OVE DOLLAR PER ANNUM, INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.

"REGARDLESS OF DENUNCIATION FROM ANY QUARTER."

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TOWANDA: Thursday Morning, November 20, 1836. The Tragedy of Hairston.

In 18- I was traveling in Accomac-the far away "Eastern shore" of Virginia. Have you ever visited this singular and mysnd-measured with attentive eyes the pectral islands, and the level reaches of white diffing sand, whereon the surges of the Atlantic moan forever like some spirit of the vast wild ocean, whispering the secret of the sea ? Have you traversed the long, low peninsulafrom the coves of Onancock to the sedgy hores of Paremores-from the hazy isle of Assateague to where Cape Charles, crowned with its light-house like an "eye of the ocean,' thrusts into the crawling foam, or the angry waves, its low cutwater, in pursuit of the op-posing shore ? Have left behind you the toils the pleasures of our prosaic age-its inexorable realities, and annihilating materialismto breathe for a time the airs of poesy and romance, in a land where the sea moans dreamiupon the shore, and where Caliban, perhaps, shaggy and scowling, among the rushes the fl gs, while Ariel soars aloft against the

If you have not seen this land of legends tions, you have only to follow me ! The mellow murmurs of the waves inthe water-flags nod to you, and with aves hold out to you a welcome .nal world will disappear as you adnd you will enter, free and unencumred, the remote domain of nature, where nomy is heard but the voices of the winds, no object moves, but the foliage of the st, the distant sail disappearing on the horior the restless billows of the sea.

however, you have made this journey oked upon this spectacle, you will agree hat here is the appropriate stage of ird drama-the proper scene of one of ld tragedies, which, banished from the aylight of our "rational" age, have taage in the dim shadows of the chimneyr, in the memories, perhaps, of old wrinkles, who at times utter them ,briefly, to again into the silence of age and mel-

is one of these dramas which I am about -not with the artistic and diffuse e modern romance, but in all its nas and simplicity.

ly traveling companion, D-, resided upeastern shore, and in his company I circuit of the old province, collecting traditions which possess so strange when related upon the spot where a tually occurred. We came thus, g about sunset, to an old ruin-merelackened walls and overthrown stones, ked from a rough hillock out upon heard of. s of the ocean.

enetrated on foot, through brambles vines, to the great arched doorway uin, and here sat down to rest

ere should be some legend connected is old mass of stones," I said ; " am I

grees to their repose. On his observing the " of honor" and others, in the neighborhood, melted beneath the continually increasing conr- head, after a fashion not uncommon with old to see it. He was right, for the devil of persociety diminish, he discovered manifest signs of uneasiness; he therefore gave new force to his spirits, and new charms to his conversation, in order to detain the remaining few some time longer. This had some little effect; but the ther, then at William and Mary College in when she left the apartment, and looking, with the she apartment, and looking, with the she apartment and looking, with the she apartment and looking, with the she apartment and looking with the she apartment apartment and looking with the she apartment apa period could not be long delayed when he was Virginia, received one morning an English his stern, abstracted gaze, for her return. All to be conducted to his chamber. The remains journal, which gave him intelligence of George the hidden fires of his passionate nature kin-

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of the company retired also; but they had Hetherington's death. He had been killed in scarce closed their eyes, when the house was a drunken brawl, in a low London tavern. alarmed by the most terrible shricks that were ever heard. Several persons were awakened of Arthur Hetherington. From his early to curb them. He no longer found solace in by the noise, but its continuance being short, they concluded it to proceed from a dog who fluences of paternal or maternal affection, and hours for study were spent by the side of the the house: they very soon, therefore, compos-ed themselves to sleep, and were very soon-awakened by shricks and cries of still greater terror than the former. Alarmed at what they band dried up any emotions of affection in the younger brother, and Arthur was thus left band dried the deheard, several of them rung their bells, and alone. The consequence of this isolation was lightful and hitherto unknown emotion of gratiwhen the servants came, they declared that the a sombre and silent reserve, and an assidnous fied vanity. As his cold nature gradually tonished and terrified them. After knocking some time at the stranger's chamber-door, he Hetherington acquired a profound contempt —and after one of these conversations, he found answered them as one awakened from sleep, door of which they instantly barst open, and found him upon his knees in bed, in the act of scourging himself with the most unrelenting correity his holy streaming with blood. On he did not deign to bestow a thought upon which a refined nature and unlimited wealth their seizing his hand to stop the strokes, he

