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CHAPTER

In Which Old Friends Meet. When Ellery came down to breaktast the rain was over, the wind had gone down, and the morning sunshine was pouring in at the dining-room nation windows. Outside the lilacs were in bud, the bluebirds were singing, and there was a sniff of real spring turn you out of house and home. The in the air. 'The storm was at an end mean, pompous oldand yet the young minister was con-

for him, it was just beginning.

However, he had determined while lressing to make a clean breast of it to his housekeeper-a nominally clean breast, that is. So, as they sat opposite each other at the table, he began his confession. The muffins scorched in the oven and the coffeepot boiled over as to told his story, for Keziah was too much interested to think of trifles. Interested and astounded, for, since Come-Outers had been Come-Outers and the split in the society took place, no Regular minister had crossed the threshold of a seceder's dwelling, much less attended their services and walked home with a member of their \*\*\*\* congregation. She knew what this amazing procedure was likely to mean, if her parson did not.

"Well!" she exclaimed when the recital was finished. "Well!" "I-I'm afraid I was too hasty," observed Mr. Ellery thoughtfully. "Per-

100haps it would have been wiser not to have done it." "Perhaps 'twould. Yes, I wouldn't "Ahoy There, Elkanahl" Hailed Zebe-

wonder a mite." "It will be talked about some, I sup-

"Who? Elkanah?" pose. Don't you think so?" 'At this moment one half of Trumet "Yes: they're in the study"

is talkin' about it and runnin' out to tell the other half. J guess I'd better hurry up with this breakfast. We're goin' to have callers."

Strange to say, however, this prophecy of early morning visitors did not slapped his knee. prove true. Nine o'clock, then ten, and no visitor came to the parsonage. Mrs. Coffin affirmed that she did not Went to the chapel last night, I underunderstand it. Where was Didama? stand, and he and dad had a set-to. Oh, of having gone. It was an honest mis Where Lavinia Pepper? Had the "Tru I heard about it! Wish I might have take on my part and I may mak met Daily Advertiser" suspended pubbeen there." lication? 1+ ?"

At half past ten the gate slammed. Keziah peered from the window.

"Humph!" she ejaculated. "Here comes Elkanah and he's got storm signals set, by the looks. He's comin' after you, Mr. Ellery."

"What does Grace say?" 'Very well," was the calm reply; "let him come."

there."

