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### WHEN THE SHIP COMES HOME.

BY WALTER BESANT AND JAMES RICE.

(Continued.)

"The rest!" echoed Mr. Mizen, with a half laugh. "There ain't any rest."

"What! All gone but you?" "All gone but me and Bost-and one

other of the crew." "Swear to that, boy; and if you tell me

lies I'll repe's-end you till you'll wish you'd never been aboard any ship in all your life, that blue you'll be all over." The boy, whose face showed him to be what he really was-the most arrant cur

and coward in existence-burst out blusterously, "Rope's-end me, will you, Mr. Croil? Wait till you try that game on." "Ay, will I! And I'll begin on the spot if you jaw me. Why, you dirty, measly-There, go on with your story ! All the ri-

rates is drownded, then? Pity, too!"

"I'll tell you all the truth, Mr. Croils'help me, I will. We lost in the fightthat is, they pirates and mutineers losteight men in all, out of five-and-twenty; that left seventeen, and six of them were wounded; that left eleven. Well, they used me orful, they did. All your latherins Mr. Croil, was pancakes and plum-duff compared with the latherns I got all round from the devilish murderers. Things went bad with the navigation too, and they couldn't keep her no course nohow.

"Lubber all !" said Ben. "Go on, my boy; steer as truthful as you know."

"Then we got weather; and then, you see, we had to take to the boats. There was two boats, but one stove in; then there was only one left. We hadn't time for any provisions; and after the fifth day they began to eat each other. Ga spel truth Mr. Croil !"

"Sarved them right! Worse than being hanged. But I'd rather ha' hanged them.

"Last, there was only left four of us." "One of them four was Boston Tom?" said Ben.

The boy hesitated.

"Well, one was-I remember now-one was; but he was nearly dead when we were picked up; and he was one of them that died two days afterwards."

nothing. "So now, only two are left?" he asked, after a pause. "Who may the other be ?" "He was Maltese Dick, Mr. Croil," the

boy replied, very quickly. "Him with the black hair and the arm tatooed all over;

"Ay, ay! And where do you live now, you Mizen boy ?"

"I've left the sea-faring trade, sir I'm just come up to London to look round like ; got no home to go to yet."

There was a malicious twinkle in the young man's eye as he svoke. Ben looked up quietly-he still held him by the armand watched him.

"Then you don't live anywhere handy about here ?"

"Laws, no, Mr. Croil! Certainly not, not by no means. Whatever made you go for to think that I would live about here?"

They passed, at that moment, a low sort of lodging-house and sailors' tavern, with a bill in the window: "Lodgings for single men and mariners."

Unless Ben Croil wrs grievously deceived, the lady at the door of this hostelry made a sign of recognition as the lad passed.

"So," Ben thought, "that's the crib, and that's where Boston Tom is to be heard

"Well, Dan'l Mizen,' he said, aloud, 'you'll find me most days down at the docks. You mind, come to see me, and no harm shall happen to you; you forget to come, and as sure as my name's Ben Croil, you'll swing for your share of the Lucy Derrick mutiny. Swing is the word, Dan'l Mizen!

He made mental note of the house and number, and turned back.

Mr. Mizen looked after him, with a countenance full of perplexity and dismay; and after first scratching his tousled head, and then shaking it ruefully, pursued his own way in the opposite direction, with a dejected, not to say a hangdog, expression in his yery shoes. Presently there passed him a lad of about his own age, dressed in blue flannel, and looking-although the fiannel was shabby - a gentleman. He had long legs and a springy walk. As he went along-sometimes a little ahead and sometimes a little behind Mr. Mizen-he stopped occasionally and looked about him, as if in search of something. Mr. Dan'l Mizen contemplated this waif-a gift of Providence

evidently fallen quite into his hands-for a quarter of an hour or so; and then, Mr. Croil being well out of sight, he shouldered up to the stranger, and jerked out, looking the other way :

"Lost your hearin,' mate?"

'That is it,' replied the stranger: 'lost my bearin.' I was told by a party in the country that I was to come to a house in the Whitechapel Road-but I've forgotten the number-where they'd take me in, and find me a ship.' .

'That's lucky, now!' said Mr. Mizen. 'Why, I'll take you to the very place, and its close by. You come along o' me.'

Daniel Mizen led the way. Oddly enough his steps took him to exactly the very house where Ben Croil had noticed the lady at the door, and had remarked besides that she seemed to know his young companion. It was, in deed, the truth that the ex-ship-boy lived in this place of resort. How he lived, on what honest industry, or by the exercise of what native wit, was not immediately apparent.

He conducted Rupert to the door, and in troduced him to the landlady-a woman with a red face, and dressed in a cotton gown, looped up so as to show a rich amplitude of petticoat underneath. She stood, with arms akimbo, contemplating human nature as it passed with eyes of hungry deflance. Men and women walked along, children ran by, but they were not her prey. Of all kinds and conditions of men, Mother Flanagen-not an Irishwoman by birth, although of illustrious Irish descent-loved a sailor, and especially him of the mercantile marine. She extended her affection beyond the narrow limits of party and country, embracing in one comprehensive sweep, and gathering to her breast, Englishman, American, Negro, Lascar, Malay, Greek, German or Norwegian. All alike were dear to her, and she was dear to them-in the long run, very dear. She housed her favorites; she provided them with food, society, amusements, and drink; and when they left her hospitable house, it was, the censorious said, with empty pockets, and with 'coppers' so hot that it took a week of sea-breezes and compulsory temperance to cool them.

