

'God had departed from them, Daniel,' said I soothingly : 'but we do not know that he will visit us in judgment. Pray to him in this hour of peril, that his wrath be not stirred up against us ! We must use the means, Daniel ; it is for HIM to bless our efforts.' 'Thou counsell'est well, Amos,' returned he ; 'we will use the means, and,' he added raising his hands to heaven, 'Lord deliver for thy name's sake.'

'We worked hard to clear the wreck, but the schooner was alongside of us before we had well commenced ; and in a few minutes her boat, full of men, shoved off to board us. 'Amos,' said Daniel, 'be near me, my brother, and be firm. Yet, yet,' added he, whilst his eyes again flashed fiercely, 'I would not torture them ; and if the lambs are to be slain—' 'Peace, Daniel,' returned I ; 'God sees not as man sees.' Well, sir, the Pirates boarded us, and then commenced a series of the most diabolical outrages that infernal ingenuity could invent and perpetrate. No resistance was offered : for it would have been useless. The passengers were taken into the cabin, and tortured to make confession where the money was concealed. It was in vain that they endeavoured to appease the wretches, by resigning every thing. Some articles of female apparel were discovered, and the pirate chief, his face concealed beneath a black mask, made signs to one of his followers, who demanded where the owners were.

'To the honour of the seamen, they resisted every attempt to aving the secret from them ; but one of the passengers, a poor weak terrified lad, under the expectation of saving himself, betrayed their hiding-place, and the next minute his throat was cut, and he lay a corpse upon the deck. Never shall I forget the look of Daniel when his wife and daughters were brought up and tried to run to him for protection. Emma was just at the age of ripening beauty ; and Eliza was nearly as tall as her sister, though not so well favoured in feature. A motion from the chief, and they were seized by some of his fiends in human form—and when Daniel would have rushed forward to attempt their rescue, a blow from the chief's sabre cut him down. Then ascended up to heaven wild shrieks of horror and supplications for deliverance.

'There, too, stood my innocents—the wretches, could not they spare infancy ? Oh no ! their feet were swift to shed blood—although it were the blood of babes, but I cannot speak of them, Sir—they are safe and better in another world—whilst I !—ay, the hour of retribution will come ! When Daniel recovered sensibility, it was to see his daughters forced over the side into the pirate's boat ; and as they clung to their mother who held them with an inseparable grasp, the tendons of her arms were divided by a sharp weapon ; and as they still embraced, a ruffian drew his knife across my sister's throat, and she was a quivering corpse,—Daniel was lashed down to the ring-bolts—powder was placed round him and exploded, to make him confess that money was somewhere in his keeping. For myself, I was suspended by the wrists in the main rigging and there, oh God ! will the scene never pass away from my eyes ?—there, Sir, I saw my children practised on by every hellish device, and there too, in my sight—the sight of a father—the remorseless villains butchered them.'

Here he ceased for a while, entirely overcome with the horror of recollection, and his convulsive sobbings seemed as if they would rend his breast. In a short time he grew more calm and proceeded :

'It would be a sickening task, Sir, to detail all the atrocities practised by these devils. Murder after murder followed in rapid succession, and then they commenced plundering. My poor brother looked at me, and there was, or at least I thought there was, an expression of reproach upon his countenance as he mournfully shook his head ; but he could not speak, as the wretches had cut out his tongue.

'Throughout the night did this scene continue ; and it grew more and more dreadful when heightened by intoxication. The pirate chief never removed his hideous mask—he had returned once to the schooner, but remained only a short time ; and when he came back poor Daniel was cast loose, a rope was rove through a block upon the mainstay, a noose was put round his neck, and he was run up to it till his convulsive throes ceased, and he was lowered down to recover. Three times was this repeated ; but the third time had effectually terminated his sufferings, and he was thrown down the skylight in the cabin. How I contrived to escape I can hardly tell. I remember being cut down and falling to the deck, where some one dragged me to the companion hatch ; and as he raised me up for a launch down the ladder, a voice whispered in my ear, 'There's a sail in sight—hide yourself, if you can,'—the next moment I was precipitated below, and in a few minutes, finding no one in the cabin, I crawled to the place where you found me, and sunk into insensibility. You see the manner in which I have been treated ; but God will yet grant me strength for the hour of retribution. I have prayed for it, Sir—the groanings of my spirit have ascended up to the throne of Omnipotence ; I have implored with the pleadings of faith—and I feel assured my petitions will be answered.'

