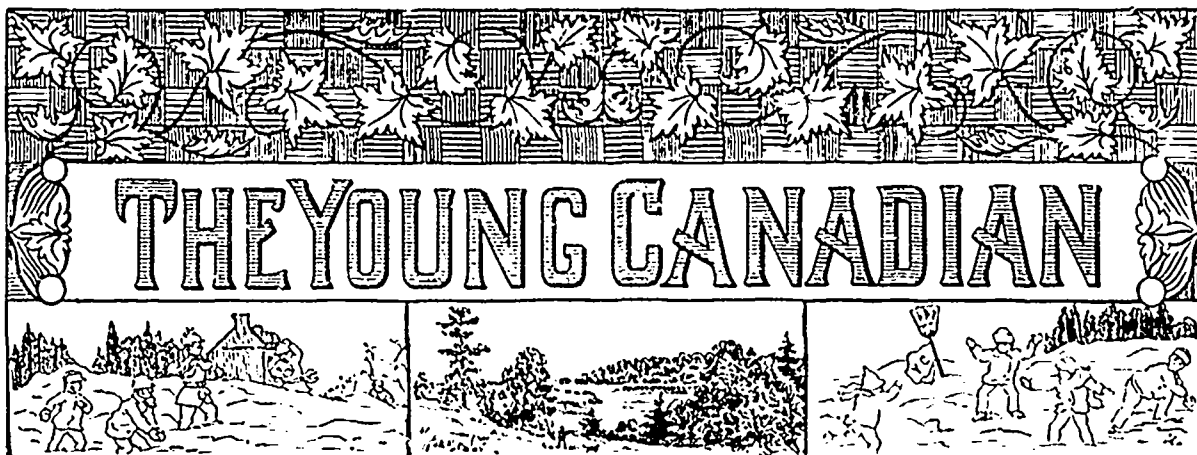




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NED DARROW;
OR,
THE YOUNG CASTAWAYS.

CHAPTER VIII.

IN THE GOLDEN CITY.

THAT night Mr. James and Ned Darrow wandered the streets of San Francisco for many a weary hour. The former had a trifle of the money left he had secured at Ogden, and it proved sufficient to obtain for them a comfortable bed in a lodging-house.

Necessity and hardship had made the timid under-master more self-reliant, and he talked and acted clearly and promptly despite the penniless situation of himself and his young friend.

"Professor Ballentine may be in the city or gone to some place of note in the vicinity," he remarked to Ned. "At any rate, the sea voyage will begin here, and I shall visit the shipping offices and docks to-morrow in quest of him."

It was an interesting tramp for Ned, the next day's search for some trace of the excursion party. Mr. James was several hours along the harbour, and Ned would wait for him while he visited the deck of this and that ship.

Ned saw by a token of excitement as Mr. James came from a square rigged schooner he had visited that he had discovered something of importance.

"Good news, Ned!" he cried, as he reached the dock. "I have located my brother and the boys."

"Oh, Mr. James! that is indeed good news. They are on the ship yonder?"

"No; but Professor Ballentine has engaged passage down the coast. It seems that the steamers did not admit of time in their voyages to visit this and that place of

interest, and the captain told me he had chartered yonder schooner."

"The Neptune," murmured Ned, reading the name on the bows.

"Yes. He says my brother may return to-night or



THE LIGHTHOUSE KELPER PULLED AT THE ROPE.