

BRAVE BOUSSARD, THE FAMOUS PILOT OF DIEPPE.

(From Chatterbox.)

M. de Crosne, Intendant of Rouen, informed the Minister of Finance, M. Necker, of Bousard's brave action; M. Necker acquainted the king (the good Louis XVI.) with the fact; and immediately, on receiving His Majesty's orders, wrote himself the following letter to the Pilot of Dieppe:—

"BRAVE MAN,

"I only heard yesterday, through M. l'Intendant, of the courageous action which you performed on the 31st August last, and yesterday I informed the king of it, who commanded me to testify to you his satisfaction for the same, and to announce to you from him that he makes you a present of 1,000 francs, and grants you a pension of 300 francs. Continue to help others whenever you can, and pray for your good king who loves brave men and rewards them.

"NECKER,

"General Director of
Finance.

"Paris, 20th Dec.,
1777."

The contents of this letter soon became public at Dieppe. To the brave pilot it caused great joy, and he took care that it should be preserved as a precious heirloom in his family. The money which he received from all sides he employed to clothe his children better than his former needy circumstances had allowed him to do; moreover, he took two little orphan nieces into his house, and educated them with his own children. Another good use which he made of his money is best shown by quoting his own words: "During my poverty, it was always my greatest grief that I could not buy ropes and cords to save ships which were in danger. I always found a difficulty in borrowing them from others. In such cases they were sometimes broken or lost; I was then quite afraid to

meet those who had lent them to me, because I had no money to replace them."

His fellow-townsmen came to congratulate him on the king's favor, and urged him to go to Paris to present himself to Louis XVI., to express his gratitude to His Majesty.

Boussard at last yielded to their wishes. He went to Versailles, where the king received him with great kindness, and repeated, with deep feeling, "There is a brave man! really a brave man!" Boussard, who only saw in the deed he had

him overseer of the lighthouse, and, besides, had caused a little house to be built for him close to the harbor, from which he had a view over the sea, and could at once perceive if a ship was in danger.

At the least appearance of a storm, or of any vessel in distress, Boussard, provided with ropes, would dash into the waves, and then steer the vessel into the harbor. If the fury of the sea was too great to allow him to steer the ship into safety, he seized the sailors or passengers and bore them to the shore.

ed men. He was skilful enough to get hold of a rope which would quickly have helped him to the pier, but perceiving by his side an unfortunate lad of fourteen, whose strength was already exhausted, and who was allowing himself to be borne away by the waves, as a worthy son of the brave man he resolved, at the risk of his own life, to save him from danger. To succeed in this with greater certainty he passed the end of the rope under the lad's arms and then round his own thighs. This double burden caused it to break. A

cry from the man on the pier who held the rope warned Boussard the elder of this accident; he promptly threw out another rope, which his son seized.

This intrepid young man was determined not to abandon the boy whom he had taken under his protection; he tied him again with a second rope, and was fortunate enough by the aid of his father in being able, thus bound as he was, to climb up to the jetty, more than eighteen feet above the sea.

Three others were at the same time rescued from the waves by the aid of Boussard's ropes.

Let us not omit to mention one of the fine traits of the sensitive soul of the brave man. Boussard thought less on this occasion of the rescue of the five shipwrecked men, among whom was his own son, than of the death of the sixth; and his friend had a deal of trouble to console him for a loss for which in

In the course of the autumn of 1786, brave Boussard perceived, in the middle of the night, that a barque was foundering at a little distance from the piers. Attracted by the cries of the unhappy crew, who were struggling in the waves, he threw ropes to them, and called to his help all those who were within hearing on the shore. The darkness was so great that he could not see those who were in danger. Boussard's son was among the six shipwreck-

some way he reproached himself. This was not the first noble deed of younger Boussard, who associated himself henceforth with his father's glory, for in 1784 he had already saved the lives of four shipwrecked men. M. de Crosne, Intendant of Rouen, sent him a reward of 400 francs, and the Chamber of Commerce added to it a silver medal, as they had previously given a gold one to his father. Since that day Boussard's



performed the duty of one man towards others, was astounded at the reward with which the prince had honored him. "I have done," he said, "many actions like this one; I don't know why my last should make so much noise. My comrades, too, are as brave as I am."

The brave man, faithful to the duties which he had imposed upon himself, continued still to watch the harbor and piers of Dieppe. The king had appointed