"All right. Say, Mr. Ellery, it's and its little fenced-in front yard dotnone of my business, but I wouldn't I do, though we both keep quiet. I'll of course, and what you did was done innocent. He! he! he! he! Did you lay A cart, drawn by a plodding horse ted thickly with clumps of silver-leaf self as very glad to see the caller, "Better Get Aboard, Hadn't You?" and with a single individual on its saplings. A sign, nailed crookedly on ushered him into the sitting room and tell you, between ourselves and the say anything about your seein' Grace smell if I met it in Jericho. ship's pump, that I sort of glory in him out, hey?" high seat, was moving out from be- a post, informed those seeking such indisappeared, returning in another mo-Hat home. . That's none of is business there she deepens again. That was the young chap's spunk." "I think you'll find a good many of hind the breakwater. Some fisherman formation that within was to be found ment with her brother, whom she un either, or anybody else's." "Good! So do I. I like him." the society feel as I do, shocked andthe bar and we're over it.' driving out his weir, probably. The "Abishal G. W. Pepper, Tax Collector, blushingly said had been taking a nap. The head of the parish committee minister had been on the bar a con- Assessor, Boots and Shoes Repaired." Abishai did not contradict her; in-"The wind had gone down to a stiff Her friend leaned forward. hum-hal-sorry. I'm surprised they stalked into the study, and the door siderable time before he began to And beneath this was fastened a shimsalin' breeze, and the old Debby S. haven't been here to say so." stead, he merely looked apprehensive-"Keziah," he said earnestly, "there's closed behind him. A rumble of think of returning to the shore. He gle with the chalked notice. "Salt Hay voices in animated conversation suc- death here. I can think of a good deal "I expected them," remarked the slapped along afore it. Sometimes no sense in your slavin' yourself to ly at the minister. there was twelve foot under her keel was hungry, but was enjoying himself for Sale." minister. The call was a short one. Lavinia The boot and shoe pertion of the Enlery the rest. Kyan was silent. too well to mind. The flats were all and sometimes eight or nine. Once did seven-eighths of the talking and "So did I," chimed in Captain Zeb. pleasanter berth than that. Pleasant-Mrs. Coffin went out into the kitchen his that morning. Only the cart and first sign was a relie of other days. 'twas only seven and a half. Zach and er for me, anyhow, and I'd do my best "But I cal'late to know why they ain't and resumed her business of making its driver were in sight, and they were Kyan had been a cobbler once, but it dential disclosure, and, after some Bije both looked at each other, but to make it pleasant for you. You've a dried-apple pie. been. They're all too busy crowin' Nat only smiled. only got to say the word and- No? over the way Nat Hammond fetched is discouraging to wait three or four She was looking down below the weeks while the pair of boots one has might be a sequel, put the whole lusighed, and reluctantly started to walk Well, then all I can do is hope through the packet home last night. You ain't "'Oh, you can laugh!' hollers Zach. speculation as to whether or not there deor, which opened outward and was 'Tain't your vessel you're runnin' intoward the town; he mustn't keep Mrs. left to be resoled are forgotten in a dicrous affair out of his mind. A week another voyage." heard, Keziah, have you? Nor you, swung partly back on its hinges. From to danger. You sin't paid out your Coffin's breakfast waiting too long. "Please don't, Nat. You know." Mr. Ellery? Well ? must ten you. under the door projected a boot, a "No, I don't know." man's boot and one of ample size. good money-' navigate almost any water in this lo-The minister walked up the dusty from the following Sunday he dined in Here's where I gain a lap on Undama "Nat never answered; but he stopped state at the Daniels' table. Captain "Well, perhaps you don't. But I Kesiah's cheeks, already red from cality and in all sorts of weather." lane, lifted the Pepper gate, swang it Rogers. Seems the Deborah S .-- that's smilin' know. I like you, Nat. I count on you the heat of the stove, reddened still The driver turned in surprise. Elkanah was gracious and condescendback on its one hinge, and knocked as the straightest, truest friend I've hauled out of Boston night after last ened. Hammond swung her up into more. Her lips twitched and her eyes "So?" he exclaimed. "You know me, ing. Annabel was more than that. at the front door. No one coming in do you? That's funny. I was tryin sparkled. She was dressed in her newest gown answer to the knock, he tried amin. on the ebb, with a fair wind and sky n you just that way. Mayn't I?" the wind. "Hum!" she said. "They say you to locate you, but I ain't been able Then from somewhere in the rear of and