There could be no doubt that the schooner had made the frigate out before we had caught sight of her, and thus was enabled to gain a considerable advantage. 'What sort of a man is he you call the pirate chief ?' inquired I.

'Of his features I can say nothing ; for they were concealed,

and consequently it was impossible to ascertain his age,' replied the mate ; but he was of middle stature, well built and active. Every signal or sign he made showed the heart of a devil.'

That night it fell calm, and for three days we drifted at the mercy of the currents. Sometimes a light air of wind would tantalize us, but it soon subsided again ; and as our stock of provisions began seriously to decrease, I put the men upon short allowance. But this was not the worst—our water was nearly gone, a fine breeze, and as the frigate did not appear, I determined to run into the Havana to obtain victuals and water, and the next morning we were safe at anchor within the Moro Castle, and all hands busily at work. Unfortunately I had no papers to show my authority in taking charge of the ship, but, by one of those occurrences which are especially ordained, I happened to have my pocket-book, containing my commission, and a deposition was taken before the authorities of the actual state of the case. The Spaniards used many pretexts for doubting and discrediting the evidence of myself and my men, for the purpose of seizing the vessel, but the English and American official residents promptly came to my aid, and we were allowed to remain unmolested. Medical assistance was obtained for the mate, but no persuasions could induce him to go on shore.

I had landed early one morning to expedite the labours of the men, and feeling fatigued, entered a coffee-house to obtain refreshment. Whilst sitting at the table, a young man in a Spanish undress naval uniform approached, and, stiffly saluting me, took his seat on the opposite side. His age appeared to be about five-and-twenty, his face was remarkably handsome, and there was a sort of careless recklessness in his look which characterized a tar of the old English school—in fact, there was nothing of the Spaniard about him but his dress, and I very soon became convinced by his manners that he was a countryman. His beverage was wine, and as he raised the tumbler to his lips, he uttered in good English, though with somewhat of an Irish accent 'Signor teniente, your health.'

I bowed in token of acknowledgement ; and a conversation ensued in which he announced himself an Irishman by birth but nearly the whole of his existence had been passed in the United States and Spanish America, and he was then in the personal suite of the Governor, with the rank of a First Lieutenant in the Navy. His manners were extremely engaging ; but there was a sort of hardened bravado at times about him which strikingly contrasted with his usual gentlemanly deportment. We talked of our several national services, and his observations manifested acuteness and intelligence. The capture of the Yankee by the pirate naturally engaged some portion of our attention, and he listened to the details with much earnestness. At length he proposed a walk through the city ; but this I politely declined, urging the necessity for my speedy departure for Jamaica as an efficient excuse. The fact, however, was, that I did not like to commit myself with a man of whom I knew nothing, and I was not pleased at seeing a seaman in any other uniform than that of his natural country. He accompanied me, however, to the boat, and looking upon the six men that were at work, paid a high compliment to their admirable appearance.

'How many such have you in the frigate ?' inquired he.

I replied, 'Three hundred and twenty.'

'But you have more than these in the Yankee,' said he ; 'strong as they are they are barely sufficient to handle her.'

'They do very well,' answered I, somewhat evasively. 'I have no wish for more ; especially as the frigate will, no doubt, be somewhere in the neighbourhood looking for us.'

'I should like very much to run to Jamaica with you,' said he ; 'the Governor, I think, would grant me permission, if you would give me a passage.—When do you sail ?'

I told him on the following day, if possible ; and he was perfectly welcome to a passage.

'Well then,' added he 'I will obtain leave of absence, and be on board in the morning ;' and so we parted.

I completed all my arrangements, and by night was ready for sea, intending to take advantage of the land breeze in the early part of the dawn to make an offing. Accordingly soon after sunrise we had sail upon the ship ; the anchor was purchased, and we stood out. A canoe came alongside, and a note was handed up by a negro, who instantly shoved off again. It was from my acquaintance of the coffee house, stating the failure of his application for leave of absence, and wishing me a pleasant passage.

The mate had been very carefully attended to : and as most of his injuries were of an external nature, he found great relief from the applications prescribed by the doctor ; nor was his bodily strength much diminished. He was a tall, robust, muscular man, apparently of great physical power ; but he belonged to that enduring sect founded by William Penn, whose object is peace and good will to all.

We rounded Cape St. Antonio in capital style, and then hauled up for Jamaica ; but we had light baffling winds and calms till nearly abreast of the Isle of Pines, and then we had it more steady.

