## The Secrets of Dolly's Chair.

### CONCLUDED.

THE skipper looked meditatively at the young man, and turned the quid in his cheek, then carelessly asked :

" Did you know that fool Wilson has tumbled down the elliff steps and disabled himself, at least for this voyage ?"

"Your first mate? Hullo, skipper! Is that what you mean ? Will you give me the berth ?"

"Hold hard, lad! What are you squeezing my old flipper for, and what's your rage for Halifax just now ? Is the English lass that was here last winter up there, or have you quarreled with your uncle, or-"

"Never mind why I want to get to Halifax," replied the young man, rapidly, seizing upon this version of his eagerness to ship in the Dolphin. " But saying I do, will you give me Wilson's place ??

"Why, yes, Belknap, and be glad to get you ; for I've seen you handle a boat round the harbor here and up on the fishing ground often enough to know that you're worth having aboard, even if you- But look here; there's thegal. She's got to have the after-cabin, and her meals are to be separate, and no one knows all the fine airs she'll put on .---Maybe you couldn't stand it, and I don't know as I can. The little she-Tory !"

But John Belknap did not seem in the least disturbed even at this prospect, and no other objections coming up, the bargain was soon concluded, the young man's name set down upon the schooner's books as mate, vice Thomas Will= son, discharged, and he at once entered upon his duties. One of the first of them was to receive and place the last articles of Miss Dolly's luggage, including the arm-chair, which he was about to have stowed in the hold, when the young lady herself came off, attended by her father. At sight of the first mate standing beside the open hatchway, reeving a line around the chair, Miss Dolly showed signs of some embarrassment, whether arising from the sudden appearance of her old friend and school fellow or from his employment, no one can sav.

"Oh, John-but the chair is for my cabin. And are you helping Captain Peters get ready?" stammered she, and the mate, hardly less disturbed, replied, in much the same style :

"Certainly, Dolly-of course, Mistress Cathcart ; it will be as you direct, surely; and-yes, of course; I am mate of the Dolphin, you know."

"You mate of the Dolphin ? Since when, John Belknap ?" asked Dolly's father, severely.

"To-day, Sir. I was looking for a voyage, and wanting to go upon my own business to Hallfax; and as Wilson is disabled, I took the place," replied Belknap, a little more coherently, and meeting as best he might the piercing regard fixed upon him by the major from beneath his shaggy gray eyebrows. At last the veteran slowly spoke:

"You have a right to your own busi-ness, as you say, John Belknap, and I have known you boy and man for an honest, honorable, and true-hearted fel-

together, and Dolly found the anxious kindness and attention of the mate a pleasant relief from the decided gruffness and half-concealed suspicions of the captain. Whatever arrangement he could devise for her comfort was sure to be made, even at risk of displeasing his superior, and Dolly had often to beg him not to attempt to serve her too openly, or se much, lest he should bring trouble upon both their heads. John promised, but the very same day broke the promise, for, having noticed that Dolly, try as she might, failed to arrange

a comfortable seat by the combination of a three-logged stool and a shawl, disappeared from the deck, and presently returned, bringing, with the aid of one of the sailors, the great easy-chair, in which he had noticed that Dolly usually sat when in the cabin.

"Boom won't swing over it, Sir," grumbled the man, as he set it down near the wheel.

" No more it won't replied John, a little perplexed. "Well, if she needs to go over, we can turn down the chair, Mistress Dolly. At any rate you'll have a comfortable seat."

"My eye! won't the old man grow! when he comes on deck and sees that 'ere!" muttered the sailor, slowly returning forward ; but Dolly, too pleased with the attention to heed its consequences, seated herself in the chair like a little princess, and thanked her gallant knight so prettily that he alfogether forgot the boom, the sail, the captain, and the schooner, until the wind, which had been fitful and gusty all day, and of late had seemed dying out altogether, suddenly revived, gathered itself together, and came swooping down from out the angry sunset as lf determined to punish those who had failed to respect its power and guard against its attacks.

" Mr. Belknap, Sir, what are you about, to let the schooner go driving ahead with such a breeze as this coming on !" shouted an angry voice ; and John, who had been seated on deck at Dolly's feet, suddenly remembered that he was first mate of the Dolphin, and that she was in immediate need of his attention. His first act was to draw Dolly from her seat, and then to throw the chair upon its side, just in time to avoid the great boom, which came flying over, as the captain fiercely cried to the man at the helm :

"Port your helm, you lubber-port !--Mr. Belknap is this your watch on deck or isn't it ?"

"The flaw struck us before any one could have looked for it, captain, or I should have been ready; but there's no harm done yet," replied Belknap, in some confusion, and forwith began to bellow a series of orders so numerous and vociferous as to drown the steady stream of gumbling abuse that the captain distributed upon his mate, his passenger, her father, and the chair, which latter he strode across the deck for the express purpose of kicking.

" Please not injure my chair, Sir," remarked Dolly, standing pale and haughty beside it. "To be sure, it can not kick back again, but still it may not be safe to abuse it."