was so very gushing and affable clear as a bell. But they hadn't much "'Now you can anchor,' says he. "Course you can, Keziah. But-" the house came the sound of a human that the minister felt rather embarcan tell the Old Scratch by his footto. You ain't a Trumetite, I'll bet on more'n got outside of Minot's 'fore the "'And 'Bout time, too, I guess,' says "Then don't say another word, rassed. When, after the meal was that." prints, even if you can't smell the voice. fog shut down, thicker'n gruel for a l'late the skipper's right. please." sulphur. Anyhow, you can tell a Hamover, Captain Elkanah excused himself "Yes. I am " "Hi!" it called faintly. "Whoever mond by the size of his boots. Come down you're pretty stubborn; but I've dead calm. 'Bije Perry, the mate, he "Yes, I am." "Tut! tut! you don't tell me. you be, don't bust that door down. and went upstairs for his Sabbath nav. the embarrassment redoubled. Miss This is Horsefoot and we're right beward mornin'; then she flattened to a Say, Shipmate, you hurt my pride. I Come round here." tween the shoals. Yes, sir, and I hear Annabel spoke very confidentially of did think there wa'n't a soul that ever ute. Ain't you ashamed of yourself? breakers. Lively there!' Ellery "came along" as far as the spun the yarn to me, and he said member you said so a few minutes The owner of the boot stepped forth ago. Hi, hum! Well, speakin' of dad her loneliness without "congenial sotrod sand in this village that I couldn't 'twas thick and flat as ever he see "They hove over the mudhook and angle where the ell joined the main from behind the door and seized her reminds me that I'm kind of worried body of the house. So far as he could clety," of how very much she did enname on sight, and give the port they dropped the sails. Nat shook his and kept gettin' no better fast. hailed from and the names of their see every door and window was closed joy Mr. Ellery's intellectual sermons, "They drifted along till noon time head. about him " "Halloo, Kezlah!" he cried foyfully. owners. But you've got me on my and there were no signs of life. How- and especially what a treat It had been "'Breakers or not,' says he, 'I tell and then they was somewheres out in "You are? Why? Isn't he well?" 'My, but it's good to see you." beam ends. And yet you knew me." you I've smelt home for the last half ever, he stepped to the door, a green- to have him as a guest the bay, but that's about all you could "Pretty well, but he ain't strong, and "Halloo, Nat!" said Keziah heartily. "Of course I did. Everybody knows painted affair of boards, and ventured He left the big house as soon as he he gets too excited over things like terin' like a pair of fried eels, and Lahour. Now, by the jumpin' Moses, I "It's kind of good to see you, too." the man that brought the packet another knock. could without giving offense, and can taste it! last night's foolishness. Grace tells The rest of him was in keeping "And inside of a couple of shakes home. "Don't start that poundin' again !" started back toward the parsonage. fayette Gage and Emulous Petersme that the doctor says he must be with his boots. He was big and broadcareful or he'll drop off some of these about sixteen p'ints t'other side of no The cart was afloat. The horse, findcome the rain. It poured for a while protested the voice. "Come round to But the afternoon was so fine and the shouldered and bearded. His face, ing wading more difficult than swimand then the fog cleared. Right across t'other side where I be." early summer air so delightful that above the beard, was tanned to a deep So around went the Reverend John, he changed his mind and, jumping the reddish brown, and the corners of his about him ever since." account-they was the only passen their bows was Trumet, with the town ning, began to swim. ago, a little one, and I've been anxious "Now I'm skipper again, sure smiling broadly. But even on "t'othes lence at the foot of Cannon Hill, set enough," remarked Hammond. "Ain't side" there was no one to be seen. off across the fields toward the blud's gers aboard except Nat Hammond, and clock strikin' ten. Over the flat place eyes were marked with dozens of tiny "You mustn't worry. How did Grace jack in the cabin. The lookout was between the hills they could see the wrinkles. He was dressed in blue look to you?" gettin' seasick, are you?" and the bay shore. light on the ocean side. And they was And no door, for that matter. cloth and wore a wide-brimmed, soft The minister laughed. "Why!' 