

proceeding to light up, he slowly dived into the capacious inner pocket of his pea-jacket and produced a well-thumbed and yellow-looking copy of an old gazette published on the Island in 1816, wherein was advertised a reward of £50 for the apprehension of one Pat Pierce for murder.

Now, as from the old fellow's subsequent statement the murderer actually lived under the very roof I now occupy, it may interest some of my friends to hear his account of the tragedy. Crossing his ancient legs and setting himself easily in his chair, after a few preliminaries whiffs from his pipe he commenced his yarn :

" This 'ere paper brings back to mind the story of the murder of Abel many long years ago. Now I hain't much scholared myself, but my son is desperate good, and 'ee's got a book writ by a sea capting, Marryat I think it was, or some sich name; it's called 'Frank Mildmay.' Now, sir, if you 'appen to 'ave that 'ere book, you find a story bearin' on this 'ere wery Cape."

As I luckily possessed, in my modest library of odd volumes, the novel; I produced it, and we soon found the following passage in which Frank Midmay says :

" The frigate that I was to join came into the harbor soon after I reached Halifax. This I was sorry for, as I found myself in very good quarters. I had letters of introduction to the best families. The place is proverbial for hospitality; and the society of the young ladies, who are both virtuous and lovely, tended in some degree to reform and polish the rough and libertine manners which I contracted in my career. I had many sweethearts; I was a great flirt among them, and would willingly have spent more time in their company; but my fate or fortune was to be accomplished, and I went on board the frigate, where I presented my introductory letters to the nobleman who commanded her. I expected him to have been an effeminate young man, much too refined to learn his business; but I was mistaken. Lord Edward was a sailor every inch of him; he knew a ship from stem to stern, understood the character of seamen and gained their confidence. He was, besides, a good mechanic, a carpenter, ropemaker, sailmaker and cooper. He could hand, reef and steer, knot and splice; but he was no orator; he read little and spoke less. He was a man of no show, nor could you ever perceive any assumption of consequence from his title of nobility. We