

"Mr. N— was just going down, when an exclamation from his companion caused him to turn around. By the light of the moon, which was then shining most brilliantly, they observed a long dark vessel bearing down upon them. It was rigged like a lugger, and Mr. N— at once pronounced the terrible words, "a pirate."

Knowing well the speed which the Greek piratical vessels possessed, Mr. N— at once called up his little crew to make all sail. Resistance he well knew would be hopeless; for what could seven men, almost unarmed, do against probably four times the number of armed desperadoes? The little vessel was according put under all the sail she could carry, and apparently gained slightly on the pirate. The breeze, however, was so faint that neither vessel made much way, and about daybreak it dropped altogether.

Hope now began to dawn upon the crew of the *Violante*, but it was quickly dispelled by the appearance of two enormous sweeps, or long oars, which projected from the sides of the pirate. Urged on by them, the lugger was soon alongside, and a gruff voice hailed the yacht in French, and demanded her surrender.

"We must make the best terms we can, Ernest," said Mr. N—, in assuring tones, though his blanched cheek showed how well he knew their peril; "these ruffians, though furious if resistance is offered, will often show mercy to those who surrender at discretion."

Calling his crew around him, he awaited the pirate captain, who sprang on deck, followed by a body of determined-looking ruffians, armed to the teeth.

There was something, however, in the appearance of the leader which distinguished him from his men, more than the mere exercise of power could confer; something of the "face that had not yet lost all its original brightness."

"At any rate it is worth trying,"

muttered Mr. N—, as he stepped forward, and, looking earnestly at the pirate captain, made the sign of the Masonic Order.

IT WAS RETURNED.

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"I have now fulfilled one part of my obligation," said the pirate to Mr. N—, as his men were unlashng the vessel, having first received a considerable sum of money, and a cask of wine, as a compensation for the loss of their prize, "may I ask you to exercise another? Think of me charitably, as of one driven by circumstances to this terrible course of life, which I loathe and detest, and I will take the first opportunity of quitting."

"And now, Ernest," said Mr. N—, as under a fair breeze they were fast leaving the object of their fears, "what good have I obtained from being a Freemason?"

Ernest was initiated within a month after his return to England!—*Masonic Newspaper*.

#### Masonry in Our Colonies and Dependencies.

To us, who live in the two little islands of Great Britain and Ireland, it does not often occur to think of the vast districts that are Masonically ruled over by our District and Provincial or Independent Grand Lodges. If, then, we take this into consideration, let us remember also, that in very many parts railways are not so numerous as here at home. For Masonry really to prosper, it must be efficiently supervised. To take Great Britain and Ireland first, the total area of square miles is 121,115, and the population at last census 33,000,000. In these two islands, then, there are three Grand Lodges, viz., England, Scotland, and Ireland, with 41, 27, and 13 Provincial Grand Lodges, respectively.

Now, let us turn to the Independent Grand Lodges of the Dominion of Canada, in which there are eight,