'exclaimed the voice, "If The sun was low in the west as he for'ard tootin' a tin horn and his bel-"Like the harbor light on a stormy anchored right in the deep hole inside felt hat. He entered the kitchen and "tain't Mr. Ellery! How d'ye do? Glad entered the grove of pines on the blud lerin' was the most excitin' thing goin' the breakwater, as sure as I'm knee "No," he said. night. She's a brick, that girl, and tossed the hat into a corner. "Good! she keeps on a fairly even on. After dinner-corned beef and cabhigh to a marlin spike! to see you, Mr. Ellery. Fine day, ain't The red light between the bought gets prettier every minute. Wonder "Well!" he exclaimed. "Why don't keel, considerin' her build. There she you act surprised to see a feller? Here don't carry her off by main bage in his mouth-after dinner all bage-trust Zach for that, though it's 'Bije just stared at Hammond with it? Here I be at this window." made brilliant carpet patterns on the strikes! That'll do, January; you Sure enough; one of the windows thick pine needles and the smell was his mouth open. Fve been cruisin' from the Horn to strength. She'll make somebody a hands was on deck when Nat says: ne .in't try for a record voyage. Walkon this side of the house was raised balsamy and sweet. Between the tree 'Nat,' says he, 'you're a seaman, if about six inches at the bottom, the trunks he caught glimpses of the in's more in your line than playin' I do say it. I thought I was a pretty as if I'd just dropped in to fetch the shade was up, and peering beneath the flats, now partially covered, and they 'Hush!' he says. 'Don't I hear some-"Um-hm. Have have you ever thin'?" cup of molasses I borrowed yesterday. good bay pilot, but I can't steer a ves steamboat. We're over the worst of sash the minister discerned the ex- reminded him of his narrow escape sel without a compass through a night, it now. Say! you and I didn't head for thought of her that way yourself?" What do you mean by it?" pressive features of Abishal Pepper- and of Nat Hammond, his rescuer. "Keziah, that's enough of that. Are "They listened, and then they all as black as Pharaoh's Egypt, and in a port any too soon, did we?" "Oh, I heard you'd made port." you and dad in partnership to get me thick fog besides, and land her square or as much of those features as the Thinking of the Hammond family heard it-all 'cept Zach, who's deef in "No, I should say not. I ought to size of the opening permitted to be reminded him of another member of "Did, hey? That's Trumet, sure on top of her moorin's. If my hat have known better than to wait out seen. spliced and out of the way? He was his larboard ear. pop. You ain't the only one. 1 at me this mornin' along the same wa'n't sloshin' around thirty mile there so long. I've been warned about "'Stand by!' roars Nat. 'It's it. Not that he needed to be remindsneaked off acrost lots so's to dodge astern, I snum it I wouldn't take it off "Oh!" exclaimed the visitor, "is that ed; he had thought of her often line. Don't say anything like that squall, dead astern and comin' abilin'! the gang of neighbors that I knew this tide. Iyou, Mr. Pepper? Well, I'm glad to enough since she ran away from him again, even in fun. You know why." I'll take her, 'Bije. You look out for to you this minute!"" "S-sh-sh! that's all right. Always would be sailin' into our yard, the "All right, all right. Now tell me The minister shut the door behind see you, at last. You are rather hard in the rain that night. And then he whole fleet loaded to the gunwale with glad to pick up a derelict, may be a them tops'ls.' his departing guests. Then he went out into the kitchen, whither the housekeeper had preceded him. He to see, even now." about yourself. Have you had a good saw her. She was standing just at the "So Nat grabs the wheel and Bije "Wanted to see you first, questions. voyage? How do you like your owntears for'ard and sends the two fo'mast "Er-er-come to call, did you ?" outer edge of the grove, leaning Keziah." ers? How did Zach Foster ever get "Why, yes, that was my intention." against a tree and looking toward the hands aloft on the jump. Zach was Mrs. Coffin pulled forward one of found her standing on the back step. ground." "Hum! Er-er-Laviny, she's gone sunset. She wore a simple white dress the packet in through yesterday's the kitchen chairs. He seated himself fog?" skipper, but all he done was race around and holler and trip over his own feet. It hit 'em 'fore they got even one tops'l clewed down. That "Hum!" mused Ellery thoughtfully, "Hum!" mused Ellery thoughtfully, "that was a good story of Captain Ma-minister prepared to alight." over to Thankful Payne's. She heard and her hat hung upon her shoulders The old horse, breathing heavily that Thankful's cousin up to Middleon it and it groaned under his "Voyage was all right. Some rug from his exertions, trotted over the boro had died-passed away, I mean- the white gown with pink and the weight sed weather on the trip out, but home even one tops'l clewed down. That ward bound we slid alove like a shak one, the foretops'l 'twas, shilt to race. stretch of yet uncovered flats and soon and she thought she'd run over and fringes of her dark hair were crinkly Whew!" he whistled. "Never made mounted the slope of the beach. The find out if Thankful was willed any. lines of fire. Her face was grave, al

