12 Ohe Western Home Monthly Here's Your Ghance!


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win a new set of sails? Heaven knows
she needed them badly enough.
Lige knew that it never could be Lige withew Symantha in command, and in order for, him to make the attempt,
it would be necessary for her to ab dicate, and Lige fully realized the folly of suggesting anything of the kind to
Symantia regarding a spurt of speed between the "Mary" and the
Keen". more Lige thotight of it the
The more convinced was he new set of sails, and the more determined he became to make he swung the helm down,
win them. He
tringing the little schooner still closer -ringing the little schooner still coser
into the wind, which increased-her movements considerably and caused
her to lay well over on her side. The her to lay well over on cabin door to swing suddenly to and close. There
was a stout iron hasp and padlock on was a stout iron hasp and padlock on
the cabin door, and as that door-was the only means of exit from the impulse, of the moment, urged by forty
years of subjection, sprang to the years of subjection, sprang to the
companionway and snapped the padlock into place, and Symantha was a pristy years, master of the "Laughing Mary"
There
There was a stream of exclama-
tions, questions and demands from tions, questions and demands from ears to them all and returned to the deck with a feeling of new born freedom and exhilaration within him. It
was but the work of an instant to was but the work of an instarward
lash the tiller and proceed forwarled and raised the
1 were he unfurled I aere he unfurled and raised the
outer jib, set the topsail and hoisted outer jib, set the topsail and hoisted
by main strength the foresail. The result was a sudden and surprising in-
crease of speed and effort from the crease or speed which seemed to shake
little schooner, w forty years, leaned far
off the sloth of for of the sloth of forty years, leaned far
over and leaped forward like a hound over and leaped forw.
fresh from the leash.
The damp salt spray fell in showers from
boom
of life.
Lige made his way astern again and grasped the tiller, and, as he swung it over a trifle further, the little craft
seemed to quiver anew with a stronger effort to overhaul her rival and tor-
mentor ahead. Down in the little cabin there was
a constant commotion from the de a constant commotion from the detention was fixed, straight ahead on
the "Sally Keen" who, with now every available sail set, was making a
desperate effort to hold her own, since desperate effort to hold her own, since
she had observed the strange manoeuvers of the "Laughing Mary," but
the lead she had from the frst was now slipping slowly from her, for the now slipping slowly from her, for ne the buried in deep foam, was plunging ahead like a race horse in her wake, while cordage, with the rush of the sea
and
alongside, drowned from $L$ ige's ears alongside, drowned from L ige's ear
any sounds or calls from below. any sounds or calls from benw. schooner forged steadily ahead. The
skipper of the "Sally Keen" leaned over her rail and stared in open-
mouthed amazement at the strange movements of the "Laughing Mary",
and, as the old schooner leaned still further over and crept up a little closer, Lige, in his excitement, called
loudy, for his racing instinct was strong within him. "Ahoy thar! I'm after that new set os sails fer ther furst craft inter Nan-
tucket port. Ther Mary,, she needs
'em kinder bad I reckon 'em kinder bad, I reckon." grinned, nodded his head and shouted
in reply.
"Yes, and I'll be blowed, if I don't throw in a coat o' paint, too. Ther
'Mary " needs it putty bad." This last addition to the wager only
served to make Lige's determination to win strnnger than before, and a
vision of ain agile "Mary" in a coat of
white paint and a new set
reckless to the point of danger.
Je glanced aloft to the bending
canas, and afyuely wo bending
whe could strat the strain a little
up a trifle further and brought the up a trifle further and brought the
lunging "Mary" to where she felt the full strength of the wind, which esulted in keeling her over so far that
Lige sould scarcely keep his footing on the steep incline of the deck, but brought him almost abreast of the Sally Keen" and the old man was atisfied and chuckled exultingly. of sails crept the "Laughing Mary" or another hour, and at last, as the sun went down into the sea and the was slowly but certainly creeping,
across the bows of the "Sally Keen". So well pleased was Lige with the apparent success of his attempt, that he again lashed the tiller securely and crept down the companionway and "Say, Symantha-what yer doin'?" retort from within. "What under the sun air ye doin' with ther Mary?"'
"I'm racin', ther 'Sally Keen' inter Nantucket an'-"
"What air yer racin' ther 'Sally Keen' fer, I'd like ter know?" interhalf in angry impatience
ha" "Fer a new set o' sails an' a coat
o' paint fer the "Mary," replied Lige, confidently." "Hed his wif in indir nation and disgust. "Jist yer open nhis door, Lige Bingham, an' let me out o' here an' I'll put a stop to this
foolishness mighty sudden, now I tell foolishness mighty sudden,
yer. Do yer hear me?
Lige knew his wife well enough to know that all hopes of success were gone if she reached the deck and took control of affairs, and he felt that he had rather brave her future anger
than endure the future taunts of Ben Regers and to lose the wager now with port almost in sight, and the Laughing Mary" well ahead, so ne
eplied bravely with his lips close to the crack in the door:
" Now see here, Symantha, yer jist better stay below, 'cause t'aint no fit place fer a woman on deck jist now-
nor t'wont be nuther 'til we make Nor t'wont be nuther 'til we make them sails and that coat ol paint fer the 'Mary' or I'll know ther reason why," and without further ado, he
urned and went back up the comturned and went back up the com-
panionway to his post at the helm, cllowed by a torrent of passionate age, threats and demands from the mprisoned woman below.
All night long Lige stuck faithfully to his post at the helm and coaxed and drove and urged the straining little schooner, until at last, when the night was over and the morning sun
came up like a ball of fire, Lige turned came up like a banily scanned the eastern horizon for a sight of the "Sally Keen," and there, almost hull down-near the sky line he made her out, while just ahead Nantucket Light loomed up
clear and welcome, with Nantucket port just beyond. the "Laughing Tary" says later, the back into Port Haven resplendent in a coat of dazzling white. paint and a snowy set of sails a the helm puffing his pipe serenely, while Symantha sat beside busily on an upag in sewing a pretentious patch upon the sea
"Sir:-Your wife is held by us for ransom. She will be jetained until
you deposit $\$ 10,000$ under the oak tree at "the top of the hill. The Black Hand." Sirs-Your favor of recent date received. I have deposited unthe rest of my wife's wardrobe. Yours Useful at All Times.-In winter or Pills will cope with and overcome any irregularities of the digestive
organs which change of diet, change organs which change of diet, change
of residence of residence, or variation of tem should be always kept at hand, and once their beneficial action becomes
known, no one will be without them. There is nothing nauseating in their There is nothing nauseating in
structure, and the most delicate can structure, and the mo
use them confidently.

