

sible, and trust to God. There is no way to escape that I can see now, but perhaps if we are civil, they will take such stuff as they want, and then let us go. At any rate, there is no use crying about it, for it can't be helped. Now get your pistols, and see that they are surely loaded, and have your knives ready, but be sure to hide them, so that the pirates shall see no signs of resistance." In a few moments all the arms which the schooner afforded, with the exception of one or two old muskets, were secured about the persons of our Down Easters, and they quietly awaited the coming of the schooner.

"One word more, boys," said the old man, just as the pirate came round under the stern. "Now watch every motion I make, and be ready to jump the moment I speak."

As Captain Spinnet ceased speaking, the pirate luffed up under the fisherman's lee-quarter, and in a moment more the latter's deck was graced by the presence of a dozen as savage-looking mortals as eyes ever looked upon.

"Are you captain of this vessel?" asked the leader of the boarders as he approached the old man.

"Yes, sir."

"What is your cargo?"

"Machinery for steam engines."

"Nothing else?" asked the pirate, with a searching look.

At this moment Captain Spinnet's eye caught what looked like a sail off to the south'rd and east'rd, but not a sign betrayed the discovery, and while a brilliant idea shot through his mind, he hesitatingly replied—

"Well, there is a little something else."

"Ha, and what is it?"

"Why, sir, p'raps I hadn't ought to tell," said Captain Spinnet, counterfeiting the most extreme perturbation.

"You see it was given to me as a sort of trust, an' it