

I left the office with emotions very different from those with which I entered it.

My voyage, I perceived, had made a considerable sensation with the mercantile portion of the community; and I was complimented on its fortunate termination by some whom I did, and others whom I did not know. Among the former, particularly, was an old and respectable merchant, who observed to me, "You have done well for the office; you have raised the value of its stock ten per cent.; they cannot give you less than ten thousand dollars." Several of the stockholders also expressed their obligation to me.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

Objection to charges.—Justified by services rendered.—An arbitration, and its result.—Dissatisfaction.—Confidence in the President's assurances.—Letter to that gentleman.—Conduct of Lloyd's in a similar case.—Probable reason for withholding compensation.—Corporations have no soul.—A contrast.—Honourable treatment by a London house.—Termination of voyages.—Their extent and danger.—Extraordinary fact.—General good health of crews.—Subsequent efforts and losses.—Abuse of confidence.—Abadia and Arismendi.—Unsuccessful trip to Hamburg in quest of the latter.—Voyage to Spain.—Interview with Arismendi at Madrid.—His conduct.—Return to New York.—Hopes again defeated.—Sudden appearance of Arismendi in Boston.—Rash proceeding.—Arrest of Arismendi.—His escape through the agency of a Boston merchant.—Sordid motives of the latter.—Voyage to Havana.—Mr. Shelor's death.—Unsuccessful effort to obtain the consulate.

With the satisfaction naturally resulting from the abundant evidence I had received that my services were duly appreciated, and during the time the ship was unloading, I absented myself a week to visit my family in Massachusetts. On my return, I found that an objection was made to my charge of ten per cent. on the net proceeds of freights. I was aware that such a charge might be without precedent; but I was equally aware that it was no more than a just proportion, with the extra services I had rendered; since, independently of obtaining a restoration of the ship, in the manner related, I procured all the freights without the intervention of a broker. Besides, had the graduation of my emoluments been made with any reference to what they would have been but for the seizure, they would have much exceeded the ten per cent. charge.

These circumstances were urged to the gentlemen interested, but were of no avail. Mr. Astor being unfortunately in Europe at this time, his agent, had he been disposed to act liberally, would have feared to evince a less exacting disposition than the underwriters were doing; hence recourse was had to the ordinary mode of settlement in like cases, that of arbitra-

tion; the result of which was a reduction of two and a half per cent. on my charge.

It is not unusual for those to be dissatisfied, who are adjudged by arbitrators to be in error; and it appeared to me that I had abundant cause; but I refrained from manifesting it to my opponents at the time, because I trusted to the repeated (though unofficial) assurances of the president of the National Insurance Company, of pecuniary remuneration; and presuming that this would, at least, be equal to the sum deducted from my commission, the cause of dissatisfaction, on my part, would be obviated. With such impressions, and having, as in duty bound, submitted to the award of the arbitrators, I left the city for my home, without notifying the underwriters of my intention; as I wished to avoid the appearance of hurrying them on the question of the promised remuneration, but never doubting that it would come in due time. A month, however, passed, and I heard nothing from them, and so a second month, when I could no longer doubt that they had found it convenient to forget me.

The conviction, that the supposed honourable, liberal, high-minded men with whom I was thus brought in contact were capable of such conduct, was very painful to me. Indignant at such treatment, and mortified at being thus duped, I determined to give them a word at parting expressive of those feelings.

Accordingly, under date Lancaster, 22nd of December, 1820, I addressed a letter to the president of the National Insurance Company, in which I referred to mine dated the 5th of October, enumerating the unusual services I had rendered the company, in the recovery and successful employment of the Beaver; and further remarked, that if I had condescended to make invidious comparisons, I could have proved that what they considered to be an extra commission, bore no proportion to the extra earnings of the Beaver, over those of any other vessel then on the Peruvian coast; and this, less from any concurrence of fortunate circumstances, than from a difference in favour of my management. I again reminded him of his promise of remuneration, and of its being repeated at a subsequent interview; and expressed my belief that these promises were made with the intention of throwing me off my guard, and of lulling me into security, the better to deceive me; and that the success attending it had been, I doubted not, gratifying to all who shared in the two and a half per cent. thus saved to the company. This letter closed by the remark, "that had I conducted your business with as little regard to the observance of the rule, of 'doing unto others as we would that they should do unto us,' as has been observed, in this instance towards me, the result of the Beaver's voyage would have been very different from what it is. To this letter I never received a reply.

It must occur to every one versed in maritime

affairs, how
duct of Lloyd
not, of an occ
Such an occ
its being in
such a spirit
there is sc
for merely
across the A
with a piece

But there
tors, whose
rating influe
greater defe
those of any
tible; and
taking it for
action could
the temerity
him, and thu
However it
I received wa
dent, and the
and a half pe

That corp
men in a co
of acts of
as, individua
an old c
almost every
comments on
and I will on
simultaneous
ent, was too
and eminently
the company
company did
do much for
in the build
nigates.*

More than
he occurred
ated, and th
assed off the
urrence to a
nce been, fo
e assured, h
aking feelin
stance alq
ould be inco
The voyage
e close of a
e habitable

* A letter wh
use of Took
strong relief
oe; with wh
ntact. Its ob
ng hundred
ng principal
take acciden
ractions f
d which, the
he light of a
ny draft at a