tire, assuring them that the cause of their dis- ly to be ruined by ; he congratulated himself any considerable negree by these presents .-upon having never so much as looked upon Arthur Hetherington had made a strong imturbance was over, and that in the morning be them. would acquaint them with the reason of the terrible cries they had heard, and the melancholy sight they saw. After a repetition of ing some of them went to his chamber, but he s not there ; and, on examining the bed, they found it to be one gore of blood. Upon

for that credulity which believes without the himself pitying the fatuity of his former views

their conversation was interrupted by a re- night, in those dangerous and forbidden studies' ses by which the stern and sombre misanthrop from the horror of them, seemed to issue from the character of a young and unformed mind, one week, the change was complete-a phenthe throats of damned and tortured spirits.— They immediately followed the sounds and traced them to the stranger's chamber, the the stranger's chamber, the thread of the second stranger's chamber, the thread stranger's chamber stranger's

begged them in the most wringing tone of them. He regarded them as sensions play-voice, as an act of mercy, that they would re-

pression upon her from their first meeting, and Such was the state of the young man's mind, she knew perfectly well how to appreciate the and such his mode of life, when, one evening, treasures of his vigorously cultivated intellect, his entreaties, they retired ; and in the morn- a coach with four horses, driven by a black and determined character. There is something coachman, drove up to the door ; and from in the rugged traits of the masculine charac this vehicle descended an elderly lady, who was ter which attracts woman more powerfully even immediately followed by a tall and queenly girl, than the graces and elegance-and a few feurther inquiry, the groom said that as soon as clad in the rich fashion of the period, with a male minds can resist a daring and determined it was light, the gentleman came to the stable, long slender waist, auburn curls, sprinkled with lover. These traits captivate them, as gentle booted and spurred, desired his horse might be powder, and blue eyes which gazed forth se- ness and sweetness enchain the regard of men booted and spurred, desired his horse might be immediately saddled, and appeared to be ex-tremely impatient till it was done, when he vaulted instantly into his saddle, and rode out of the yard on full speed, Servants were im- sion, bowed in by the lofty old steward, and great attraction. He was tall, erect, with a

mediately dispatched into every part of the surrounding country, but not a single trace of him could be found ; such a person had not been seen by any one, nor has he been since to all visitors, and this order he had hitherto proud position, as the sole head of an ancient heard of. "The circumstances of this strange story were immediately committed to writing, and signed by every one who were witnesses to them, that the future credibility of any one, who should think proper to relate them, might Arthur Hethe

and exhibitions of grief, the old woman proceeded to account for her emotion and those trait of his graudfather, which had, doubtless mysterious exclamations which had excited so much astonishment in her auditor.

REPORTER.

It is not necessary to dwell upon the family legend which the old woman related with many palsied shakes of the head and evidences of no common agitation. The result will exhibit the might be accidentally confined in some part of his brother had never felt for him, in spite of harpsichord at which sat Miss Hairston sing- nature of her communication. It is enough to fiant to the last. At the same moment, the say in this place, that an hour after his en- knob of the western door was turned, and the trance into the cabin young Hetherington is voice of old Calvert was heard like a moan, sued from the low doorway, pale and silent, but with a sarcastic sneer upon his firm lip.

" Blood ?" he muttered, disdainfully smiling, 'a drop of blood ! Absurd ? and yet I must horrid sounds proceeded from the stranger's cultivation of the powers of his intellect, rather thawed beneath her smfles, all those treasures be about to grow erazy like this old woman ; chamber. Some of the gentlemen immediate- than those of his heart. At Williamsburg, of thought which he had spent long years in for I know not what demon whispers to the gentlement is the stranger's long to the gentlement of the gentlement is the stranger's long to the gentlement is the stranger's long to the gentlement is the stranger's long to the gentlement of the gentlement is the stranger's long to the strange ly arose to inquire into this extraordinary dis-turbance; and while they were dressing them-tury, he became the intimate associate of Go-his astonishment and delight, he found that the fate of all the Hetheringtons ! Why, it is selves for that purpose, deeper groans of des- vernor Fauquier, who was a conscientious in- she followed his abstrusest views, and appre- absolutely silly ! and silliest of all is it, that I, pair, and shriller shricks of agony, again as- fidel ; and from this nobleman, and afterwards ciated him. To a man of his character, a more a man of trained mind incredulous, no child to be frighted by bugbears of the imagination, should for an instant entertain this foolish thought ! A drop of blood to fright me !---

