## MILES WALLINGFORD

BY JAMES FENIMORE COOPER

CHAPTER XII "The wind blows fair, the vessel feels
The pressure of the rising breeze,
And, swiftest of a thousand keels,
She leaps to the careering seas."

Half an hour later, things drew near a crisis. We had been obliged to luff a little, in order to clear a reef that even Marble admitted lay off Montauk, while the Leander had kept quite as much Marble admitted lay off Montauk, while the Leander had kept quite as much away, with a view to close. This brought the fifty so near us, directly on our weather-beam, as to induce her commander to try the virtue of gunpowder. Her bow gun was fired, and its shot, only a twelve-pounder, ricochetted until it fairly passed our fore-foot, distant a hundred yards, making its last leap from the water precisely in the line with the stem of the Dawn. This was unequivocal evidence that the game could not last much longer, unless the space between the two vessels should be sensibly widened. Fortunately, we now opened Montauk fort, and the option was offered us of doubling that point, and entering the Sound, or of standing on toward Block Island, and putting the result on our heels. After a short consultation with Marble, I decided on the first.

One of the material advantages pos-sessed by a man-of-war in a chase with a merchant-vessel, is in the greater velowe began to touch our braces, tacks, and sheets, the Leander would do the same, and that she would effect her objects in and that she would effect her objects in half the time in which we could effect ours. Nevertheless, the thing was to be done, and we set about the preparations with care and assiduity. It was a small with care and assiduity. It was a small matter to round in our weather-braces, until the yards were nearly square, but the rigging out of her studding-sall booms, and the setting of the sails, was a job to occupy the Dawn's people several minutes. Marble suggested that by edging gradually away, we should oring the Leander so far on our quarter as to cause the after-sails to conceal what we were about forward, and that we might steal a march on our pursuers by adopting this precaution. I thought the suggestion a good one, and the necessary orders were given to carry it out.

Any one might be certain that the Englishman's glasses we've levelled on us the whole time. Some address was used, therefore, in managing to get our yards in without showing the people at the braces. This was done by keeping off first, and then by leading the ropes as far forward as possible, and causing the men to haul on them, seated on deck. In this manner we got our yards nearly square, or as much in as our new deck. In this manner we got our yards nearly square, or as much in as our new course required, when we sent hands aloft, forward, to get out the lee booms. But we reckoned without our host. John Bull was not to be caught in that way. The hands were hardly in the lee fore-rigging, before I saw the fifty falling off to our course, her yards squared, and signs aboard her that she had larboard studding-sails as well as ourselves. The change of course had one good effect, however; it brought cur pursuer so far on our quarter, that, standing at the capstan, I saw him through the mizzen-rigging. This took the Dawn completely from under the Leander's broadside, leaving us exposed to merely four or five of her

us exposed to merely four or five of her forward guns, should she see fit to use them. Whether the English were reluctant to resort to such very decided means of annoyance, so completely within the American waters, as we were clearly getting to be, or whether they had so much confidence in their speed, as to feel no necessity for firing, I never knew; but they did not have any furher recourse to shot.

As might have been foreseen, the fifty

had her extra canvas spread some time before we could open ours, and I fancied she showed the advantage thus obtained in her rate of sailing. She certainly closed with us, though we close much faster with the land; still, there was imminent danger of her overhauling us before we could round the point, unless some decided step were promptly taken

"On the whole, Mr. Marble," I said after my mates and myself had taken a long and thoughtful look at the actua long and thoughttul look at the accular state of things—"on the whole, Mr. Marble, it may be well to take in our light sails, haul our wind, and let the man-of-war come up with us. We are honest folk, and there is little risk in his

honest folk, and there is little risk in his seeing all that we have to show him."
"Never think of it!" cried the mate.
"After this long pull, the fellow will be savage as a bear with a sore head. He'd not leave a hand on board us, that can take his trick at the wheel; and it's ten take his trick at the wheel; and it's ten chances to one that he would send the ship to Halifax, under some pretence or other, that the sugars are not sweet-enough, or that the coffee was grown in a French island, and tastes French. No, no, Captain Wallingford—here's the wind at san' and wall and waller head

through that passage in the revylution war, in chase of an English West Iniyman, and stood by the lead the whole

way, myself. Keep her away, Neb-keep her away another p'int; so-steady-very well, dyce [anglice, thus] -keep her so, and let John Bull follow

keep her so, and let John Bull follow us, if he dare."
"You should be very sure of your channel, Mr. Marble," I said gravely, channel, Mr. Marble." I said gravely,
"to take so much responsibility on yourself. Remember my all is embarked
in this ship, and the insurance will not
be worth a sixpence, if we are lost running through such a place as this in
broad daylight. Reflect a moment, I
beg of you, if not certain of what you
do."

do."

