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FOUL WEATHER, AND FAIR; OR, A MASON'S TRIAL.

BY C. P. NASH.

(From the *Mystic Star*.)

In sailing up the Hudson, from New York City, about thirty miles brings the traveler to the entrance into Haverstraw Bay; the largest and wildest bay on that picturesque river. The bay is entered just above Nyack, on the west side, and Tappan on the east, and extends to Stony Point of Revolutionary notoriety, a distance of about twenty miles; and at the widest point it is about five miles wide. About the centre of this bay, north and south, and on its west side, is the city of Haverstraw; numbering now some ten thousand inhabitants; but which was, at the time the incidents occurred of which I am about to write, only a village of a few hundreds.

Haverstraw stands on a table-land, underneath which is one of the most extensive beds of fine, blue, brick-making clay, in the United States; and as a consequence, the bay shore is lined for miles with brick-yards, standing in close proximity. Here, probably, half the bricks are manufactured which supply the New York market. Running back of this table-land, is a combination of that chain of mountains, which form the celebrated Palisades, on the west side of the river above, and which forms a half circle around the city on the west, touching the river at Stony Point on the north, and near Nyack on the south. Directly in the rear of Haverstraw, a peak of this mountain tosses its head toward the clouds, and emerges from the soil in the form of a solid, almost flat-surfaced rock. This peak is known in all the region around about as the "Torn Rock;" or, as some style it, "The High Torn." The Torn Rock is visited by many travelers, as from its summit a view is obtained of the entire surrounding country for thirty miles in every direction; and but for one other intervening peak, the city of New York itself would be in full view. But the path up the sides of the mountain, leading to it, is a winding one, difficult of ascent, and up which every traveler is obliged to clamber a part of the way, the last part on foot. There are also a number of wood-roads leading off from the main path, for steep as are the sides of the mountain, it is covered with a luxuriant growth of timber, of which the inhabitants on the west side, have found a way to avail themselves, for fuel, which fact renders it necessary that