DORCHESTER AURORA.

"PRINCIPLES AND MEASURES, AND MEN BY THEIR PRINCIPLES."

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TERMS.

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POETRY.

From Alexander's Messenger.

OLD HAUNTS.

BY MISS C. H. WATERMAN.

I tread the old pathways
I trod when a child,
But the spirit is tranquil,
Once gushing and wild.

And I stand by the fountain,
Still sparkling and free:
In my childhood I fancied
It imaged the sea.

Its ripples were billows,
That broke on the sand—
And its opposite margin
A far foreign land.

The flowers grow round it
I cherish'd of yore—
And I heedlessly gather
Their beauties once more.

And I scatter them freely
On every breeze,
To seek for new blossoms,
And fresh bursting trees.

How lightly I traverse
Those places again,
Whose day-joys were followed
By ages of pain.

I have been with the worldly,
And sadly forgot
The wild wood, the fountain,
The birds, and the grot.

I have made me a home
In the heart of the crowd,
Where early loved feelings
Are wrapt in a shroud.

And I carelessly wander
Along the bright ways
That was once my heart's kingdom
In happier days.

Those old haunts reproach me,
For oh! how estranged
Is my heart from their beauties,
Forgetful, and changed.

SUMMER TIME.

BY MISS C. H. WATERMAN.

The summer time is beautiful,
The pleasant buds and flowers;
The waters of the silver lake,
So beautiful, are ours.

The trees we love to wander to,
And slumber in the shade;
The birds that sing us lullabies,
While warbling thro' the glade.

The breeze that comes so playfully
To whisper thro' the leaves,
And then, along the quiet earth,
A gentle cadence weaves.

Oh! all is very beautiful,
So freely to us given;
It seems as tho' to deck the earth,
Some bloom were lost to heaven.

The summer time may fade away,
The waters cease to flow;
And all the early buds and flowers
May wither where they grow.

And little birds may cease to sing,
And trees to offer shade;
And we may seek in vain to find
The bright and blooming glade.

And winter, with a snowy robe,
May cover all around;
And not a single bud be left
To mark the blushing ground.

Yet, even this is beautiful,
We see the self-same power,
That hurls the knotted oak to death,
Raise up the fragile flower.

The daughter of Themistocles had two lovers: the one a coxcomb, the other an honest man. The first was rich, the second poor. He took the honest man for his son-in-law; for "I had rather," said he, "have a man that wants wealth, than wealth that wants a man."

A STRANGE COMBAT.

It was during the last war of this country with Great Britain, that circumstances led me to be a passenger on board of one of our merchantmen, in which I had embarked what little property I possessed. Our seas were at time covered with small privateers belonging to both belligerents, who did more mischief to the commerce of both nations than the several public armed vessels of either.

We had been sailing for two days with a good breeze, though now and then it would lull, & then we sagged heavily along through a fog, almost as dense as the waters that bore us. We were not far from our port, and our captain was willing to crowd sail night and day, as the risk of capture was superior to that of shipwreck, and disaster from a crippling of our spars. Our ship was about four hundred tons, heavily laden, and not a swift sailor Her captain was a man of shrewd judgment and inflexibility of purpose, and rather given to taciturnity. He was of a slight figure, gentlemanly to equals, decided and prompt to those under him in his orders; and in exaction of their fulfilment. His keen dark eye and naval officer gate showed a kind of courage which one would call daring, if they had watched his countenance on particular occasions. Yet at other times he seemed to be rather a careful mariner who would reef for safety, when safety apparently did not require it. He was one of those kind of men who seemed inclined to bend the purposes of others to his own, while they were kept in ignorance of his views. I have seen him fix his eagle eye upon a sailor, and require him to look him steadily in the face for five minutes, and then dismiss him without comment or reason for so doing, but I would bet my life almost that he had a good one.

After skimming through the mist, which I have spoken of, for two or three days, I happened to be on deck with Captain ——. I was in conversation with him as to the probability of reaching port free from the enemy's cruisers. He replied with his usual brevity, "the fog and carrying sail alone can save us —I am a made man if we escape—if not, I am ruined." He said this in the same tone of voice that he would have given a common order: he looked up and said sternly, there is a fog eater! At this moment the sun seemed to flash upon our deck, and the fog rose from the sea like the hoisting of the curtain at the theatre—a small breeze took us aback, and before an order was given, we saw directly under our lee, a little black looking, sharp built, tall rigged, port bearing schooner, whose decks were crowded with men,—"I know her," ejaculated our Captain, and the next moment there came a ball dancing across our bows, in imitation of a distracted porpoise; our captain took the helm from a sailor, and gave orders to lay to. Another came within a few feet of the Captain, and passed through the main sail, which he seemed to regard as little as he would the flapping of a sea gull. But his countenance grew dark and terrific—he had not a gun on board.