"And what will the insurance be worth, ag'in Halifax, or Bermuda? I'll put my life on the channel, and would care more for your ship, Miles, than my own. If you love me, stand on, and let us see if that lubberly make-believe two-decker dare follow."

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I was fain to comply, though I ran a risk that I find it impossible now to instify to myself. I had my cousin John Wallingford's property in charge, as well as my own, or what was quite as bad, I placed Clawbonny in imminent jeopardy. Still, my feelings were aroused, and to the excitement of a race was added the serious but vague apprehensions all America seamen felt, in that day, of the great belligerents. It is a singular proof of human justice, that the very consequences of these apprehensions are made matter of reproach against them.

It is not my intention to dwell further on the policy of England and

calumnisted, and the body of men of which I was then one, did not escape that sort of reparation for all the grievances they endured, which is dependent on demonstrating that the injured deserved their sufferings. We have been accused of misleading English cruisers by false information, of being liars to an unusual degree, and of manifesting a grasping love of gold, beyond the ordinary cupidity of man. Now I will ask our accusers if it were at all extraordinary that they who felt themselves daily aggrieved, should resort to the means within their power to avenge themselves? As for veracity, no one who has reached my present time of life, can aggrieved, should resort to the means within their power to avenge themselves? As for veracity, no one who has reached my present time of life, can be ignorant that truth is the rarest thing in the world, nor are those who have been the subjects of mystifications got up in the payment for wrongs, supposed or real, the most impartial judges of character or facts. As for the charge of an undue love of money, it is unmerited. Money will do less in America than in any other country of my acquaintance, and infinitely less than in either France or England.

There is truth in this accusation, as applied either to a particular class or to the body of the American people, only in one respect. It is undenlable that, as a new nation, with a civilization that is wanting in so many of its higher qualities, while it is already so far advanced in those which form the basis of national greatness, money does not meet with the usual cormatition.

far advanced in those which form the basis of national greatness, money does not meet with the usual competition among us. The institutions, too, by dispensing with hereditary consideration, do away with a leading and prominent source of distinction that is known to other systems, thus giving to riches and exclusive importance, that is rather apparent, however, than real. I acknowledge that little or no consideration is yet given among us to any of the more intellectual pursuits, the great bulk of the nation regarding literary men, artists, even professional men, as so many public servants, respecting them and their labors only as they can contribute to the great stock of national wealth to the great stock of national wealth and renown. This is owing, in part, to the youth of a country in which most of material foundation was so recently the material foundation was so recently to be laid, and in part to the circum-stance that men being under none of the factitious restraints of other systems, coarse and vulgar-minded declaimers make themselves heard and felt to a degree that would not be tolerated else-

Notwithstanding all these defects, which no intelligent, and least of all, no travelled American should or can justly deny, I will maintain that gold is not one tittle more the goal of the American than it is of the native of other active and energetic communities. It is true, there is little besides gold, just now, to aim at in this country, but the great number of young men who devote them selves to letters and the arts, under such unfavorable circumstances, a number greatly beyond the knowledge of foreign nations, proves it is circumstances, and not the grovelling propensities of the people themselves, that give gold so nearly undisputed ascendency. The great numbers who devote themselves to politics among us, certainly Notwithstanding all these defects selves to politics among us, certainly anything but a money-making pursuit, proves that it is principally the want of other avenues to distinction that renders gold apparently the sole aim of

No, no, Captain Wallingford—here's the wind at sou'-sou'-west, and we're heading nothe-east and by nothe-half-nothe already, with that fellow abaft the mizzen-riggin'; as soon as we get a p'int more to the nor'ard, we'll have him fairly in our wake."

