

The quartermaster advanced to seize the prisoner; but before he reached him he involuntarily stopped short. A roar of laughter sounded in his ears. The American mate and his companions were shrieking and staggering about the decks, even the crew of the slaver were, every man Jack of them grinning from ear to ear. The lieutenant was dumb-founded.

"Excuse me, sir; but the joke was too good," said the Yankee, coming forward and holding out his hand. "I am the first lieutenant of the United States warship 'Georgia,' and in command of a prize crew on board this vessel, taking her to have her condemned. We seized her yesterday. Hearing that you had been on a visit to

her the day before, and had gone away without doing anything, I couldn't resist the temptation to take you in. Hope you don't bear malice? Let's finish that magnum of champagne."

It was evidently the best thing to be done; but the lieutenant was not a first-rate companion on that occasion.

"Give my respects to your commander," called out the United States officer, as his guest went down into his boat, "and advise him for me not to be so jolly particular another time. And I'll try to take your kind advice and sail a straight course in future!" he cried, as Her Majesty's boat shot away for the last time from the side of "The Black Swan."

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