ed into the great dining-room. As he placed his foot upon the threshold, newal of yells, screams, and shricks, which, which have so deleterious on influence upon became the anxious and devoted gallant. In he saw old Calvert disappear hastily through a side door, and at the same instant his quick eye discovered a vibration in the frame of his grand-father's portrait, hanging near the eastcrn window

"What's this !" he cried, " Calvert ! Come back ! what is this ?"

Old Calvert appeared at the door, solemn chimner

"By the chimney? The closet?" repeated the young man gloomily. "You were the length of the whole apartment from the chim-ney and in the second place here it the here for the bed. A stream of moonlight the silver closet."

nly reply, when young Hetherington again haste, was an intimation that if "Massa Ar- don which was the perfection of grace. thur" thought old Calvert was dishonest it The intruder stood completely motionless the white-haired steward calmly withdrew.

tion of authority, to investigate for himself. He accordingly went and turned the keys in the locks of both doors, then he proceeded toward the east window, and, mounting upon a tall chair, stood beneath the protrait of his grandfather. It represented the friend of Lord Baltimore in mature age, clad in steel had disappeared.

As he uttered these furious words, the porbeen loosened by his efforts to open the closet, parted from the huge hook which held it aloft and fell with a crash to the floor.

The startled echoes fled shrieking through the gloomy mansion ; and Hetherington looked round like a conspirator, deperate but de-

appealing for entrance. His master opened the door, and laying his hand upon the shoulder of the trembling old man, said :

"I understand all-not a word to any one. Replace the portrait, *leaving the closet as it is.*" Hetherington then, with slow and measured teps, sought his private apartments.

Three days afterwards, he set out for Hairston. The poniard was in his bosom.

vi. The young man reached Hairston just as the last lights of evening decended upon the level landscape, and died away upon the vast ocean. He saluted, with formal courtesy, his intend-ed bride and her mother, and, then, for the first time, perceived that they were not alone. The fourth occupant of the apartment was a peddler, one of a class then better known than at the present time ; and beside the wayfarer lay the ordinary pack, in which they car-

ried their miscellaneous articles of traffic. The peddler was shown to a room on the ground floor, when the hour for retiring came; and then the inmates of Hairston, one and all were very scon asleep.

No sooner had the sounds of life died away nd grave. His master demanded the reason than the peddler rose from his couch, placed of his abrupt withdrawal from the apartment. his feet stealthily upon the floor, and, walking The old negro cooly replied that he had just | with the silent step of a tiger stealing upon inished putting the silver in the closet by the its prey, proceeded toward the apartment occupied by Miss Hairston.

ey, and in the second place, here is the key of fell upon the face of the beantiful sleeper, and the regular undulations of her slender figure, The old negro looked confused for a moment beneath the snowy night-dress, scarcely raised en this expression was replaced by one of the downy edges of the light counterpane.-ogged and sullen silence, so to speak His One bare white arm was placed beneath her curling hair, and the other lay half extended emanded no explanation of his extraordinary from the couch, in an attitude of careless aban-

was "more'n old massa ever had,"-and then for a moment, gazing upon the lovely sleeper; and then, with a movement rapid but cautious The young man followed him with his eyes, knelt and pressed his dark mustachioed lip to but said nothing. He saw that he could ex- the entended arm. A slight tremor in the tract no further communication from the negro form of the girl betrayed the magnetic effect He determined instead of attempting an exac- produced upon her, even in sleep, by the auda-