It was nearly morning—the master's mate (he was an Irish youth of the name of O'Brien) had the watch—and I was soundly

sleeping on a mattress upon the deck, dreaming of home, when I felt myself roughly shaken, and O'Brien, with staring eye and eager look, exclaimed, 'By the powers, but she's there again, Sir.'

'Who's there ?' inquired I, jumping up in a hurry, and observing the men using my glass to examine something to windward. 'What is it, O'Brien ?'

'Why, then, its the devil herself, Mr. —' replied he ! she's got away from the old hooker, and will be down upon us before we can say pase.'

I went to the gangway—took the glass and directed it towards a sail in shore of us. There was no mistaking her rig, or the cut of her sails ; a curious sensation crept over me—it was the Black Bloodhound, and she was standing out towards us. The atmosphere was rather hazy ; but I sent a man aloft to see if he could discover any other strange sail, and he reported several small craft in with the land and a vessel of some kind or other on the lee bow, but he could not make out what. I communicated the circumstance to the American mate, who, so far from feeling alarmed, expressed considerable satisfaction. 'I shall die, Sir,' said he, 'but the hour of retribution is at hand.' I called the men aft, and describing to them the inevitable consequence of falling into such murderous hands, demanded whether they would stand by me in resisting to the last.

If you'll only give orders, Sir,' said Jackson, advancing a little before the rest, 'we'll hold on by you for a Highland moon, and I'm blessed if we don't learn the scoundrels a trick or two afore we've done. Won't us boys ?'

A brief assent announced their willingness, and we instantly commenced preparations for defence. I had found a couple of 18 pounder carronades in the hold whilst at Havana, and got them mounted. There was plenty of powder on board, but no shot, and all hands immediately set to work to collect langridge of all kinds to atone for the deficiency ; iron hoops were broken into small pieces—glass bottles were in readiness—spike nails— in short every thing of an offensive nature that we could gather was tied up in canvas of a dimension to enter the muzzle of the guns ; and each man amongst us had his musket, a brace of pistols, a bayonet, and cutlass. I gave the American my musket and bayonet, reserving my other arms to myself ; and thus we presented a formidable band of fifteen, expecting an attack of probably more than seventy. But when I considered that

'Thrice is he armed who hath his quarrel just.'

I felt but little apprehension as to the result. The awning was spread over the quarter-deck, and I directed stops to be cleverly stranded so that a strong jerk would bring the whole of it down together. Our carronades were loaded, secured in a-midships, just before the after-hatchway, so that we might, on seeing which side the pirate would take, bring them both to bear together. A shot from his long gun, that passed over us, was a warning to heave-to ; but we still carried on, to gain as much time as possible, and induce him to believe that we were under great alarm.

'May I request a favour, Sir ?' said Amos, in tone of earnest solemnity.

'If it does not interfere with my arrangements, you may ask, and have all that I can do for you,' replied I.

'It's only to let one of the men reeve a line through that block upon the mainstay, Sir,' said he, pointing aloft to the block at which his unfortunate brother had been suspended, and which remained in its original position, though I had ordered its removal. 'You may deem my request a strange one,' added he ; 'but grant it me, Sir ; Jackson, here, will lend me a hand, and you shall see that retribution will have its day.'

I certainly did not much heed what his intentions were, for my thoughts were otherwise too busily engaged ; but I told Jackson to get the rope rove, as much as any thing to satisfy him, and as there seemed to be a sort of mysterious communing between them.—Another shot from the schooner passed through both topsails ; but as the weather began to thicken I still carried on, though without the smallest hope or expectation of getting away. In another quarter of an hour she ranged under our lee-quarter, and poured in a broad-side, which however injured no one. My brave fellows had anticipated her movement, and the two carronades were promptly at the midship-ports covered over with boat's sails.

'Ho—the ship, ahoy,' exclaimed a voice from the schooner ; 'heave-to, and send your boat aboard directly.'

'Ay, ay, Sir,' answered I, aloud ; but whisperingly added—'Stand by, my men—square the main-yard lubberly fashion ;' and then aloud—'back the main-topsail.'

My orders were well obeyed—only a few of my men appearing ; and the pirates, fancying that we had but little strength, and knowing that there were no guns when they were last aboard, crowded the nettings and rigging to have a look at us ; they were so close that we could hear even the tread of the men upon her deck ; when suddenly luffing-up as the schooner had forged a-head so as to be abreast the fore-channels, I gave the word 'fire.' The carronades were admirably pointed, and the execution they did exceeded my most sanguine expectations. The schooner filled her topsails and stood on till she brought us in a line with her