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#### WHEN THE LAW STRIKES HOME.

It was last summer, while I was visiting Clam Harbor, that I met Cap'n Zeke Tarbox. He was entitled to the prefix "Reverend," being pastor of the local Union Church, but he was always known among his fellow-townsmen by the nautical title.

He was painting a dory on the beach of a little cove near the landing when I came up, and asked where I could rent a sailboat. He glauced at me, answered briefly, and went on with his work. I liked the look of the man -his open face, strong body, and manly bearing; and having nothing in particular to do, I tried to draw him into conversation. He was taciturn, but I persisted. At last he straightened up, looked at me keenly, and inquired; "You am't a fish-warden, be ye?"

Upon my decial his manner was entirely altered, and we were soon in genial converse. He talked after the manner of the natives, but displayed a different turn of mind from any I had encountered at the harbor. We fell upon the liquor question, and I remarked that the villages seemed free from dissolute tendencies. At this he became animated.

AN UPHOLDER OF THE LAW.

over there around Googins's drinkin' an' carryin' on half the time. I've raided him fisherman, was engaged in sorting a load of five times this last year, an' I'll ketch him lobsters which he had just brought in, transyet. He's just runin' the young fellers with ferring them of legal size to a lobster can, his rumshop. This used to be a decent place afore he set up that joint, but now its rotten | the bottom of his dory. And Cap'n Zeke -he's leadin' them young men into all sorts of cussedness. But he's got to quit. I got made a deputy-sheriff jist a-purpose to drive him out, an' I'll do it sure as my name's Tarbox!" He stood straight, six feet and over, as

fine a man physically as I had ever seen on the coast, his blue eyes full of determination, his voice quiet and resolute-and I believe in him.

I was just from New York, with my head full of wos and cons of the matter-what was possible, what expedient, and all that-and I felt that I should like to know this man's views. Upon my suggestion that the prohibitory laws was perhaps not enforceable, he showed signs of restrained emotion. He laid down his paint-brush and looked me in the eye with a steady gaze, which shook my selfconfidence. I, however, made out the best argument I could for the "liberal" view, and he listened. Not till I was through did he speak, and then it was with the air of one to whom the question was no question at all, but settled once for all by fundamental principles. He spoke quietly at first, but soon become vehement.

"It ain't a question of what this or that man wants-there's alloz found to be a lot of of people that wants to do wrong. Nor it ain't a question of what kin be done-it's got to be done. It ain't a question of anything at all but Law [his voice rising]. The p'int is, Be ye goin' to stand by the law or not? I tell ye, there ain't no good in beatin' 'round the bush. It's an issue that divides them that stands by the law from them that wants to disobey it, an' ye can't find no way 'round. Either ye're a law-abidin', law-supportin' citizen, or ye ain't; and if ye aın't-well, it's the duty o' them citizens that believes in law, to look after them that don't, an' we're goin' to do it! There's no use sayin' the law can't be enforced—it's got to be enforced!"

After the confession of five futile attempts to shut up the local grogshops this faith was sublime. Cap'n Zeke's personality emphasized his words, and in my heart I knew that I could not answer him. Still it seemed weak to back down so easily. Was I, an educated man, to be worsted in argument by a harbor fisherman? So I tried once more to make out a case on the other side. His reply was substantially the same as the foregoing, spoken with the same absolute conviction. It was the only weapon he had-or needed. Finding that I was not prospering in the role advocatus diaboli, I at last frankly conceded the ground, and acknowledged that I did not see how his position could be shaken. We parted on friendly terms, and he invited me to come to the church that evening to an icecream sociable. I went away with a great respect for the man and a new confidence in the untutored heart.

It was only a few days later, if my memory serves, that an event occurred which protoundly thrilled the native population of the harbor and became the absorbing topic among the summer boarders. It was the long-threatened raid of the fish-wardens. For

THE ARRIVAL OF THE WARDENS.

several days the war news dropped into the background.

There is a law in Maine which prohibits the taking of lobsters less than ten inches in length, and the fisherman found with such lobsters in his possession is subject to a heavy fine. The object is, of course, to save the crustacean from extinction along the coast, by giving the young a chance to come to maturity. Now young lobsters are considered the better eating, and the boardinghouses and hotel at the harbor were supplied almost wholly with "short lobsters." Every lobsterman in the place took them regularly, the only difference being that they were not shipped away, but retained for local consumption.

As it happened, Cap'n Zeke was the first Harbor man to meet the fish wardens, and notwithstanding the suspicion he had shown in my case, he tailed to recognize them. There were two of them, and they got off the little steamer with a crowd of tourists, and lounged idly about the wharf like many visitors who come down and spend an hour or two between boats. Presently they strolled up to Cap'n Zeke, who was waiting for the tide to rise enough to float off his boat. They engaged the captain in conversation, and one of them professed to be greatly interested in the Order of Good Templars, and inquired about the temperance work at the harbor. Cap'n Zeke being an ardent Good Templar, they were soon in full discussion of this congenial topic. At length one of the strangers, looking across the narrow channel, pointed to a monument on top of the rocky bluff, and asked what it was. Both seemed bent on historical inquiry, and they asked Cap'n Zeke to set them across in his dory, which he gladly consented to do.