"Ay, that will do very well as a theory, but what can we make of it in practice? We are coming up toward Montauk at the rate of eight knots, and you have told me yourself there is a reef off that point, directly toward are to define the course to be steered. We could see by the charts that the ref was already outside of us, and there was now no alternative between going ashore, or going through Marble's channel. We succeeded in the last, gaining materially on the Leander by so doing, the Englishman hauling his wind when he thought himself as near Montauk at the rate of eight knots, and you have told me yourself there is a reef off that point, directly toward which we must this moment be standing. At this rate, fifteen minutes might break us up into splintera."

I could see that Marble was troubled by the manner in which he rolled his tobacco about, and the riveted gaze he kept on the water ahead. I had the utmost confidence in his seamanlike prunch that the confidence in his seamanlike prunch that the confidence in his seamanlike prunch that the confidence is a seamanlike prunc

kept on the water ahead. I had the utmost confidence in his seamanlike prudence and discretion, while I knew he was capable of suggesting anything a ship could possibly perform, in an emergency that called for such an exercise of decision. At that moment, he forgot our present relations, and went back, as he often did when excited, to the days of our greater equality, and more trying scenes.

"Harkee, Miles," he said, "the reef is dead ahead of us, but there is a passage between it and the point. I went through that passage in the revvylution

From this time, for twenty days, the passage of the Dawn had nothing un-

way, myself. Keep her away, Nebreep her away another p'int: so-steady-very well, dyce [anglice, thus these per so, and let John Ball follow us, if he dere."

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It is not my intention to dwelf further on the policy of England and France, during their great context for superiority, than is necessary to the nearrative of events connected with my own adventures; but a word in behalf of American seamen, in resing, may not be entirely out of place or season. Men are seldom wronged without being fresh, with very thick weatherprain the body of men of which I was then one, did not escape this sort of reparation for all the grievances they endured, which is dependent on demonstrating that the injured deserved their sinderings. We have been accused of misleading English cruisers by false information, of being liars to an unusual degree, and of manifesting a grasping love of gold, bevond the ordinary cupility of man. Now I will ask our accusers if it were as all extraording a grasping love of gold, bevond the ordinary cupility of man. Now I will ask our accusers usual. We crossed the Banks in forty-

whether to spars would bear any more canvas, under the stiff breeze that was

olowing.
"This is no great distance from the "This is no great distance from the spot where we surprised the Lady of Nantes, Captain Wallingford," Marble observed to me, as I stood overlooking the process of bending a fore-topmast studding sail, in which he was engaged with his own hands; "nor was the weather any thicker then than it is now, though that was a haze, and this was a mist."

"You are out of your longitude a few hundred miles, Master Moses, but the comparison is well enough otherwise. We have twice the wind and sea we had then, moreover, and that was dry weather, while this is, to speak more gingerly, a little moist."

"Ay, ay, sir; there is just that difference. Them were pleasant days, Captain Wallingford. I say nothing agin these; but them 'ere were pleasant."

tain Wallingford. I say nothing agin these; but them 'ere were pleasant times, as all in the Crisis must allow."
"Perhaps we shall think the same of these some five or six years hence."
"Well, that's natur', I must confess. It's amazing how the last v'y'ge hangs in a man's memory, and how little we think of the present! I suppose the Lord made us all of this disposition, for it's sartin we all manifest it. Come, bear a hand, Neb, on that fore-yard, and let us see the length of the stun-sail boom."

but Neb, contrary to his habits, stood upright on the yard, holding on by the lift, and looking over the weather-leach of the towasil, apparently at some object that either was just then visible, or which had just before been visible. "What is it?" cried Marble, struck with the black's estimate and marker. the black's attitude and manner.

What d'ye see?"
"I don't see him now, sir; nuttin' now; ut dere was a ship."
"Whereaway?" I demanded.

