

with him; he at the helm, they surrounded with the usual deck load of "fur." The Captain was good company. He was in the habit of procuring and reading the usual popular literature of his times. Cooper's novels he was familiar with, and on this trip would relate some of the exploits of Leatherstocking with his rifle, and many other incidents concerning the characters so well portrayed by the novelist. Such a commander as this made the trip upon his vessel a pleasant instead of a tedious journey.

Captain Wilkeson's vessel crews consisted usually of men residing at Perrysburg or vicinity, or of those he was acquainted with in other places; but sometimes he was obliged to fill the number required by engaging strangers who made application to him. On one of his trips with the *Eagle* he had with him a man of this latter class. Soon after his arrival in Buffalo he missed from a canvas bag which contained some sixty or eighty dollars in silver, twenty-five or thirty dollars. Suspicion pointed at once to this new hand, as he had the fullest confidence in the honesty of all the rest of the crew. The Captain took him aside and told him that there was some money missing from his bag of silver, and charged him with having taken it. He told him that there was no use of his denying the charge, and that he had better "own up" at once, for he knew there was no one of the rest of the crew that would do such a thing. The fellow being confronted so frankly and squarely, owned that he had taken the money. The Captain then asked what he had done with it. He said that he had hidden it under the dock. The Captain told him to go and get it, which he did at once, and passed it over to the owner. The Captain then said, "I now give you your choice, to be handed over to the authorities here, or take from me a flogging with a 'rope's end.'" He chose the latter. He was accordingly kept in duration till evening, and when all was quiet around the dock, the Captain took him in hand, gave him a powerful flogging, paid him his wages and told him to go and be an honest man in future.