The fact was that the strangers had noticed something over there which interested them "You're wrong," he said. "There's a gang | more than monuments. Down on the water's edge old Cap'n Towle, the Nestor of harbor and throwing the short ones into a basket in actually landed the fish wardens on the very float to which Cap'n Towle's boat was moored! The moment they touched the raft a sudden change came over the antiquarians. They leaped out, one of them shouting to Cap'n Towle, "Let's see them lobsters!"

The old man grasped the situation in an instant, and seizing the basket of short lobsters threw them overboard. The warden leaped into the dory, but was too late. With an oath he caught the old man by the full of Mr. Jerome's and Dr. Rainsford's shoulder. The latter wrenched himself loose, views on liquor-laws, and their enforcement, picked up an oar and aimed a blow at the warden, who succeeded in warding it off, and



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W. J. OSBORNE, Fredericton, N. B the two men struggled a moment, with the dory rocking violently and threatening to spill them both.

A FIGHT IN A DORY.

The other warden was going to his companion's assistance, when Cap'n Zeke, who had hastily moved his craft, arrived to take a hand in the dispute. Pushing the second warden aside he leaped into the dory, and gripped the arm of Cap'n Towle's antagonist with muscles of steel. "Leave him alone or I'll hist ye into the water!" he thundered.

"What do you mean by interfering with the law?" returned the warden. "I'll arrest you if you don't get out of here."

Then Cap'n Zeke lost his self-control. No man at the Harbor had ever heard him use profanity, but he swore then, and swore with a voice which could be heard by every person near the landing opposite. "You-scoundrel! Ye come sneakin' 'round here tryin' to ketch somebody, pretendin' to be lookin' at monuments, an' ye git me to set ye across, an' then ye assault an old man that's goin' about his business! Ye're two o' the meanest, lyn'--critters I ever see! I'd like to knock yer heads together an' chuck ye into the channel. Fish wardens, be ye? Ye're a pretty pair o' wardens, snoopin' 'round an' makin' me help ye do yer dirty work! Now, you git right out of that boat, or I'll make ye wish ye never saw the Harbor. I don't care for yer-badges! Git out! I'll give you two seconds to git out, or I'll knock ye

The man looked at his mate, who was standing by and showed no disposition to come to his assistance. Then he looked at the set face of Cap'n Zeke, and got out. Cap'n Zeke followed, and stood watching the proceedings in silence. Possibly it had occurred to him that his language had not been altogether in keeping with his calling. At any rate he retained his self-control henceforth, but his eyes still shot fire, and he did not move until the business was completed. Cap'n Towle handed out the short lobsters which remained in his dory, and the warden counted them. When the warden announced that he was satisfied, Cap'n Zeke broke

"Ye ain't paid me yet for settin' ye across."

"How much d'ye want?"

"Three dollars."

"Law don't allow more'n two."

"Well, call it two, then." The warden paid the money to Cap'n Zeke, who handed it to Cap't Towle.

"Here's something towards your fine. I guess we can raise enough in the village to help ye out considerable." As a matter of fact, a purse was raised among the boardinghouse proprietors which went far towards paying the fine, and the old man was and to pay the balance.

The wardens spent the day looking for game, but the alarm had gone out, and they found no more short lobsters.

Cap'n Zeke rarely spoke of the fir in public, but it was plain that he was vary sore at having been the means of getting in orother fisherman into trouble. On one occasion, at the grocery, when the subjec was being discussed, his feelings because 100 strong for repression, and he broke out:

"Ef I'd a-known who them fellers was, i'd a-bin shot afore I ever set 'em across. Auy man ought to be ashamed to play such a tendin' to be Good Templars, fan' askin' me to set 'em across to look at the monument!" If the law can't be enforced without that sort o' work, it'd better be changed. The law's bein' kept in the spirit of it, anyhow, an' all the fish wardens in creation can't stop folks from ketchin' short lobsters an' sellin' 'ens around home.'

With that Cap'n Zeke walked off past the crowd of loafers in front of "Googin's joint." This narrative is true. Judge for yourself whether it is typical of the general attitude towards law .- New York Post.

#### Squelched.

Many a traveller, who has looked forwards to a railroad journey as a season when her need not talk, will sympathize with this junta triumph recorded in the London Globe:

He wanted to read, but the man opposite would persist in trying to talk as the trains moved swiftly along. After several brief replies the student began to grow tired. "The grass is very green, isn't it?" said the wouldbe conversationalist, pleasantly. "Yes," said the student. "Such a change

from the blue and red grass we've been hav-In the silence that followed he began an-

other chapter.

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