The privateer braced sharp on the wind, and at the same time came within musket shot: a boat came on board, and ordered us under the pigmy's lee in style of an Admiral in the British navy. In the mean time the wind had freshened, and the Captain had privately given orders to have every sail in readiness for instant setting. The boat left us, and we bore down, apparently for the purpose of fulfilling the command which had been given us. To secure and pack my papers was the work of a moment for the anticipation of the event of capture had placed me on my guard in this particular. When I returned on deck, we were almost within hail of the stranger under a flowing sail, which in order to bring to a proper luff under the lee of the privateer, would require to be immediately taken in. The captain was still at the helm, and was intent, apparently, upon coming as near to the stern of the opposite vessel as possible, tho' at the same time he seemed to grasp the whole of the little privateer at one glance; his brow was knit, and the veins of his forehead seemed to be swollen; he heeded nothing around him. At this moment he gave the words "square away," which brought our bows on the centre of the enemy's vessel. "Luff;" said the Captain; at the same moment the flash of a gun and its ball were both seen and heard from the port hole of our antagonist—it raked us fore and aft, cutting every thing before it, in another moment the bow of our heavy vessel struck the quarter of the privateer with a tremendous crash—another moment she passed over her, and nothing was to be seen of our capturer but a few floating barrels and some spars, and human beings who had escaped for a few moments the yawning deep. Never shall I forget the cry that came from that vessel as our own was passing over her, it was allied to nothing human, it was of such shrill distress that a mariner's mind alone could grasp its dreadfulness. Our vessel was immediately laid to, and a boat sent to pick up such as survived. Our Captain gave the helm to the mate and went to the bows to ascertain our own damage, which was not excessively severe —Though our bowsprit, figure-head and cut water were carried away and a leak was sprung, but yet not such an one as would be a serious inconvenience. Among those who were so strangely precipitated into the caverns of the sea, one was found alive who had risen to its surface. It was the commander of the privateer, of six guns and fifty men, in British employ. When taken up he was insensible, and remained so for a long period; after awhile when he found himself in a strange vessel, all seemed to be a dream with him.

On a recovery from his trance, and when the facts flowed upon his memory, he seemed to recollect the consequence of his adventures with our clumsy merchantmen. He stated that he was leaning upon the taffrail, when he ordered the gun to be fired as we came suspiciously near: it was his first intimation of the intention of our commander. Still he declared it to have been a dastardly act, that previous to our understanding whether he was a friend or foe, and when from the act of our pretending to obey his order, he might have presumed there was no treachery intended him—for us without moving, without even a hint of resistance to bear directly upon his smaller craft, and by the weight of our ship, and not by the bravery of our sailors, to sink as fine a crew as ever manned a privareer's deck, to send, not in open contest, but by assassin and viper like guile, to the mercy of the deep, and of God, so many unprepared souls, was an act unworthy of a mortal. He even regreted that he was left alone to mourn over them. He insisted that their ghosts would haunt them in their sleep—and he prayed that the thunders of eternal vengeance might visit the head of its infamous projector. He desctibed the terrific shrieks of those who went down with him, the rattle in the throats of the drowning—the crush which laid open his favorite vessel's side, even below her water mark; and yelled out anathemas upon its heartless author.

Our captain had been standing a little distance from the berth of his foe, but now walk-up and placed his keen epes upon him and asked, "Do you not know me!" He replied; "I must have seen you before. I know not where.,,' There was one of thoss pauses like lulls in a gale at sea.—"Your privateer was stationed at Gibralter, by the name of——, in February, in 1812, was it not?" A groan succeeded from the shaking auditor. "I knew you and your vessel then—you spoke wrongfully of my sister: Henry struck you, and you stabbed him with your dirk; he recovered, and he challenged you—you fought and killed him; I was on the battle ground; you afterwards and there repeated, exultingly, your charge, when he was a corpse; I then challenged you, and you sneaked off to your ship, and met me not; I knew your vessel, for its form was graven on my brain—I have rewarded your treachery, and when we reach our port and you cease to be my guest I will give you an opportunity of righting yourself from the charge, viz—You were an American, fostered by our family, have turned traitor to your country, aspersed a female who rejected your suite, are a murderer of her brother, a villian whose only absence from meanness is a passing show of courage. The first thing you have to do sir, when you land, is to meet me in what is termed an honorable way; and that too sir, before our sails are taken from the yards—This cabin is yours, and the stewart will do your biddings until then."

