

The Chronicle.

Published every Friday afternoon, by Lewis W. Duxbury & Co. at their Office in Mr. D. M. Milnes's building, Prince William Street.

Terms—13s. per annum, or 12s. 6d. if paid in advance. When sent by mail, 2s. 6d. extra.

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"Ay, ay, I see. It's clear you've not sailed long with Henry Livingstone, or you'd know that with some men the letter of the law is worth as much as the spirit."

"Very possibly more; but, however, I'll go at once."

"Certainly does strike me, my fine fellow," added the first lieutenant, as he watched his junior down the ladderway.

"Heaven above knows, sir. The captain is not in his coat," replied Gregson, whose hurried and startle reappearances had drawn forth this remark.

"I wish, sir," said he, addressing the first lieutenant, "that you would come down with me to search the cabin; for that captain has not returned to his post, nor does he make any reply to my calls for him."

"Sir," replied Gregson, "I'll lead the way; and down the ladders went together."

"As yet, not one word had been said to the sentry as to whether Captain Livingstone was within or not. These two walked on in a dreamy way, and in a few minutes they were standing on the deck of the ship."

"The captain's quarters," called the senior officer, "are in the cabin."

"Well, gentlemen," said the superior, breaking the silence, and raising his hand to the captain's cabin, "the captain is not in his cabin."

"Very strange," exclaimed the first lieutenant, "that the captain should be absent from his cabin."

"Very," replied the junior, who took a hasty advantage of daylight and a looky-glass to ask himself how he did after a fortnight's unaltered separation.

"No, Gregson, I begin to think that the captain is not in his cabin."

"Did you ring, gentlemen?" inquired the sentry, entering, seeming much astonished.

"Yes, sentry; at what hour did Captain Livingstone leave his cabin?"

"Leave his cabin, your honour?"

"Yes, sir—leave his cabin. Didn't you hear the question, that you repeat?"

"I have not, your honour. I fear I must leave that task to you."

"Oh, you are too kind," said Gregson; "mine is not a prying disposition—I have nothing to do with your honour's business."

"Quite, sir."

"The present sentry to be depended on for telling the truth?"

"To a Mariner, your honour—never knew him tell a lie in his life; and as for a soldier, there's not a better in the ship, barring the sergeant, who's a sober fellow."

"Hegone!" the corporal waved the most correct halberd with his hand, stretched his thumb out with the due regular precision, touched his bald head, and the dexter hand beckoned, whistled to the right, half-price quick march—out went Corporal Leg, the firm.

"No sooner had the cabin-door closed upon the two lieutenants than the senior took a step across the deck, and the junior took a step across the deck."

"Well, well, so it seemed; but I confess I was in a hurry, sir, and I'm not sure that I'm not in a hurry."

"No, sir, I mean to indulge in such ridiculous conjectures, when perhaps—" He paused.

"Well, I thought—" Captain Livingstone?"

"Nothing like a voice gave answer to the name."

"Go, sir, said the junior, with some perturbation of manner, and summer here all the officers of the first and middle watches."

"In a quarter of an hour all had assembled, wondering what could be the disagreeable cause of their disturbance."

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IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS, MARCH 9.

The Watermen's act amendment bill was reported upon by the lords.

Lord BROUGHAM presented a petition from the Watermen of London.

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