'Yes, I can take him,' said Mrs. Flanagan, 'if the young gentlem will pay a deposite. "That's a lie," thought Ben, but he said

'I've got five shillings,' said Rupert. ! Hand it over, ' said Mrs. Flanagan,

'Mrs. Flanagan,' called a voice from the inside room, 'send that boy in here, five

shillings and all." The voice was hoarse and strained. It was followed by a chest cough which lasted and where he's gone, I dont know, and can't long enough to tear the patient to pieces, and also was followed-a thing which was quite natural in that horrible den-by a volley of oaths.

Rupert Lemire thought himself fn a very queer company, but he reflected that they would not probably murder him for the sake of five shillings, and he obeyed the invitation to enter the house. By the fire, in a low room, reeking with tobacco, there gat in an arm-chair a man of singular appearance. He was decorated with a scar on the right side of his mouth, which made it look as if it had been twisted up on that side .. He had bright black eyes, very close together, and a long receding forehead; his face was smooth and hairless, and his cheeks were hollow and sunken. His empty pipe lay beside him on the table, which was also graced by a half-emptied glass of rum and

'Come in, youngster. What's your name? Where do you hail from? What do you want? Now, then;"

Rupert thought of the intitials on his handkerchief.

"My name is Robert Lumley,' he replied with a little besitation, taking a name which belonged to the family butcher-an importunate person, who was always bringing sorrow upon the household by demanding payment. 'I come from -Manchester, and

I want to go to sea." ' How much money have you got?'

' Five shillings.' 'Give it to me to keep for you. I live here. This house belongs to me, not to Mrs. Flanagan. I'll take care of your money for you. I hope it's honestly come by. We're very particular in this house, ain't us Dan'l Mizen ?"

Daniel made no reply.

'And if we can't get you a ship all at a day's notice, young shaver, I suppose you could find some more money by writing for it, couldn't you? Guess you'd better come to me for advice. Five shillings, you see, it won't go fur. Two days or thereabouts, if you don't drink. To be sure, there's the long-shore clothes; you can make a good swap out of them, and nick a trifle into the bargain.

He had another fit of coughing, for by another volley of oaths. Then h posed a game of cards, and they sat to a friendly hand of all-fours, in which Mizen took a hand. Rupert was not ished when, after half an hour or so, ! informed by the man with the coug he had lost all his money.

' Five shillings," said the host, ji the two half-crowns. "It's a trifle there, it's something to pass the time. feller, you've cleaned yourself out sharp, you have. You'd better write letter for more money at once ; nothin coming to the point. You, Daniel go and fetch the ink and some paper. pose you've got a father?'

'Yes.'

· And a mother? Yes? That's goo like a mother. We'll pitch it strong. just write what I tell you, and nothing

The paper having been brought

Pringle-for this, Rupert had learned

course of the game, was the gentle name-proceeded to dictate: 'My be parents, I made my way up to London leaving home, and arrived here yeste I am deeply sorry for the trouble th have caused you in running away, wl intended for to go sea, but am now persuaded of the folly of my conduct, will go back home, to do what you p 1 am staying with truly Christian pe and have spent my all. If it were no their charity, I should now be starvin owe them two pounds already, and want three more to get my clothes or pawn, which I am in rags, and to get again-third class Parliamentary-wh better than I deserve. So please sen a post-office order for five pounds, pa to Thomas Pringle, at the Whitechapel Office, the same to be called for. You fectionate son, Robert Lumley."

This was Mr. Pringle's dictation. following, however, is what Rupert L really wrote:

"DEAR OLD BEN-I'm in the que crib. They've robbed me of my five ings, and a fellow here thinks I'm w for five pounds more to my parents in chester. What a game! My addre 13344A, High street, Whitechapel, and name is Robert Lumley, but you mus write to me. The name of the proprie the crib is Thomas Pringle. He is throat-looking villain, with a scar o right lip, and two eyes close togethe he had any hair on his face he won like a wolf. I like the fun. "Yours

"Is it all wrote?" asked Mr. P.ingle "Yes," said Rupert, quickly folding placing the letter in an envelope, the on

on the table. "Let me look at it."

"Can't, now it's folded and gumme give me a penny for a stamp. 1 say Pringle w. at fun it is! What shall with the five pounds?"

"We'll have a spree, my boy and me together, in this blessed crib. Now go and post your letter come back when it is done. You car into no mischief, because you've

That was true; but Mr. Mizen nev less seemed to think it desirable to him unobtrusively to the post-office, escort him, after the letter was duly p back to No. 1344A. There they found sort of a meal in active progress and three other guests, although the appe of the food did not, as in some circles, the disappearance of the tobacco. contrary, those who had fed, or who about feed, went on smoking; thos were feeding kept their pipes by the between helpings attended to the p ation of the spark. The cloth remov to speak, every man ordered what like best, and the evening sports set in w usual severity. Other guests arrivi both sexes, the tables were cleared

and dancing began. Rupert sat quietly enough, watchir listening, until the fiddle began. ly his legs began to twitch. An eleph performer was occupying the floor step made up of the cobbler's dance a sailors hornpipe. Rupert stepped

"Let me show you how to dance," smiling superior.

He did show them how to dance pipe; then he showed them the sword with the poker and tongs; then he ed a figure of his own invention, in he lifted his legs over the head of ever and gentleman present, to their unmix and rapture; and then, snatching the from the hands of the inebriste music threw himself into his place, and p country dance for them till they day if they had been the rats of the Pied himself.

Never before had Mrs. Flanagan w ed such dancing, such excitment, and thirst. ...

Said Mr. Pringle to the worthy las upon retiring to rest :" The boy's mint of money. We'll keep him. he gets an answer to his letter, I'll up right away. There sha'n't be house as this not this side of Lime'vs.

(To be Continued).