Captain Peters was an angry man, and more than one cause combined to increase his wrath and render him glad to vent it where he could. He bated Tories in general, and Major Catheartin especial ; he had not found the major's daughter as genial and familiar as he imagined all young women ought to be; he had not felt quite satisfied with his mate's deportment toward the young lady or toward himself; and, to cap all, he had been suddenly aroused from his afterdinner nap by the steward knocking down and breaking a pile of dishes, and perceiving with the instinct of an old seaman that all was not right with the schooner, he had come up the companionway just in time to meet the squall, and to see that the first mate was in no wise attending to his duties. Remembering all these causes of aggravation, let us condone, so far as possible, the next words and act of the irate skipper, for the words were too profane to repeat, and the act was to seize the poor unwelldy old chair in his sinewy grasp, with the avowed purpose of heaving it

grasping for the other arm, when a little figure flew with a bound from the top of the house to the deck beside the chair, and a sinewy hand upon the cap-tain's throat hurled him backward with irresistible force.

"What does this mean ? What was that man saying or doing, Dolly ? I'll fling him overboard, if you say so," panted John Belknap; but before Dolly could reply, the captain, foaming with rage, was upon them, threatening his mate with irons and close confinement on bread and water, and Dolly with nothing less than hanging on the same gallows with her old Tory father. But Belknap had already recovered his mental poise, and standing between Dolly on her throne and the captain, quietly said to the latter :

"See here, Captain Peters; in the new times that you are so fond of predicting, you say there are to be no masters and no servants, and one man can be just as good as another, or better if he can prove himself so. Now why shouldn't we begin these new times here and now? Eay I've as good a right as you to command this schooner, owned in part by my uncle, and say that I've as good a chance as you of the men's good-will, what's to hinder me from trying to take the head of the concern? I could do it, and you know I could, and five minutes from now could call myself master of the Dolphin, with the power of ordering irons and bread and water to any body I chose. I could do all this, I say ; but I'm a quiet and law-abiding man, and apt to stick to my word when it's once passed, and I don't forget that I shipped for mate and not for skipper ; so if this young lady and her property are to have such treatment as she has a right to expect, and such as was engaged and paid for by her father, and if she's content to have it so, I'll agree to let bygones be by-gones, and return to my duty as mate. What do you say ?"

Captain Peters stood for a moment glaring at his mate with red and angry eyes, and turned away, paced the deck twice up and down, paused, and said, in as nearly his usual tone as he could manage.

" Mr. Belknap, see every thing made snug for a gale; we shall have one before dark. Mistress Cathcart, I must have the decks cleared, and this chair below at once."

"Certainly, Captain Peters," replied Dolly, willing to accept even so rusty an olive-branch as this; and as she descended the steps of the companionway, followed by two seamen bearing the chair, John Belknap went forward to attend to his duties ; but as the chair remained for a moment poised at the top of the steps, a sudden flaw caused the Dolphin to lurch so violently that chair, sailors, and all were precipitated down the steps and into the little after-cabin together, all suffering more or less in the descent - the men from bruises and abrasions, but the poor chair from the loss of a leg and fracture of an arm .--The sailors would have raised it upon the three remaining legs, but Dolly suddenly begged them to leave it alone, and without apparent intention, interposed between it and them so as to nearly hide it from view, while courteously turning them out of the cabin, and clos-

"The arm-chair and the barrels and boxes below."

John stared and wondered if the poor child were going mad under this terrible strain ; but the peril was too pressing for words, and John Belknap was a man of act rather than speech. Persuading Dolly to go below, he busied himself in rigging a rude substitute for a rudder, and then in getting up a slender spar to serve as jury-mast. With them, feeble and incompetent as they needs must be, he gained some control over the schooner-sufficient at least to keep her before the wind, and thus avert the immediate danger of swamping.

The night passed, and the next day.-Dolly contrived to find and prepare food for her guardian, who never was able to leave the helm, although he slept grasping the tiller, and became almost too much exhausted for speech or thought. But help was at hand, and the storm was past.

As the sun set he threw a clear flood of light across the subsiding waters, and in its gleam shone out the top-sails of a bark plunging along toward them. The signal raised by the girl, under her loyer's direction, was seen, and an hour later the Fairy Queen lay alongside, the Dolphin.

The next morning the arm-chair, the twenty boxes and barrels, and, last of all, Dolly herself, were transferred to the British bark, whose captain had consented to carry the young lady's property as well as herself to the port where he as well as she was bound.

Arrived, Dolly was welcomed by her uncle, to whom she at onct confided her charge, and received in return no measured praise and commendation.

"Your father says it is your own dowry, lass," remarked the uncle, folding up his brother's letter. "So let us see to what it amounts, and place it in safety."

The china, the books, the stuffs, and the household gear were released from the boxes and barrels, and then the poor old arm-chair was ripped up, and the fine old family plate, brought from England by the major's father, the brocades and silks that had been treasures of Dolly's grandmother, and still waiting for occasions grand enough to shape them into robes, a casket of hereditary jewels, and finally the titledeeds of property both in the Old and the New World, were all produced ; and Dolly told of the perils the poor chair had passed on board ship, and how it had fallen down the companionway and the silver coffee-pot had peeped out and nearly betrayed the whole secret, and how she had protected it and cobbled it up, and how she had been glad to be left on board by the retreating crew that she might not abandon the charge her father had confided to her.