armlets, over which fell a profusion of lace, a The nocturnal intruder listened for an in vlevet purpoint, and gold flowered waistcoat, stant in the corridor, and, catching with his The hair was long, curling, and powdered, quick ear the low sigh of the young lady, as she again relapsed into slumber, seemed disposed to renew his inroad upon the privacy of her chamber. Turning his eyes accidentally, however, toward the apartment in which Hetherington slept, his intention was evidently abandoned. The mild and smiling expression of the bold features yielded to one of gloomy ed by discovering a small panel in the carved hatred ; the heavy dark brows were knit to The steel spring, by which this hidden gether in a threatening frown ; and laying his hand upon a concealed knife, suspended at his singing noise, showing that the door had been waist, the stranger crept toward the apartment of Hetherington. He found no difficulty in affecting an crgentleman sought long and vaialy for the open- trance ; and, standing by the bedside of the ing spring. His eager fingers traversed every pale sleeper, whose haughty features had not relaxed their predominant expression even in clue. He mounted upon the projection in the slumber, the stranger clutched his knife with a wainscoting, sustaining the backs of the great flash of hatred in his dark eyes, which was alchairs, and sought again, pushing the great most appalling in its intensity. He remained portrait aside until it hung in position nearly thus motionless and silent for some moments. orizontal. It was all in vain, and with his and then, as cantiously as he had entered it, brow covered by a cold sweat, the young man left the apartment. As he returned to his own leaned his shoulder heavily against the door. As he did so, he felt the panel move beneath took in at a glance the position of all the his arm-he started back, and a square piece of the carved wainscot flew open It reveal ed a small orifice in the wall; and, at the On the next morning, Miss Hairston related we poniard with an ivory handle On the next morning, Miss Hairston related Young Hetherington clutched it, and, lean-her singular dream, and it was the subject of ng to the floor, held it up and gazed at it. | many jests ; as to the peddler, the servants

be duly supported. Among the subscribers to the trath of this history, are some of the first and disobedience. a the least," was the reply of my names of this century. It would now, I be- The explanation came in a form which he not only is there such a legend, but lieve, be impertinent to add anything more, it in my power to relate it. This is than that I am " Yours, etc."

well, is it tragedy or comedy ? You I am omnivorous, but I should prefer a

You will not be disappointed," said Dng his brow upon his hand, and thoughtgazing out upon the ocean. " The chief e drama was an ancestor of my to this singular being ?"

r rather a connection, and perhaps I may person living who could gratify

My companion paused for a moment, and med to reflect. am listening," I said.

st read what I offer you," said my eager expression must have proved to the nar-And as he spoke, D-drew from rato:-and so I heard the story, which I here et a small volume, bound in black lea- set down as nearly as possible in the words of and turned over the leaves. He found my informant.

the place which he was seeking and the volume to me.

What is that ?" I said.

S.

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collection of the letters of Lord ----nan who attained some notoriety. The ore you relates to the hero of my dra-

ed and read the following letter, of fore leaving D----'s hospitable man-I took an accurate copy.

reluctance, in relating the story of estate.

a have heard so much, and to which

and this, which I have told with such nd to the midnight terrors of so mae souls, will make but a sorry figure tate, George, the younger of the two, receiving which he accomplished with stiff formality .-ten narration. However, you shall simply a sum of money, with which to com- They had been to the city of Baltimore, Mrs. now lived, at the age of nearly four score, in

as in the early part of -----'s life, that love between the brothers, and, on the day ed on the road, or nearly, had bethought them front of the edifice. d a hunting club at their sport, when when Arthur Hetherington took possession, a of a genteel appearance and well scene of violence occurred, the details of which owner for a night's entertainment. ined the chase, and was observed were not accurately known, although it is easy man bowed again, Mrs. Hairston disappeared a degree of courage and address to guess at the matter. Certain it is, that an under convoy of a maid, and the master of the forth the utmost astonishment of hour after the entrance of the two brothers inpresent. The beast he rode was of to the library of the mansion, a struggle was novel and unpleasing incident.

vers, nothing stopped them ; the heard, then a heavy fall, and George issued ald never escape them ; and the forth, silent and pale, mounted his horse, and it was the initiatory event in the series which I should rather say, could induce her to speak ; who was left far behind, swore that so disappeared.

nd his horse were decils from hell .-sport was over, the company invited nary person to dinner ; he accepcarried to his chamber, by the old black majorand astonished the compadomo, his father's steward, and now his own : by the powers of his-conversation, gince of his manners, as by his and he did not issue from his sick-room for a ily make a visit to the family mansion of Hairs- by beseeching appeals that "Massa Arthur" prowess. He was an orator, a poet, month. When he again appeared, he said no- ton.