of us on deck, and, in less than a minute, we caught a pretty good view of the stranger from the forecastle. He might have been visible to us half a minute, in one of those momentary openings in the mist, that were constantly occurring, and which enabled the eye to command a range around the ship of half a mile, losing it again however, almost a soon mist, that were constantly occurring, and which enabled the eye to command a range around the ship of half a mile, losing it again, however, almost as soon as it was obtained. Notwithstanding the distance of time, I can perfectly recall the appearance of that vessel, seen as she was, for a moment only, and seen too so unexpectedly. It was a frigate, as frigates then were; or a ship of that medium size between a heavy sloop-of-war and a two-decker, which, perhaps, offers the greatest proportions for activity and force. We plainly saw her cream-colored, or as it is more usual to term it, her yellow streak, dotted with fourteen ports, including the bridle, and gleaming brightly in contrast to the dark and glistening hull, over which the mist and the spray of the ocean cast a species of sombre lustre. The stranger was under his three topsails, spanker, and jib, each of the former sails being double-reefed. His courses were in the brails. As the wind did not blow hard enough to bring a vessel of any size to more than one reef, even on a bow-line, this short canvas proved that the frigate was on her cruising ground, and was roaming about in quest of anything that migh offer. This was just the canvas to give a cruiser a wicked look, since it denoted a lazy preparation, which might, in an instant, be improved into mischief. As all cruising vessels, when on their stations doing nothing, reef at night, and the hour was still early, it was possible we had made this ship before her captain, or first lieutenant, had made his appearance on deck. There she was, at all events, dark, lustrous, fair in her proportions, her yards looming square and symmetrical, her canvas damp, but stout and new, the copper bright as a tea-kettle, resembling a new cent, her hammock-cloths with the undress appearance this part of a vessel-of-war stout and new, the copper bright as a tea-kettle, resembling a new cent, her hammock-cloths with the undress appearance this part of a vessel-of-war usually offers at night, and her quarter-deck and forcastle guns frowning through the lanyards of her lower rigging, like so many slumbering bull-dogs muzzled in their kennels.

muzzled in their kennels.

The frigate was on an easy bowline, or to speak more correctly, was standing directly across our fore foot, with her yards nearly square. In a very few

minutes, each keeping her present course, the two ships would have passed within pistol-shot of each other. I scarce knew the nature of the sudden impulse which induced me to call out to the man at the wheel to starboard his helm. It was probably from instinctive appreheusion that it were better for a neutral te have as little to do with a beltigerent as possible, mingled with a presentiment that I might lose some of my people by impressment. Call out I certainly did, and the Dawn's bows to care up to the wind, looking to the westward, or in a direction contrary to that in which the frigate was running, as her yards were square, or nearly so. As soon as the weather-leaches touched, the helm was righted, and away we went with the wind abeam, with about g as much breeze as he wanted for the sai we carried.

The Dawn might have been half a mile to windward of the frigate when this manocurve was nut line execution.

The manneure present minutes. I watched all her movements, as the cat watches the mouse. In the first place her reefs were shaken out, as the cat watches the mouse. In the first place her reefs were shaken out, as the cat watches the mouse. In the first place her reefs were shaken out, as the cat watches the mouse. In the first place her reefs were shaken out, as the cat watches the mouse. In the first place her reefs were shaken out, as the cat watches the mouse. In the shape out, as the cat watches the mouse. In the shape out, as the cat watches the mouse. In the first place her reefs were shaken out, as the cat watches the mouse. In the shape out, as the cat watches the mouse. In the shape out, as the cat watches the mouse. In the shape out, as the cat watches the mouse. In the shape out, as the cat watches the mouse. In the shape out, as the cat watches the mouse. In the shape out, as the cat watches the mouse. In the shape out, as the cat watches the mouse. In the shape out, as the cat watches the mouse. In the shape out, as the cat watches as the cat watches the shape out of the shape out of the s

The Dawn might have been half a mile to windward of the frigate when this manœuvre was put in execution. We were altogether ignorant whether our own ship had been seen, but the view we got of the stranger satisfied us that he was an Englishman. Throughout the whole of the long wars that succeeded the French Revolution, the part of the ocean which lay off the chops of the channel was vigilantly watched by the British, and it was seldom indeed, a vessel could go over it, without meeting more or less of the cruisers. I was not without a hope that the two ships would pass each other without our beseen. The mist became very thick just as we hanled up, and had this change of course taken place after we were shut in, the chances were greatly in favor of its being effected. Once distant a mile from the frigate, there was little danger of her getting a glimpse of us, since, throughout all that morning, I was satisfied we had not got a horizon with that much of diameter.

satisfied we had not got a horizon with that much of diameter.

