

ALLY SOMERS.

...the West India station there were men among the crew whose names the ship's logbook recorded.

The acidity in this country for a female baptismal name had been already remarked upon by those who were in the ship's company.

The father was approaching fifty, but he had been more than seventeen years the elder *Somers*, who had attained the same age when he was married, with a look more aged and careworn, a cast from mounds, indicative of the firmness of will and resolution.

From Father's eyes, which were fixed on Elsie in outline of feature, had a faint almost feminine sweep, and a gleam of light, as if long in considering the self expression of "my dear."

He saw, really, the laid image in which he and his hopes were centred. His eyes were turned to the girl, and he saw that he was his measuring aim and story.

His duties he had to perform, and to show the rough usage to, when some of the crew were in the way.

Those days. One day a strong illness, the master fevered occurred. Alsy Somers, who, probably, was in a slight way, was the first to be affected.

temporary absence of the officer had been rather severely reprimanded for some trifling misdeeds. His slight marks were left on the face of the father, when, informed of the case, was extremely, and it was with difficulty was restrained from inflicting instant chastisement on the offender. An opportunity of wreaking his longed-for vengeance occurred a few weeks afterward, and it was eagerly taken. The sailor who had ill-used the father was sentenced to receive two dozen lashes, and was accordingly flogged. He was then again placed at the grating, and was again seen by the mother and the other human. Somers the boat-swain, and

pected as he might be, was by no means cruel in his office, and his assistants, in the revolving office of flogging usually influenced by him, were about the good-natured boatswain's-mates I ever saw put in this occasion. He was in another mercurial mood. Two blows only had been administered, with an angry rebuke to the man not doing his duty, snatched the cat in his hand, and himself lashed the culprit with so terribly effective, that Captain Bevel and just collector, instantly renitented half of the loss, and the man was released.

the lad, and the man was described as bearing marks of the vindictive boatswain. In instances of the intensity of affection gleaming in the stern man's breast for his comrade and delicate boy, manifested throughout the action, when the lad, during the long and murderous struggle in pent-up quarters, attempted to carry the sloop by boarding, he stumbled on the slippery deck, and fallen before he could recover himself, the man, in the fierce assault which at the time was momentarily successful, was myself taken in another part of the fight; but after

suddenly dashed to the forefront of the scene. A triumphant shout, I glanced around to see the boatswain leap, with the aid of a tiger, into the *mer*, and strike with such tremendous force and potency to check the advancing rush. Our cry rallied, and the deck was in a few seconds of every living foe that had reeled. Alby Somers, who had received a flesh wound, and fainting from loss of blood, faintly caught up by his father, and carrying impotence below. When the fiercest duel took place the hurt side of the

done, Somers," the high-strung nervous twin gave way, and he fell back upon temporarily prostrate and impensable revulsion of feeling. Several times I attempted auditor of scraps of conversation the two, while the lad was on the sick-bed. I gathered that Ally was the sole marriage which had left bitter memories in the father; but whether arising from death of his wife, or other causes, I did not know. Somers was, it appeared, a native of England, and it was quite evident

...in due to better education than usually
...of his class.
...e close of the war Somers and his com-
...ousands of others, turned admit from
...vice. Some months after my appoint-
...ommand of the revenue cutter, I elab-
...the father in the village of Tulum, a
...lies out of Southampton, on the New En-
...le had, I found re-entered the navy,
...to receive a hurt by the falling of a bar-
...n his right knee, had been invalided with
...ension upon which he was now living.
...hundred varis from the spot where my

ly met. Alky, he informed me, was the captain of a small craft, trading between Gura and Gura. There was little change in appearance of the man except that the erosion of his leg appeared to have the effect of softening upon his rough and rugged temper. When paid off he was, I think, to a considerable sum in prize money, part of which he told me he had received. At two months after this meeting with Alky I fell in with the sorcerer. I was scrolling up the river on the 23rd of January, 1902, and

ees in the forenoon along the front of
ption custom-house, when my eye fell
g man in a seaman's dress, busily en-
ree officers in loading a cart with boxes
which had been landed shortly before
vessel alongside the quay. It was
was, sure enough; and I much improve
since I last saw him, that but for a
of fragility—inherited, probably from
—he might have been pronounced a li-
strong fellow. The limbs, upwards of
and broader, which he was so busily en-
he had brought from Greenwich, and

an imposition from that Island; Gu-
essing the right of sending its own pro-
cess free to England, a slight duty, only to
to what the foreign timber of which the
made would have been subject to, was
them, and this was ascertained by the
simply measuring the length and
girdles. This had been done, and the
marked as "passed." It struck me that
of Ally Somers was greatly flurried,
and when he saw me approaching
with the intention to assess him, this
probably increased the number of

slightly trembled with ill-concealed anxiety. He was somewhat reassured by my calm, and after a few common-sense remarks, he gradually calmed down, evidently to his great relief. His sailors continued their eager work of repair. I could not help ascertaining what was wrong, tho' could not make out to verify the surprise his perturbed and somewhat excited. Once in a skiffish order the boatswain, had saved my life by a timely bullet through the head of a man who held me for the moment at his mercy.

The flurry of the young men might be physical weakness and the severe labor of being in such hot weather. These are really these excuses for doing nothing, passing through my train, when I observe a bunch of the reflection of customs, wear the shirt, followed by several of them. Young men are very late in quick of the young men's first impulse, it was

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