a musician, a lawyer, a divine ; in thing of the scene which had passed in the lias everything ; and the magic of brary ; nor, indeed, did he ever allude to it kept the drowsy sportsmen awake afterwards.

ir usual hour. At length, howtied nature could be charmed no more, disappeared, and it was soon discovered that had entered the sombre wilderness of his life old woman. He soon reflected, however, that he had contracted enormous debts, both debts like a sunbeam. As her stiffness and reserve Aunt Dilsy had taken some odd notion into her

sumed his seat, when a light step was heard upon the corridor, the door of the apartment 111. • I handed the volume back to my companion, and for an instant both preserved silence, gazing, as before, upon the restless waves, breaking upon the low margin of the ocean. Your narrative," I said, at length, " relates

"Yes; to the eyes of all but myself, the identity of this cavalier is steeped in oblivion. I alone know the whole ; gathered in part from old family documents. You will listen to the story ?"

The question was quite superfluous, as my

tained from his personal friend, Calvert, Lord said he was pleased to see them--which ex-Baltimore, a grant of thirty thousand acres of pression of pleasure was abandantly contraand in the richest portion of the eastern shore | dicted by his cold and distrait demeanor.

had gradually decreased, under the effect of and she raised her fine head proudly.

This, however, was a princely property, and

sity appears to be so broad awake. a sufficiently dangerous possession for a young awillingly, because such histories de- man of twenty-one, without near relatives, and much on the manner in which they are with no one to restrain him.

Arthur was the eldest of two sons, and, by the law of primogeniture, succeeded to the es- then descended to welcome Mrs. Hairston, This was an old negro woman named Dilsy.

was opened, and the young lady whom he had seen enter the front door stood upon the thresh-As her eyes met those of the young man,

she blushed slightly and drew back. Then, as though mastered by a sudden impulse, she advanced three steps, and, with a frank smile in her blue eyes, held out her hand. The young man rose, and bowing stifly, without so much as extending his hand, requested the young lady to be seated. She colored and said .

' Then you do not know me, cousin Arthur, and will not take my hand. I am Eleanor Hairston, and mamma came with me."

The young man understood in a moment Mrs. Hairston was the first cousin of now. his father, and lived lower down upon the Virginia side, as he had often heard. He, there-Arthur Hetherington was the son of a Ca- fore, made the young lady a low and formal tholic gentleman, whose grandfather had ob- bow, bestowed an icy shake of the hand, and

of Maryland. In the course of four or five . Miss Hairston's beautiful lip assumed som

generations, however, this magnificent estate thing closely resembling a poat of displeasure, The high living, so that the Arthur Hetherington | was something in the action which attracted II. My DEAR SIR-I obey your commands sessor of only about one third of the original at once, that he stood in the presence of a nature quite as haughty as his own. The conviction produced a feeling of respect in his mind, and, with a courtly and formally-respect-

ful bow, he led the young lady to the door of the chamber to which she had been directedhis study having been entered by mistake. He

of Ocean View, and so, must trespass upon its The young domain retired to his den to reflect upon this Hairston, and then commenced wringing her

I have narrated this scene in detail, because

from Arthur Hetherington that he would speed-

the young man, can be explained apon only of the family of Hairston. one hypothesis. He was in love with Miss At first, the young man w

tinued to pay assiduous court to the proud young girl, who demanded, in accordance with was not prepared for. He had scarcely rethe views of the period, a thorough siege before she would surrender. At last she gave signs of yielding. It was on an evening of May, as I find from

an old letter, written to my father, that young Hetherington, having spent hours in the great sail-boat on the bosom of the ocean, with the young lady, at last advanced to the attack. nd found the fortress unable to resist him .-His address was passionate, but collected, too. He told Eleanor that she must necessarily have seen the state of his feelings-that there was no possible obstacle to prevent their marriage

-that he needed a mistress for Ocean Viewthat if she would not consent to fill that pos tion, no other lady ever would : and then his proud under lip between his teeth, his dark yes fixed unwaveringly upon her flushing face e calmly awaited her reply. The reply was a cold and tremulous hand placed in his OWB outstretched palm-and they were betrothed

Mrs. Hairston readily assented to what she ad long wished; for she was an ambition woman, and probably would have compelled her daughter to the very course which her own feelings induced her to take. Thus everything was wellso far, and Arthur Hetherington, with a grave and decorous " salute " upon the lips of his mother in-law to be, and his intended oride, left Huirston house, to return to Ocean View, where it was necessary to make great changes and many arrangements, in contemplation of the alteration in his mode of life. ν.