As a matter of course the preparations with the studding-sails were suspended. Neb was ordered to lay aloft, as high as the cross-trees, and to keep a vigilant lookout, while all eyes on deck were watching as anxiously in the mist, as we had formerly watched for the shadowy outline of La Dame de Nantes. Marble's long experience told him best where to look, and he caught the next view of the frigate. She was nim best where to look, and he caught the next view of the frigate. She was directly under our lee, gliding easily along under the same canvas; the reefs still in, the courses in the brails, and the spanker rolled up, as it had been for the night.

still in, the courses in the brails, and the spanker rolled up, as it had been for the night.

"By George," cried the mate, "all them Johny Bulls are still asleep, and they haven't seen us! If we can give this fellow the slip, as we did the old Leander, Captain Wallingford, the Dawn will become as famous as the Flying Dutchman! See, there he jogs on as going to mill or to church, and no more stir aboard him than there is in a Quaker meetin'! How my good old soul of a mother would enjoy this!"

There the frigate went, sure enough, without the smallest sign of any alarm having been given on jboard her. The vessels had actually passed each other, and the mist was thickening sgain. Presently the veil was drawn, and the form of that beautiful ship was entirely hid from sight. Marble rubbed his hands with delight, and all our people began to joke at the expense of the Englishman. "If a merchantman could see a man-of-war," it was justly enough said, "a man-of-war ought certainly to see merchantman." Her lookouts must have all been asleep, or it would not have been possible for us to pass so near, under the canvas we carried, and escape undiscovered. Most of the Dawn's crew were native Americans, though there were four or five Europeans among them. Of these last, one was certainly an Englishman, and, as I suspected, a deserter from a public ship; and the other, beyond all controversy, was certainly an Englishman, and, as I suspected, a deserter from a public ship; and the other, beyond all controversy, was a plant of the Emerald Isle. These two men were particularly delighted though well provided with those veracious documents called protections—which, like beggars' certificates, never told anything but truth, though, like beggars' certificates, they not unfre-"Whereaway?" I demanded.
"Off here, Masser Mile—larboard bow, well forrard; look sharp, and soon see him, yourself, sir."
Sharp enough we did look, all hands of us on deck, and, in less than a minute, laxity in the character of this testimony, that gave English officers something like a plausible pretext for disregarding all evidence in the premises. Their mistake was in supposing they had a right to make a man prove anything on board a foreign ship; while that of America was, in permitting her citizens to be arraigned before foreign indees, under any conceivable circumlaxity in the character of this testi-

citizens to be arraigned before foreign judges, under any conceivable circumstances. If England wanted her own men let her keep them within her jurisdiction, not attempt to follow them into the jurisdiction of neutral states.

Well, the ship had passed; and I began myself to fancy that we were quit of a troublesome neighbor, when Neb came down the rigging, in obedience to an order from the mate.

"Relieve the wheel, Master Clawbonny," said Marble, who often gave the negro his patronymic; "we may want some of your touches, before we reach the foot of the dance. Which way was John Bull travelling when you last saw him?"

him?"
"He goin' eastward, sir." Neb was "He goin' eastward, sir." Neb was never half as much "nigger" at sea, as when he was on shore—there being something in his manly calling that raised him nearer to the dignity of white men. "But, sir, he was gettin' his people ready to make sail."

"How do you know that? No such thing, sir; all hands were asleep, taking their second name."

their second naps."
"Well, you see, Misser Marble; der

you know, sir."

Neb grinned as he said this; and I felt persuaded he had seen something that he understood, but which very possibly he could not explain; though it clearly indicated that John Bull was not asleep. We were not left long in doubt on this head. The mist opened again, and, dis-We were not left long in doubt on this head. The mist opened again, and, distant from us about three quarters of a mile, bearing on our lee-quarter, we got another look at the frigate, and a look another look at the frigate, and a look that satisfied everybody what she was about. The Englishman was in stays, in the very act of hauling his head-yards, a certain sign he was a quick and sureworking fellow, since this manœuvre had been performed against a smart sea, and under double-reefed topsails. He mest have made us, just as we lost sight of him, and was about to shake out his reefs.

There was no mistaking all this. We were seen, and chased; everything on board the frigate being instantly and accurately trimmed, "full and by." She looked up into our wake, and I knew must soon overtake a heavily-laden ship like the Dawn, in the style in which she was worked and handled. Under the circumstances, therefore, I motioned Marble to follow me aft, where we consulted together touching our future proceedings. I confess I was disposed to shorten sail, and let the cruiser come alongside; but Marble, as usual, was for holding on.