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even Bije was mighty shook up and

wa'n't any. Compasses cost money

"'Three and a half, sir,' says the fel-

ler with the lead. That showed they

was edgin' in somewheres. Nat he

sniffed, for all the world like a dog

calm and chipper, 'and I'd know tha.

"Tell you I smell home,' says Nat

catchin' a scent, so 'Bije declares.

bar by this time.'

man?'

worried-he says he was himself. But

stand rough weather, was it : we tre all right. Good people as ever 1 alled for. As for Zach and the pack-went by the board 'Kerrash-o'.' 'Con et- Ho, ho! Somebody's comin'. I'm "You know I'm glad, Nat," she said, "So? I hoped you would be, but I id.want to hear you say it. Now you ome to anchor yourself and let's ave s talk. I've been countin' on it ver since we set tops'ls off Surinam." The housekeeper took the other thair. You know I'm glad, Nat," she said.

"I beg your pardon, Kesiah," he rid of whoever 'tis that's comin'. said. "I'm a dough head, that's a fact. Scoot!" I hadn't forgot about Sol, but I was so Nat "scooted," stoppi g to snatch up ad to be home again and to see dad his hat as he ran. Keziah went into

and Grace and the old town and you the dining room and admitted Captain that everything else flew out of my Zebedee Mayo, who was panting from mind. Poor Sol! I liked him." "He liked you, too. No wonder, con-siderin what you did to--" "Whew!" puffed Captain Zeb, mop-ping his forehead. "How be you, Ke-ziah? What? You ain't all sione! chap! Well, he's rid of his sufferin's Thought you'd have a cabin full of

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V

dee, Cheerfully.

"So he's talkin' to the new parson,

"I ain't so sure. Mr. Ellery's young,

Captain Hammond chuckled and

"How does your father act about

"Bout the way a red-hot stove acts

he thinks of the minister he sizzles.

Ho, ho! I do wish I could have been

hey? Bossin' him, too, I'll bet."

but he's got a mind of his own."

A Inde

at last. Tell me about it, if you can gab machines by this time. Have they without bringin' all the trouble back been and gone?" too plain." "No, they haven't been. I- My So she told him of her brother's land, my pie!

sickness and death, of having to give up the old home, and, finally, of her She rushed into the kitchen and matched the pastry wom the oven. cceptance of the housekeeper's post-Her new caller followcu her. tion. He listened, at first with sym-"So they ain't been, hw?" he said pathy and then with suppressed indig-

"That's queer." "Elkanah's here. He's in there with "By the jumpin' Moses!" he exthe minister now. claimed. "And Elkanah was goin' to

"He is? Givin' the young feller Hail to him. Columby, I callate. Well, now, he shan't. He, he! When they told me He knew who was the real scamaf

"Hush! hush, he's in there with Mr. how the minister passed old hop and the literr." go-fetch-it what was due him at the chapel last night I riz up and hoorayed | chor till I had to. Prob'ly 'twill fair tell my wife shut the windows. She off tomorrow, but if it shouldn't, we said the neighbors all thought I was might have to lay out here all day. loony, anyhow, and I needn't prove it to 'em. He, he! But Elkanah ain't tide.' got any funny bone. He's as solemn as a stuffed owl, and he'll- Well, I'm goin' to put my oar in. I'm parish committee, too, I cal'late, and I've got

somethin' to say, even if I wa'n't christ the course and too far inshore, we tened Daniels. Here goes!" He headed for the study, but before he crossed the threshold of the kitchen Ellery and his visitor came out into the dining room. Cantain Elkanah's face was flushed, and he fidgeted. The not sure, but- What's that, lands minister looked determined but calm. "Aboy there, Elkanah!" hailed Zeho dee cheerfully. "'Mornin', Mr. Ellery Been havin' officers' counsel, have

vou ?" "Good morning, Captain Mayo," said the minister. "'Mornin', Zebedee," grunted Elka-

nah. "I have-hum-ha-been dis cussing the regrettable affair of last night with Mr. Ellery. I have triedhum-ha! to show him that respectable people of our society don't assoclate with Come-Outers, and that for a Regular minister to go to their meetings is something neither the congre gation nor the parish committee ap proves of. No-er-hum-ha! no!" "And I explained to Captain Danlels," observed the minister, "that ] "Ho, ho!" he laughed. "I've been went there for what seemed to me hearin' somethin' about that mind. good reasons, and, as they did seem to me good at the time, I'm not ashamed

> more. "But the society-" began Elkanah. Captain Zeb interrupted him.

when you spill water on it; every time Ellery," he said with emphasis. "Nor about the parish committee, either Great fishhooks! the most of us are tickled to death over what you said to Eben Hammond. We think it's a

"Oh, she doesn't say much, I wouldn't wonder if she felt the way of course, and what you did was done the distance. unlocking the door. She expressed her-

fine chap. I should like to meet mm." Keziah still looked away over the fields. She did not wish her employer The main tops'i was set, and when the went by the board 'Kerrash-o!' 'Course splinters flew like all possessed, and one of 'em, about a foot long, sailed past Nat's head, where he stood heav-in' his whole weight on the wheel, and lit right on the binnacle, smashin' it to matches. Bields. She did not wish her employer to see her face-just then. "I thought you would meet him," she said. "He was here a little while ago and I asked him to wait. I guess Zeb's yarn was too much for him; he doesn't like to be praised."