There was one person at Ocean View who held a morse imposing place in the life of that domain than even old Calvert, the steward .who had been the young man's nurse, and who mence the world. There had never been much | Hairston said ; and finding themselves benight her privileged cabin across the wide lawn, in

To Aunt Dilsy the young man at once communicated the intelligence of his intended marriage. What was his astonishment to find the old negress start as he repeated the name of

hands and groaning. It was a long time before her master, or som ended with what I am going to relate. In- and noting but his deeprooted affection for the Arthur was found extended on the floor with stead of a night, Mrs. Hairston remained for old woman prevented the haughty young man a deep wound in his temple, from which the blood flowed profusely. He was immediately pened to her coachman; and when she depart-displeasure and anger. The old woman's ed with her daughter, she received a promise groans were succeed by exclamations, her exclamations by broken words, and these in turn

> would immediately break off the match, and This extraordinary action, upon the part of give up all thoughts of a union with any one

At first, the young man was too angry, and, The younger brother, as I have said, had Eleanor Hairston. In trath, the young girl indeed, too much astonished to reply to the fell to the floor ; old Calvert, to whom nothing

most probably a peruke : and the countenance wore an expression of steraness and gloom, strikingly in accordance with the distinguishing trait of the young man himself."

Young Hetherington scarcely bestowed a econd look upon the portrait, but raised the abandoned. neavy frame from the wall : and was rewardnak closet opened, still vibrated faintly, with a low, recently closed

The ardent and burning eyes of the young iach of the woodwork without discovering the month, so to speak, of this orifice lay an an his own apartment. tique ponlard with an ivory handle

" The fate of the Hetheringtons !" he mut-tered, turning as pale as death, " the very weapon described the old nurse ! What devil What devil has been trifling with me, for God there is Oa the same evening, a man, carrying a pednone that I believe in."

one that I believe in." dler's pack, but walking with the proud and He looked, then, more attentively at the erect gait of a mountaineer, approached one

1 it ___ !

And, pausing suddenly, he stooped and ex- paddle, darted over the crimson waves. It mined the floor.

lar incision in the oaken timber of the flooring harbor-the two men exchanging animated rewarded his search. He inserted the point of conversation in a low and cautions tone. the weapon in the cut. It fitted perfectly. Hetherington rose, replaced the poniard in ed the portrait as before. Then he removed the chair by means of which he had mounted, brushed away some grains of dust left by his The peddler threw down his pack, and with boot upon the wainscot, and then began pacing a brief gesture of command, said : the apartment, with feverish steps.

"Yes," he muttered hoarsely, "yes ! this is the direct agency of the devil, if there is a as the men fell into their places; " anything devil ! That poniard, in some mysterious way on hand ?"

connected with the family is a secret, placed it sternly from the lips of the stranger. in its hidd-recentacle again, not wishing me "Good : all right !" was the reply ; and a

weapon. It was richly set in gold, encrusted of those coves in the bay side of the peninsuwith gems-and the damasconed blade was la, which are so numerous along this shore .-clotted with blood. Hetherington stood for Issuing from the heavy bushwood of the marsome moments looking with wide eyes at the gin just as the last rays of the sun capped the poinard ; and then, a quick turn of his head | waves of the Chesapeake with fire, he gave a loward the western door indicated his thought. low whistle, and then waited. In a few mo-"What had Calvert to do with this !" h: ments a small skiff detached itself like a dancmuttered gloomily; " could it have been-did ing leaf from the heavy boughs, drooping along the opposite shore, and propelled by a single

soon reached the stranger. He entered it. Immediately beneath the portrait a triangu- and it instantly returned toward its original

Finally the little boat passed beneath the swaying boughs, glided into the still waters of the hidden closet, closed the door, and arrang- a small lagoon-like basin, and brought up beside a loag pirogue, filled with sailors, armed

" To your oars !"

"Good, Captain !" was the general reply,

"To your oars !" came as briefly and more