"We are bound to Hamburg," said the mate, "which lies here away, on our lee-

"We are bound to Hamburg," said the mate, "which lies here away, on our lee-beam, and no man has a right to com-plain of our steering our course. The mist has shut the frigate in again, and, it being very certain he will overhaul us on a bowline, I advise you, Miles, to lay the yards perfectly square, edge away two points more, and set the weather stun-sails. If we do not open John, very soon again, we may be off three or four miles to leavand before he learns where miles to leeward before he learns where we are, and then, you know a 'starn chase' is always a 'long chase.'"

This was good advice, and I deter-mined to follow it. It blew rather fresh

at the instant, and the Dawn began to plunge through the seas at a famous rate as soon as she felt the drag of the studding-sails. We were now running on a course that made an obtuse angle with that of the frigate, and there was the presibility of sector increasing our with that of the frigate, and there was
the possibility of so far increasing our
distance as to get beyond the range of
the openings of the mist, ere our
expedient were discovered. So long did
the density of the atmosphere continue,
indeed, that my hopes were beginning
to be strong, just as one of our people
called out, "The frigate!" This time
she was seen directly astern of us, and she was seen directly astern of us, and nearly two miles distant! Such had been our gain, that ten minutes longer would have carried us clear. As we now saw her, I felt certain she would now saw ner, I lest certain she would soon see us, eyes being on the lookout on board her, beyond a question. Nevertheless, the cruiser was still on a bowline, standing on the course on which we had been last seen.

which we had been last seen.

This lasted but a moment, however.
Presently the Englishman's bow fell off, and by the time he was dead before the wind, we could see his studding-sails flapping in the air, as they were in the act of being distended, by means of halyards, tacks and sheets all going at once. The mist shut in the ship again before all this could be executed. What was to be done next? Marble said, as we were not on our precise what was to be done next? Marble said, as we were not on our precise course, it might serve a good turn to bring the wind on our starboard quarter, set all the studding-sails we could carry on the same side, and run off eastnorth-east. I inclined to this opinion, north-east. I inclined to this opinion, and the necessary changes were made forthwith. The wind and mist increased, and away we went, on a diverging line from the course of the Englishman at the rate of quite ten knots in the hour. This lasted fully forty minutes, and all hands of us fancied we had at last given the cruiser the slip. Jokes and chuckling flew about among the men, as usual, and everybody began to feel as happy as success could make us, when the dark veil lifted at the southwest; the sun was seen struggling through the clouds, the vapor dispersed, and gradually the whole curtain which

morning arose, extending the view around the ship, little by little, until nothing limited it but the natural horizon.

The anxiety with which we watched this slow rising of the curtain need scarcely be described. Every eye was turned eagerly in the direction in which its owner expected to find the frigate, and great was our satisfaction as mile after mile opened in the circle around us, without bringing her beautiful proportions within its range. But this could not last forever, there not being sufficient time to carry so large a vessel of the walks, with the jaws of lions—because of the wolves, who were beginning to get fierce; and he left his two women, advising them to lock themselves into the house as soon as night began to fall.

The young one was afraid of nothing, but the old one kept on trembling and repeating:

"It will turn out badly, all this sort of thing. You'll see, it will turn out badly."

This evening she was more anxious could not last forever, there not being sufficient time to carry so large a vessel over the curvature of the ocean's surface. As usual, Marble saw her first. She had fairly passed to leeward of us, and was quite two leagues distant, driving ahead with the speed of a racehorse. With a clear horizon, an open ocean, a stiff breeze, and hours of daylight, it was hopeless to attempt escape from as fast a vessel as the stranger, and I now determined to put the Dawn on her true course, and trust altogether on her true course, and trust altogether to the goodness of my cause; heels being out of the question. The reader who will do me the favor to peruse the succeeding chapter, will learn the result of this resolution.

