

AMERICAN HUMOUR

hundred and something, was known in our annals as 'the Admiral,' though in history he had other titles. He was long in command of fleet vessels, well armed and manned, and did great service in hurrying up merchantmen. Vessels which he followed and kept his eagle eye on always made good fast time across the ocean. But if a ship still loitered in spite of all he could do, his indignation would grow till he could contain himself no longer, and then he would take that ship home where he lived, and keep it there carefully, expecting the owners to come for it, but they never did. And he would try to get the idleness and sloth out of the sailors of that ship by compelling them to take invigorating exercise and a bath. He called it 'walking the plank.' All his pupils liked it. At any rate, they never found any fault with it after once trying it. When the owners were late coming for their ships, the 'Admiral' always burned them, so that the insurance money should not be lost. At last this fine old tar was cut down in the fulness of his years and honours. And to her dying day, his poor broken-hearted widow believed that if he had been cut down fifteen minutes sooner he might have been resuscitated."

"Charles Henry Twain lived during the latter part of the seventeenth century, and was a zealous and distinguished missionary. He converted sixteen thousand South Sea islanders, and taught them that a dog-tooth necklace and a pair of spectacles was not enough clothing to come to Divine service in.