We sailed on heavily without falling in with another vessel for some days. The moon came up one night in remarkable splendour and as I was leaning over the bulwarks, I saw the captain of the privateer come from the gangway, and as the moonbeam fell on his countenance, I observed it was peculiarly wild and sad. I endeavored to engage him in conversation—in reply to some questions he observed, "I have been a black hearted villian."—Sharks were playing around us as if revelling in the flood of the lunar ray. I passed from him to our captain who seemed lost in deep and bitter contemplation; the very sound of my voice seemed to startle him —before I had uttered a sentence, we heard a splash in the water, and saw distinctly our former foe on the sea; he raised his hands as if bidding us farewell, when a shark of uncommon size, turned on his back and with one snap of his enormous jaws divided in two distinct parts the unhappy sufferer. A tinge of red on the waters, as our ship glided past, was all that was seen of the lost commander, and thus perished the sole survivor of one of these pests of the ocean called privateers. In a few days we reached our port, but since our arrival, and even to the present hour, I cannot forget the going down of the privateer, over which our vessel boomed as if but a floating stick of timber was in its path. That death shriek will visit me in my dreams and scare sleep from the still "watches of the night."

MASSACRE OF THE CREW OF THE SHIP TONQUIN.

From Fanning's Voyages to the South Seas.

Other versions of the very lamentable death of the gallant and brave Thorn, having appeared, the author of these voyages deems it but justice due to the honor and credit of the gallant officers of our navy, that they as well as the relatives and friends of the brave Thorn, should have every report how, and in what manner, this determined and noble spirited officer of the United States Navy perished, with the mysterious destruction of his ship. As an introduction the author would, with all respect, remark, that after the return of the Tonquin from her late voyage to the Fejees, and Canton, she was sold to John Jacob Astor, Esq., a highly respected and wealthy merchant of the city of New York, for an enterprising voyage to the north west coast of America. The following narrative will show the fatal end of this beautiful and very valuable ship.

Captain James P. Sheffield, in the brig Hersilia, of Stonington, being on a trading voyage and cruise in 1823 and 24, on the coast of California, informed the author, that he employed on board of his vessel an Indian fellow by the name of Lamayzie who told Captain Sheffield, that he was interpreter and pilot of the ship Tonquin, Capt. J. Thorn when the horrid massacre of her crew took place, and the ship was blown up.

He then gave to Captain Sheffield the following narrative of this melancholy and bloody occurrence. The following are the particulars as received by the author from Capt. Sheffield.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE.

The Tonquin, on her trading voyage along the north west coast, had anchored in Newcatee harbor, at English, or Vanvouver Island. Soon after anchoring the ship, Mr. Mackay, the supercargo, went on shore, to the principal chief's village, to pay a visit to the head chief Wycananish, a half dozen petty chiefs remaining on board of the Tonquin as hostages for his safe return. The supercargo was very kindly received by this chief and the natives, well treated, and remained at the village all night, not returning on board until the early part of the next day.

In the meantime, and very early in the morning, the natives came off to the ship in numbers in their canoes, headed by two sons of the principal chief, with an aged chief in company, bringing a large quantity of sea otter skins and other furs, affording the prospect of a good and profitable trade, and seemingly with every friendly disposition. Capt. Thorn permitted them to come freely on deck in any numbers, and spread his articles of trade profusely out before them. Captain Thorn thinking, by the abundance of rich furs now brovght so promply off by the natives, to buy cheap, with this view set off a smaller proportion of articles to each otter skin, &c., than was usually given by the American traders in this barter; which being observed by the old chief, who had some experience in this barter trade, with the previous American vessels, he in a rapid vocabulary of words, interfered and stopped the natives from trading. This much exasperated the captain, and induced him to treat the old chief very roughly, forcing him out of the ship down the gangway into his canoe. The old savage was rendered by this act wildly mad, and left the ship with terrible threats; the two young chiefs also, and all the natives (except the hostages) promptly quitted the ship, with their furs for the shore. Thereupon the interpreter took the liberty to observe to the captain, that he would advise him to endeavor to pacify the old chief, and to take some measure to bring him on friendly terms again, as it was a pitty to lose the prospect of such a good trade; but the captain treated the suggestion with contempt, as he briskly walked the deck, appearing to be in rather a violent passion. When Mr. Mackay, the supercargo, returned on board, the pilot related to him what had occurred, and in what fury the old chief had left the ship, desiring him to use his endeavor to persuade the captain to get the ship immediately under way and leave the harbor, as he was sure, knowing the Indian disposition and feelings, that this aged chief would not peaceably put up with such an affront.

