

believe you to be ; and were he otherwise, the very fish wives of Boston would force him out ; they, good folks, expected a good account of you, and your consort, when the President and Congress went to sea, and are now perfectly frantic with expectation of their coming victory. Why, sir, a subscription is already entered on, to give a dinner to Captain Lawrence, in which your name and those of your officers figure as guests."

I am much obliged by their courtesy, but hope to decline the invitation, however kindly intended ; and now, Ingram, let us forget for a few days that we have met before."

He sent for the first lieutenant and ordered him to have Ingram (whom he represented simply as an English subject, who had effected his escape) put on the ship's books, and that he should be stationed in the main-top.

From amongst the American prisoners taken in the English recaptures, he ordered a Captain Slocum to be conducted to his presence, on whose appearance he asked—

"Should you like to regain your freedom on condition of bearing a letter from me to Captain Lawrence?"

"I guess, I should, sir."

"Well then get ready, while I write,—we have been too long knocking about here to no purpose."

"I rayther think I shall be all the safer out of this ship, when you and the Chesapeake meet. I have wondered eternally why old Lawrence allows you to locate yourself in these diggings. I'll be ready to carry your letter in quarter less no time."

In a few minutes a gig manned by American prisoners, left the frigate, bearing a challenge to Captain Lawrence, which, from its gallant tenor, and honorable candor, in gentlemanly and officer-like courtesy of tone, it is a model. It was never destined to reach the brave sailor for whom it was intended. Immediately after the departure of his ambassador, Captain Brooke stood for Boston Harbor light-house, and long before the boat reached Marble-head, perceived from the mast-head, the Chesapeake fire a gun and get under weigh, making sail as she ran down. The Shannon now filled and stood to the eastward, until 4 o'clock, followed by her antagonist. The Chesapeake then hauled up and reefed topsails—the Shannon following her example. Again both ships kept away—the Shannon shivering her main yards, that her opponent might overtake her, until at 5, Captain Brooke, thinking that he had a sufficient offing, determined to bring matters to a crisis.—He accordingly hauled to the wind, with his ship's head to the south-east. No more beautiful sight can be imagined than the enemy's ship afforded at this moment, with the splendid scenery of Boston heights, and a gorgeously tinted sky to the westward, forming a back-ground. She wore colors at each mast-head, and was as trim as the care of a good officer (hav-