ide my figurehead." "Well, my name is Ellery," "Hey? What? Oh, ho! ho! ho!" pesn't like to be praised." "So? Was he here? At the Regular "Well, there they was, affoat, but He rocked back and forth on th seat. The minister's feelings were

with their upper riggin' gone and the parsonage? I'm surprised." compass smashed flat. A howlin' no'th-1 "He and I have known e bit hurt, though he tried not to show "He and I have known each other ter blowin' and fog thick as ever. I for a long while." "You mustn't mind my laughin'," er Zach was a whimperin', fidgetin' old | "Well, I'm sorry he's gone. I think I woman, Lafayette and Emulous was should like him." plained Nat, still chuckling, "It ain" at you. It's just because I was wor

prayin' in the scuppers-and that ain't i an exercise they're used to neither Kezlah turned from the door. "I know you would," she said.

CHAPTER VI.

Nat Hammond was as cool and refreshin' as the bottom of my well up in Which Captain Nat Picks Up

"Captain Hammond," he said, "I'm "Then Nat suggests gettin' the spare. It is probable that John Ellery nev-compass and, lo and behold you! there or fully realized the debt of gratitude very glad indeed that I met you. No: one because you helped me out of a he owed to the fog and the squall and and money's made to keep, so Zach to Captain Nat Hammond. Trumet, alhave been and that-" ways hungry for a sensation, would "Shsh, shh! Nothin' at all, Don't

"So there they was. Wind was fair. have thoroughly enjoyed arguing and or ought to be, but 'twas blowin' hard guarreling over the minister's visit to be foolish." and so thick you couldn't hardly see the Come-Outer meeting, and, during heard so many good things about you the fracas, Keziah's parson might have that I was sure you must be worth the jib boom. Zach he wanted to anchor, then he didn't, then he did, an been more or less battered. But Capknowing. I hope you won't believe I tain Nat's brilliant piloting of the old so on. Nobody paid much attention went to your father's meeting with packet was a bit of seamanship which any-" every man and woman on that foam-"'What'll we do, Nat?' says 'Bije. bordered stretch of sand could underdon't find fault with you for that.

tand and appreciate, and the minister's indiscretion was all but forgotten in consequence. The "Daily Advertisunderstand. I guess." "Well, if 'twas me, I wouldn't anin con that I am what I am, I'd like to shake ers" gloated over it, of course, and hands with you." Captain Elkanah brought it up at the meeting of the parish committee, but Anyhow, we'd have to wait for a full there Captain Zeb Mayo championed to shake with a chap as well recom-"'I'm afraid we're off the course,' the young man's course and proclaimed that, fur's he was concerned, says 'Bije, 'else we'd been acrost the he was for Mr. Ellery more'n ever. "A young greenhorn with the spunk to "'Well,' Nat tells him, 'if we are off cruise singlehanded right into the midhim without any more questions." dle of the Come-Outer school and give would have made the bar-the Bayan old bull whale like Eben the gaff port bar-if not the Trumet one. And is the man for my money," declared if we're off the course and too far out. Zebedee. Most of his fellow-commitwe'd ought to have deeper water than tee agreed with him. "Not guilty, but five fathom, hadn't we? 'Course I'm don't do it again," was the general verdict.

Keziah watched anxiously for a hint Soakin' wet again, too!" concerning her parson's walk in the rain with Grace, but she heard noth- ing's adventure. The housekeeper lis ing, so congratulated herself that the tened with growing excitement. secret had been kept. The tide at Trumet, on the bay side, goes out for a ed. "Was the channel you planned 'c long way, leaving uncovered a mile swim the one at the end of the flat by and a half of flats, bare and sandy, or the longest weir leader?" carpeted with sea eed. Between these flats are the channels, varying at low

water from two to four feet in depth, drowned in that very place at half but deepening rapidly as the tide flows. tide. And they were good swimmers. The best time to visit the flats-tide After this I shan't dare let you out of serving, of course-is the early morn- my sight." ing at sunrise. Then there is an inspiration in the wide expanse, a snap and Captain Hammond didn't tell me so. I tang and joy in the air. Ellery had must owe him more even than made up his mind to take a beforebreakfast tramp to the outer bar and

so arose at five, tucked a borrowed pair of fisherman's boots beneath his

arm, and, without saying anything to in Which the Parson and Mr. Papper his housekeeper, walked down the lawn behind the parsonage, climbed the rall fence, and "cut across lots" to over, the Reverend John decided to the pine grove on the bluff. There he make a few duty calls. The first of removed his shoes, put on the boots, these he determined should be on the wallowed through the mealy yellow Peppers.