The supercargo on learning this, went immediately to the captain, who was yet quickly pacing the deck back and forth, and used his best endeavors, by earnest entreaty and advice, to persuade him to leave this anchorage, but all in vain, the captain ridiculed his advice, and said, he would pacify the savage and his tribe with the battery of his deck.—The remainder of the day passed away without any movement on the part of the natives, and at the usual hour in the evening, the captain and supercargo retired to their berths, leaving the mates to attend to and regulate the watch for the night, as had been previously and usually arranged.

At the dawn of day, next morning, a small canoe, with two natives and a squaw, came cautiously alongside the ship. Being friendly received by the officer of the deck watch, in the command of the deck, they again soon returned to the shore, when a large canoe, with a young chief, a son of their head chief, with about twenty natives, bringing with them a good lot of sea otter skins, came along side to trade, all, to outward appearance, unarmed, and with many friendly signs, indicative of a desire for a brisk trade. Other canoes soon followed off to the ship, and as no orders to the contiary had been before given out, the officer in command of the deck permitted the savages to come freely on board, until such an increased number had got on the decks and around the ship, that he became alarmed, and directed the captain and supercargo to be called up. When they came on deck, the captain declined to order the ship's decks to be cleared of the natives, but directed the brisk, and as he no doubt thought innocent and advantageous trade to be continued, when, in a short time, he himself became uneasy by the numerous additional canoes and natives continually coming off from the shore to the ship. At this time, the interpreter, having discovered that the savages came on board armed, with their short war clubs, and Indian daggers, secreted under their mantles, or short skin cloaks, he immediately but cautiously informed the captain of it; who, without first clearing the ship's decks of the natives, gave orders to get the ship under way, sending some seamen to the windlass to heave up the anchor, and some aloft to loose the sails. The seamen had but just got at work at their stations (the tribe at the same time going on in hurry and bustle,) when the savages gave the war-whoop, flourished their war clubs and daggers, and the murderous attack then commenced. The first victim, the Indian said he saw struck, was the clerk, a young man, by name Lewis, with a stroke by a dagger, in the back part of the neck, when he fell against the side of the companion-way, down on the gangway steps. On soon coming to himself, he closed and bolted the companion way doors, and retreated to the cabin. The skylight of the quarter deck had been previously taken off and removed to pass up goods and articles for trade. At this moment, the captain, badly daggered and mortally wounded, fell down through it into the cabin. The captain, who was a brave & determined man, of superior strength, at the time of the first war-whoop, was standing on the quarter-deck, just forward of the mizen mast. Observing a powerful chief coming upon him, with drawn dagger, he drew his large dirk that he had of late kept constantly at his waist, and with one plunge thrust it into the breast of the savage, and laid him dead at his feet; but being now set upon by numbers, he received several wounds from their daggers, and was forced back against the steering wheel frame, when a savage behind him gave him a blow on the back of the head and neck, with a war club, which knocked him over, and, as before mentioned, down through the sky light opening into the cabin for dead, as then supposed, aside of Mr. Lewis.

At the time of the first savage yell, Mr. Mackay, the supercargo, was on the ship's taffrel, and immediately sprung forward to assist the captain, when he was knocked down by the blow of a war club, given by an herculean savage, and immediately pierced with many daggers, and thrown overboard, where the remnant of his life was soon destroyed by the squaws in their canoes. The pilot, at this time, moved himself out over the taffrel on one of the boat's stern davids, where he remained until he saw, as he then thought all the officers, and men massacred, except those aloft, and the savages in complete possession of the decks, when he lowered himself down by the boat's tackle into a canoe, where he soon heard the report of pistols, which, he subsequently learned, were fired by the clerk from out of the cabin skylight, under the council of the captain, at those savages on the quarter deck. This soon cleared this deck of them, when the clerk called to the seamen aloft; (the main hatches as well as cover to the sky light, having been previously taken off, to pass up goods for trade,) to lower themselves down by a rope, from the main stay into the hatchway, and then come aft to the cabin, on which they took the studding sail halyards from the maintop, and making the bight fast to the main stay, dropped the two ends into the main hatchway, and between decks, and aft into the cabin. The first three, to the surprise of the natives on the main deck, got safely down and into the cabin; but the savages having now awaked from their amazement, attacked and massacred the last three, when they descended. The one in the mizen top having made fast a line to the gaft over the skylight, and the savages having being already driven from the quarter-deck by the fire of Mr. Lewis the clerk, under direction of the captain, who was yet unable to stand on his feet, the seamen then slid down by his line into the cabin, without danger or hurt; and he, being the first one aloft which thus acted, gave encouragement to his ship mates in the main and foretops, to promptly follow his example, and proceed as related.