TO BE CONTINUED

Misses the "Sign of Toil" In a talk to a club of ministers Mayor Gaynor said, among, other things: "When I go to the churches, one-quarter filled, in this town, and look at the fine pews and carpets and cushions, and the absence of anybody who has on his hand the sign of toil, I begin to wonder if all this is not tending to a failure after all." There was a time when Mr. Gaynor was accustomed to enter churches which were very much more than one-quarter filled, and wherein he could observe many with the "sign of toil" upon their hands kneeling in company with the rich. We wonder if he himself now recalls with poignancy or with impatience the days when he, too, knelt a dutiful son of that great mother who welcomes to her temples the rich and the poor.—Providence Visitor. In a talk to a club of ministers Mayor

If you fall, do not despair, and throw the handle after the hatchet.—Huys

#### THE PRISONERS

There was no sound in the forest except the light rustle of the snow as it fell upon the trees. It had been falling, small and fine since mid-day; it powdered the branches with a frozen moss, cast a silver veil over the dead leaves in the hollow, and spread upon the restware. hollow, and spread upon the pathway a great, soft, white carpet that thickened the immeasurable silence amid this ocean of trees.

stood a bare-armed young woman chopping wood with an ax upon a stone. She was tall, thin, and strong—a child of the forest, a daughter and wife of a game-

keper's.

voice called from within the house

Twoice called from within the house:

"Come in, Berthine; we are alone tonight, and it is getting dark. There
may be Prussians or wolves about."

She who was chopping wood replied
by splitting another block: her bosom
rose and fell with the heavy blows each
time she lifted her arm.

"I have finished mother, I'm here,
I'm here. There's nothing to be frightened at; it isn't dark yet."

Then she brought in her fagots and
logs, and piled them up at the chimneyside, went out again to close the shutters
—enormous shutters of solid oak—and
then when she again came in, pushed
the heavy bolts of the door.

Her mother was spinning by the frea wrinkled old woman who had grown
timorous with age.

"I don't live father to be out." said

imorous with age.
"I don't like father to be out," said

"I don't like father to be out," said she. "Two women have no strength."
The younger answered: "Oh, I could very well kill a wolf or a Prussian, I can tell you." And she turned her eyes to a large revolver, hanging over the freplace. Her husband had been put into the army at the beginning of the Prussian invasion, and the two women had remained alone with her father, the old gamekeeper Nicholas Pichou, who obstinately refused to leave his home and go into the towh. go into the town.

The nearest town was Rethel, an old

The nearest town was Rethel, an old fortress perched on a rock. It was a patriotic place, and the townspeople had resolved to resist the invaders, to close their gates, and stand a siege, according to the traditions of the city. Twice before, under Henry, IV, and under Louis XIV, the inhabitants of Rethel had won fame by heroic defences. They would do the same, this time; by heaven, they would, or they would be burned within their walls."

their walls."
So they had brought cannons and rifler and equipped a force, and formed battalions and companies, and they drilled all day long in the Place d'Armes. drilled all day long in the Place d'Armes.
All of them—bakers, grocers, butchers,
notaries, attorneys, carpenters, booksellers, even chemists—went through
their manoeuvres in due rotation at
regular hours, under the orders of M.
Lavigne, who had once been a non-commissioned officer in the dragoons, and
now was a draper, having married the
daughter and inherited the shop of old
M. Rayandan.

command of the place, and all the young men having gone to join the army, he enrolled all others who were eager for men having gone to join the stary, it can offer the streets at the pace of professional pedestrians, in order to bring down their fat and to lengthen their breath; the weak ones carried burdens, in order to strengthen their muscles.

The Prussians were expected. But the Prussians did not appear. Yet they were not far off; for their scouts had already twice pushed across the forest as far as Nicholas Pichou's lodge.

The old keeper, who could run like a fox, had gone to warn the town. The guns had been pointed, and the enemy had not shown.

The keeper's lodge served as a kind of outpost in the forest of Aveline. Twice

outpost in the forest of Aveline. Twice a week the man went for provisions and carried to the citizens news from the outlying country.

He had gone that day to announce that a small detachment of German infantry had stopped at their house the fire. There's plenty of room for six. I'm going up to my room with my mother,"

The two women went to the upper.