"And now, uncle," said she, in conclusion, "I have promised, if you and my father approve, to marry John Belknap; and he never suspected a word of all this."

"In truth, that is the most wonderful part of the story," cried jolly old Ralph Cathcart. "Not one girl in a hundred would have shown your patience and courage, my lass; but not one in five thousand would have kept a secret so faithfully and long, especialy with a sweetheart at her elbow. Well, when

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low, until this foul breath of treason swept through the land, tainting you among the rest with its poison. But, for all that, I give this girl into your charge, to guard her with all respect and modest courtesy to her journey's end, remembering that her lonely and unprotected state should be her best defense from even an idle word or look. Will you accept the charge, and give me your hand upon it, John ?"

" Indeed I will, Major Catheart, and you may demand account of her when I return as strictly as you will. I shall not be ashamed to give it."

As the young man spoke he held out his hand. The elder grasped it heartily and for a moment the two gazed steadily into each other's eyes. Then John turned to resume his duties, asking :

" Did you say, Mistress Dolly, that you wish this chair in the cabin ?"

"If you please, Sir," replied the girl, demurely; and presently the great clumsy structure was wedged in between the table and the tunsom at the stern end of the little schooner, taking up much more than its share of room, and greatly disgusting Captain Peters by its presence the first time he came below. There was little to say, however, this cabin having been secured as much possible for Dolly's private accommodation, the captain and mate only visiting it for meals, which they took at a different hour from their passenger, and sometimes of an evening, spending the other hours off duty in the house on deck or in their state-rooms .--The weather was, however, so lovely that Dolly spent much of her time on deck ; and as the mate of the schooner was, of course, obliged to stand his watch, whether he liked it or not, and the quarter-deck was his appropriate place at such times, it naturally fell out that the young people were a good deal

overboard. But the purpose was not effected, for, pushing past him, Dolly seated herself in the chair, as upon a throne, and with flashing eyes and trembling lips asserted herself and her rights.

"Captain Peters, if you throw this chair overboard, you will throw me with it. How dare you, Sir, to use such language toward me, or to lay hands upon private property intrusted to your care ?"

"If the captain had been angry before, he was furious now, and roaring profanely :

" Dare! I dare lay hands on any old Tory's goods !-ay, and on his brat too, if it comes to that !" he selzed the girl's arm, and attempted to drag her from the chair. Dolly did not scream, but her mute resistance was more than the skipper counted upon, and he was

ing the door behind them.

Soon after, Mistress Dolly herself left the cabin, begged a few nails and a hammer from the steward, and, returning, carefully reclosed the door, and proceeded to use them so vigorously that the sound of her hammer resounded even through the howling of the swiftly risen wind and the tramping of the seamen overhead as they obeyed the clear and rapid orders of the first officer.

The breeze grew to a half gale, then to a gale, and at last to a storm so furious and resistless that at the end of the third day the Dolphin lay, mastless and rudderless, a mere unmanageable hulk rolling in trough of an angry sea. The boats were got out, manned, and ready to push off, when John Belknap came down to the cabin for Dolly, who rose from her knees and met him with a white but a very calm face.

"Come, Dolly, they can not live a moment beside the wreck, and I think the captain would be glad of an ex-CUSD-11

"He has found it !" interrupted Dolly, as a dark object swept past the cabin windows, breaking for an instant the sullen glare of the green and foamy waves. Belknap leaped on deck. It was too true. The captain, perhaps unable to control his men, perhaps driven by the waves, had allowed the boats to leave the side of the vessel, and already a dozen oars' lengths divided them.

" We are deserted," said a calm voice beside the young man, as he stamped and vociferated madly upon the deck.

"Yes, Dolly; and, Dolly, I would give my life for yours, if so it might be saved.

"We shall both be saved, John, I am sure of it, I feel it-we and the trust that my father has committed to me."

" What trust, Dolly ?"

the young man comes to-night, tell him of your dowry, and tell him I'll answer for my brother's consent, as well as my own. He touched upon the matter in his letter "

The next news from Pilgrim Vale told Dolly that her mother was at rest, and her father had accepted a brevet commission in the royalist army. Then came an interval of months, and then a hurried scrawl written upon the field of battle, and with it a letter from the chaplain of the regiment, telling Dolly that she was an orphan.

"No one earth now but you, John," sobbed the poor child in her lover's arms.

"And I will try to be all that earth can give, with a looking on to something better," replied he.

And tradition says he remembered his promise, and that Mrs. Belknap was a happy, a prosperous, and a most honor-ed wife. And the old arm-chair? It stands beside me, hale and hearty, in spite of Dolly's cobbling.

GF There are a great many men in this world who imagine they are born with genius, and lie down on the sofa and wait for an inspiration until some other fellow who thought himself a dunce, rises by hard labor to competency, buys the sofa, and leads the waiting genius out by the ear. This is not a joke, it is a fact.

#### Humbugged Again.

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