There being now four seamen unhurt in the cabin, with the mortally wounded captain and clerk to direct and assist them, and plenty of loaded muskets and pistols at hand, they mounted on the table under the sky light, which brought their heads and shoulders just above the deck, and commenced a brisk fire of musketry at the savages on the main deck. This soon cleared it of those bloody murderers, when Mr. Lewis and the four seamen repaired to their battery, and let off the loaded cannon upon them and their canoes, which caused terrible slaughter, destroying many of their canoes, and thus affording to those remaining alive on board, peaceable possession of their ship again. In the general battle, the officers and men had fought with a determined courage, but were overpowered by crowded numbers. Lamayzie, the pilot, on withdrawing by sliding down the tackle in his retreat into their canoe, and having given no assistance in the fight, was considered by the natives as a neutral, and by them treated as such. After all that remained alive of these wild murderers had got again on shore, out of reach and fear of the deck guns, not an individual of them left it again during the remainder of the day, and the night passed in peace. When morning came, the ship was seen still at anchor with her sails loose, when the interpeter was desired to go off to her with some natives in a large canoe, to which, suiting his mind, he readily consented. They paddled off cautiously around the ship, when Mr. Lewis appearing on deck, called to them to come on board, making at the same time friendly signs, that they had nothing to fear, and on proceeding alongside, and meeting with no opposition they very readily sprang on deck, which was yet covered with heaps of goods, articles of trade exposed the previous day. Mr. Lewis directed the interpreter to say to the natives, that they might take and divide all the goods on deck among themselves, only now be at peace and friendly. This being made known, numbers of canoes came off, bringing the natives and squaws, in unusual numbers, and thus crowding the ship's decks, and also hanging on her sides around her. The clerk now invited the interpreter into the cabin, where he saw Captain Thorn sitting on the after locker, with a lighted match in his hand. He looked very pale, & was near the magazine scuttle, by which, on the cabin deck, was a large heap of gun powder, and two oakum ropes covered with the same, leading from the heap into the magazine. Mr. Lewis gave an explanation relative to what had passed on the day before and during the night, and then said to him, "You see the captain can't live long, and is going to blow up the ship with all these barbarian murderers about her, and as I myself cannot long survive, I am going with him." He then told him if he wished to live, not to speak a single word, but to take a roll of cloth, and bunch of beads, and immediately to lower himself out at the cabin window, and repair to some canoe, and promptly move off, and not to speak until he was in it, for if he did, that instant he spoke, the ship should be blown up. He acted accordingly, and swam to a canoe having in it two squaws Showing them the beads, they very readily received him into their canoe, quickly paddling her safe out from among the fleet, to keep the prize, which he had brought. On looking back to the ship, he saw Mr. Lewis looking out of the cabin window after him; and, on his drawing himself in and disappearing, immediately the ship blew up with a terrible explosion, destroying a great number of savagess, and herself disappearing. He saw nothing more after this of Captain Thorn, nor Mr. Lewis, but thought it best and most judicious to keep to himself the secret given to him while in the cabin. The squaws in the canoe which had received him, proved to be the wives of a chief of some influence, who had had the good fortune to have come out of his bloody slaughtering affair unscathed, and with whom the beads and roll of blue cloth paved the way, and obtained a peaceable home for him at their residence in the village. The bay now showed on its surface a horrid sight, strewed over with yelling, wounded savages, floating parts of the blown up ship, with shattered portions of wrecked canoes. To these were added the mourning, savage, wailing howls of the escaped natives and women of the village.

The four unhurt seamen had embarked in the ship's small boat, in the night, with the hope of getting back in her to the settlement the ship had previously made at the mouth of Columbia River, but were forced on shore by the strong wind and current, and the next day were discovered and taken prisoners by the natives, and immediately brought to the village, where the interpreter spoke with them, and learned their views and intentions, on quitting the ship. To this step, they said, they were mainly induced by the fear and expectation, that they in the ship would be attacked during the night, and overpowered by hosts of the savages, and also massacreed; but, alas! poor fellows, they were now in a much worse and more dreadful situation. They were all put to death by cruel, lingering torture, in the usual horrid manner of savages.