They were heard to lock their

southwest; the sun was seen struggling day before about two in the afternoon, through the clouds, the vapor dispersed, and had gone away again almost directly. The subaltern in command spoke

of thing. You'll see, it will turn out badly."
This evening she was more anxious even than usual.
"Do you know what time your father will come back?" said she.
"Oh, not before eleven for certaiu. When he dines with the major he is always late."
She was hanging her saucepan over

She was hanging her saucepan over the fire to make the soup, when she stopped short, listened to a vague sound which had reached her by way of the chimney and murmured:

chimney and murmured:

"There's someone walking in the wood—seven or eight men at least."

Her mother, alarmed. stopped her wheel and muttered: 'Oh, good Lord!

And father not here!"

She had not finished speaking when violent blows shook the door.

The woman made no answer, and a loud, guttural voice called out, 'Open Then, after a pause, the same voice epeated: "Open the door, or I'll

repeated : 'break it in." Then Berthine slipped into her pocket the big revolver from over the mantel-piece, and having put her ear to the crack of the door, asked: "Who are

The voice answered : "I am the de

## Free Sample of Campana's Italian Balm

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The woman asked again : " What de "I have lost my way ever since the morning in the forest, with my detachment. Open the door, or I will break it

in."

The keeper's wife had no choice; she promptly drew the great bolt, and pulling, back the door she beheld six men in the pale snow shadows—six Prussian men, the same who had come the day before. She said in a firm tone. "What do you want here at this time of night?"

The officer answered: I had lost my way, lost it completely; I recognized the house. I have had nothing to eat since the morning, nor my men either."

Berthine replied: 'But I am all alone with mother this evening."

The soldier, who seemed a good sort of fellow, answered: 'That makes no difference. I shall not do any harm; but you must give us something to eat. We are faint and tired to death."

The keeper's wife stepped back.

We are faint and tired to death."
The keeper's wife stepped back.
"Come in," said she.
They came in powered with snow and with a sort of mossy cream on their helmets that made them look like meringues. They seemed tired, worn out.
The young woman pointed to the wooden benches on each side of the big table.
"Sit down." said she, "and I'll make some soup. You do look quite knocked up."

"Sit down," said she, "and I'll make some soup. You do look quite knocked up."

Then she bolted the door again.

She poured some more water into her saucepan, threw in more butter and potatoes; then unhooking a piece of bacon that hung in the chimney, she cut off half, and added that also to the stew. The eyes of the six men followed her every movement with an air of awakened hunger. They had set their guns and helmets in a corner, and sat waiting on their benches, like well-behaved school children. The mother had begun to spin again, but she threw terrified glances at the invading soldiers. There was no sound except the slight purring of the wheel, the crackle of the fire, and the bubbling of the water as it grew hot.

But all at once a strange noise made them all start—something like a hoarse breathing at the door, the breathing of an animal, deep and snoring.

One of the Germans had sprung towards the guns. The woman with a movement and a smile stopped him.

"It is the wolves," she said. "They are like you; they are wandering about hungry."

The man would hardly believe, he wanted to see for himself; and as soon as the door was opened, he perceived two great grey beasts making off at a quick, long trot.

He came back to his seat, murmuring:

two great grey beasts making off at a quick, long trot.

He came back to his seat, murmuring: 'I should have not believed it.''

And he sat waiting for his meal.

They ate voraclously; their mouths opened from ear to ear to take the largest of gulps; their round eyes opened sympathetically with their jaws, and their swallowing was like the gurgle of rain in a water pipe.

and their swallowing was like the gurgle of rain in a water pipe.

The two silent women watched the rapid movements of the grert red beards; the potatoes seemed to melt away into these moving fleeces.

Then, as they were thirsty, the keeper's wife went down into the cellar to draw cider for them. She was a long time gone; it was a little vaulted cellar, said to have served both as a prison and hiding place in the days of the Revolution. The way down was a narrow winding stair, shut in by a trap door at the end of the kitchen.

When Berthine came back, she was laughing, laughing slyly to herself. She gave the Germans her pitcher of drink. Then she too, nad her supper, with her mother, at the other end of the kitchen.

the kitchen.

The soldiers had finished eating, and

The soldiers had finished eating, and were falling asleep, all six, around the table. From time to time, a head would fall heavily on the board, then the man starting awake would sit up. Berthine said to the officer: "You may just as well lie down here before the fire. There's plenty of room for the fire. There's plenty of room for the fire. There's plenty of room for the fire of the fire, the fire of the fire.

floor. They were heard to lock their door and to walk about for a little while, then they made no further

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