sand forming the slope of the bluff, The Pepper house was situated just and came out on the white beach and off the main road on the lane leading the inner edge of the flats. Then he over the dunes to the ocean and the splashed on, bound out to where the light. It was a small building, its fish weirs stood, like webby fences, in white paint dingy and storm beaten,

thing. She said she'd be back Dretty

rd;" he said. "y

haven't asked me my name.

"No, I seldom do more'n once. The

cruise without too big letters alon.

derin' what you'd look like if I shou!

meet you and now- Ho! ho! Yo

"No, no! Jumpin' Moses, man!

"Well, if you don't mind the fact

Nat reached down a big brown hand.

"Yes."

thought."

-4.04"

CHAPTER VII.

Declars Their Independence.

"Same here," he said. "Always glad

"Very well. Then, as she won't he gone long, perhaps I'll come in and have been times when I'd just as soci wait."

"You see, Mr. Ellery," stammered Kyan, "I-I'd like to have you come in fust rate, but-er-Laviny she's got the key. She-she- Oh, consarn it all, Mr. Ellery, she's locked me in this room a-purpose, so's I won't get or and go somewheres without her know in' it."

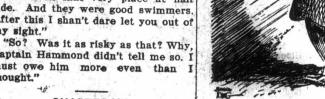
"She done it a-purpose," continued Kyan, in a burst of confidence. "She had me put one of them new-fangled spring locks on the door of this room t'other day, 'cause she said she was see, Mr. Ellery, I've heard of you afraid of tramps and wanted some same as you said you'd heard of me.' The minister, who had jumped to the ground, looked up. place to shut herself up in if one of em come. And-and after dinner to day she sent me in here for somethin and then slammed the door on me Said she cal'lated I'd stay put till she bad scrape; I realize how bad it might got back from Thankful's. She knew mighty well I couldn't get out of the window, 'cause it won't open no further'n 'tis now. I wa'n't never provoked in my life. "Tain't no way treat your own brother, lockin' him un like a young one; now, is it?"

"I don't know. You're of age M Pepper, and you must decide for self. I think I should declare m pendence. Really, I must go. "Stop your foolishness! Oh' ask your pardon, Mr. Ellery. ain't no way to talk to a minister R I'm goin' to go out when I want to if I bust a hole through the clapboards I ain't fascinatin'. You ask any wom an-except her-if I be, and see when hey say. What'll I do?" "Ha, ha! I don't know, I'm sure You

mended as you are. Yes, indeed, 1 might lock her up, I suppose, just for mean it. You see, you've got a friend a change." that's a friend of mine, and when she "Hey!" There was a sound from b-

guarantees a man to be A. B., I'll ship hind the pane as if the imprisoned one

Breakfast had waited nearly an hour when the minister reached home. Keziah, also, was waiting and evidently much relieved at his safe arrival. "Sakes alive!" she exclaimed, as she met him at the back door. "Where in the world have you been, Mr. Ellery? He told briefly the story of his morn-"Heavens to Betsy!" she interrupt-"My soul! there's been two men



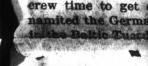
"Here I Be at This Window."

had slapped his knee. "By gum! I never thought of that. Would you That afternoon, when dinner was now, Mr. Ellery? Would you? Sshh! sshh! somebody's comin'. Maybe it's her. Run around to the door, Mr. El-

Jery, quick. And don't tell her I've seen you, for mercy sakes! Don't now, will ye? Please! Run!"

The minister did not run, but he walked briskly around the corner. fice makes the ann Sure enough, Lavinia was there, just farta on Sunday, Tu torpedo boat which Kiretch Tepe where and an enemy crui

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