

## IDENTIFIED IN TIME.

After a brief summing up from the judge, the jury found a verdict of guilty without leaving the box. Then the court gave the formal sentence.

"Persons, you have been bound in custody in jail. Here you have nothing to say but you have been bound."

"Well, I suppose it's hard to be found for trial, but I can't say I'm not a good man. I know no more of this case than you do, but there were some things in it which I told no one. I guess, and what can I say again? I'm not the only one who has been bound."

"Well, you're in jail now, and that's that; that's all you've got to say."

"There was something blurt and manifest about the prisoner's manner which impressed me," said the reporter.

"He didn't seem to know, if you'll excuse me, you might have friends and relatives with whom you would have communicated. If you had thought they could do you good, you would have done this. It is true, however."

"You're right, except it is too late. But it's all very well to say 'Let me go,' when a man is locked in jail and can't get out, but it's another thing to say 'I'm innocent.' They say in America, and they say so at the Cape, and how could I let em know? Leastways, not in time. No, it's no use, cap'n, and you'd better order me to run away or the judgment of death."

Every one in court started to murmur at the man who thus coolly urged the judge to hasten his execution while at the same time protesting his innocence.

"But, however, the court has no wish to hang a man who may be innocent. Is there no one who could speak for you?"

"Not likely," he began. Daudtenuously he continued, "I am a poor man, and I have come over here to be buried upright from the stocks. Shady Thomas Wilson raised his arms and, pointing solemnly to the bench, said from the little hotel, who sat on the bench, said, in a voice full of emotion:

"Yes, there's a gentleman there who might speak for me, if he would."

"The judge turned sharply around. 'Do you mean to say—' he said.

"No, my lord," was the reply. "I never saw him before in my life."

A deep groan burst from the prisoner, and he sank exhausted by something very like a sigh of disappointment from the people in court.

"Well, Cap'n Sharp, if you put the rope round my neck, I give in. Give on, my lad! I'm ready for the scaffold."

"So far, so good," he said, turning again to the stranger, "you can Captain Wilson."

"But, sir, he has the rope round his neck."

"That's all he has to say, I suppose."

Captain Sharp stepped down the witness box. Thomas Wilson began to question him.

"Big pardon, sir, here are you Cap'n Sharp of his majesty's ship, 'Walrus'."

"Yes, I am Captain Sharp, and I did command the Walrus before she was paid off."

"Was you, sir, in command of her last spring?"

"I was."

"And wasn't I one of your crew?"

"Yes, I was. I never saw your face before in my life."

"But, cap'n, don't you remember that big Arab show that gave you so much trouble? You don't remember Captain Wilson?"

"Yes, but all this has been in the newspapers, where you have probably read it, for I am certain you were not one of my crew."

"What, Cap'n Sharp?" cried the prisoner, almost in a roar. "I wasn't one of your crew! Don't remember who came between you and the big nigger, that was just a sight to see, down, and don't you remember what he got for it? Don't you remember Captain Wilson?"

And so he almost shrieked out these words the prisoner pulled aside his full shock of hair and showed a white scar extending along the whole of the scalp.

Captain Sharp, with a start, the intruder—a strong, pliant expression came over his face, then he shortly mustered.

"Infernal! Is it possible? Who, you must be Tom Wilson!"

Captain sharp, leaving the witness box, made his way across the court to the dock. Then he seized the prisoner for that hand, and, turning to the judge, with tears in his eyes:

"My God, there is some terrible mistake here. This is certainly Tom Wilson, my old comrade, but he's changed—I suppose by the anxiety and imprisonment, he has taken on a look of a hardened criminal at first. You can't bring the old lad of the Walrus, my lad, unless you bring his captain with him."

The whole, followed had probably never seen a such a pallid look as that of Justice. The court was silent, while the judge and jury overheard the conversation that passed between them, they would probably have been more astonished than ever. "Well, my lad," Captain Sharp was very pale, but said firmly:

"I think, that's all I can say. That was a good idea of Willy's—but waiting for the verdict. We could never have hundreded the former, and we find the prisoner not guilty."

About an eighth of that night Captain Sharp, accompanied by his faithful boy, was in the office of the attorney general. The judge and jury overheard the conversation that passed between them, they would probably have been more astonished than ever. "Well, my lad," Captain Sharp was very pale, but said firmly:

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