake don't leave me in a strange port, with a crazy captain, a mutinous sailor——"

"And an everlastin' coward of a mate," said I.

"Oh! don't desert me," said he, a-wringin' of his hands; "don't, it's a heavy responsibility, I aint used to it, and I might be——"

"Sued," said I. "That's right, bite in that word *sued*. Never dare mention it afore me, or I'll put you ashore with them other chaps. I'll stand by you," said I, "for our great country's sake, if you will do exactly as I tell you. Will you promise?"

"Yes," said he, "I will, and never talk about being sued. Never," said he.

"Well, then, I'll stand by you; and if you are sued, I'll pay all damage."

"Oh! Mr. Slick," said he, "you must excuse me. I am a good seaman, and can obey orders. I never commanded, but I can do the work of a mate."

"No, you can't," said I. "Why didn't you take a handspike, and knock that mutinous rascal over?"

"And be——" said he.

"Sued," said I. "Yes, sued; and suppose you had been, wouldn't all the mariners of the Sound a-stood by you, and called you a trump? I wish to goodness Bent had a-licked you, instead of Enoch. It would have done *you* good—it will make *him* desperate. Go home and farm; and when a bull roars, jump over a fence, and get citated and sued for trespassin' on your neighbour's farm. Phew! I hate a coward."

"I aint a coward; I'm foolish, that's all—a little nervous about responsibilities I aint used to; but whatever you say, I'll do."

"I'll take you at your word," said I. "Range up alongside of that outer craft, and send me aboard."