

# **The Down-Easters, Volume 1**

John Neal

# Table of Contents

<b><u>The Down-Easters, Volume 1</u></b> .....	<b>1</b>
<u>John Neal</u> .....	1
<u>PREFACE: OR A PRELIMINARY ESSAY ON MATTERS AND THINGS IN GENERAL</u> .....	1
<u>Footnotes</u> .....	3
<u>CHAPTER I</u> .....	3
<u>CHAPTER II</u> .....	7
<u>CHAPTER III</u> .....	11
<u>CHAPTER IV</u> .....	20
<u>CHAPTER V</u> .....	24
<u>CHAPTER VI</u> .....	33
<u>CHAPTER VII</u> .....	39
<u>CHAPTER VIII</u> .....	49
<u>CHAPTER IX</u> .....	53
<u>CHAPTER X</u> .....	59
<u>CHAPTER XI</u> .....	65
<u>CHAPTER XII</u> .....	72
<u>CHAPTER XIII</u> .....	77
<u>CHAPTER XIV</u> .....	88

# The Down–Easters, Volume 1

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- PREFACE; OR A PRELIMINARY ESSAY ON MATTERS AND THINGS IN GENERAL.
- CHAPTER I.
- CHAPTER II.
- CHAPTER III.
- CHAPTER IV.
- CHAPTER V.
- CHAPTER VI.
- CHAPTER VII.
- CHAPTER VIII.
- CHAPTER IX.
- CHAPTER X.
- CHAPTER XI.
- CHAPTER XII.
- CHAPTER XIII.
- CHAPTER XIV.

## PREFACE; OR A PRELIMINARY ESSAY ON MATTERS AND THINGS IN GENERAL.

TO THE READER –

If the language and general behaviour of those whom a traveller meets with, in journeying over this country now, should improve as much, and alter as much in proportion during the next fifty years, as they have within the last fifteen or twenty, there will be hardly a vestige left of our strongest and sharpest peculiarities. Our grand–children perhaps our children may know as little of their immediate progenitors in the familiar business of life; of their speech, dress and general deportment, as we know in this day of research and prying curiosity, about the fire–side feelings, the every–day habits, and the real *spoken* language of our primitive fathers.

And what price would be too much to pay now, by any hearty lover of his country, or of his country's literature, for a dialogue of their day, faithfully reported from their lips? not imagined and put together in the closet; taken down word for word from the mouth of the *talker*, not soberly and thoughtfully prepared by a learned or popular author from a glossary and a grammar; a rough sketch if you will, but trustworthy and characteristic, and all alive with individuality not a language that nobody on earth ever talked, or thought of talking, although everybody of any pretension may have *written* it all his life long; nor such as may be found every day of the year in some quiet, sleepy, good–for–nothing book, made up to order from Dr. Blair, Allison on Taste, or the British Classics hashed over?

## The Down–Easters, Volume 1

Tell me not that faithful representations of native character, which are neither intended for example nor offered for imitation, are of no use. They *are* of use. They bring strangers acquainted with what we are most anxious to conceal *the truth*; and what is more, they bring us acquainted with ourselves, with our own peculiarities and our own faults.

Were I to say, that after hundreds and hundreds of volumes have been written, purporting to describe the New–Englander, there are but two upon the face of the earth (one a novel and the other a play) containing so much as one single phrase of *pure Yankee*, the reader would be astonished. And yet I should say no more than the simple truth. Let him go into the largest of our circulating libraries to morrow, and tumble over a cart–load of story–books and novels, English or Scotch, native or otherwise; for the Yankee, like the Indian of our country, has been tried by every whippersnapper in literature; and by not a few distinguished writers of England, Scotland, France, Germany, and the United–States; one day in a story, another in a poem; here in a play and there in a history and for every phrase of pure New–England speech he meets with, I will undertake to find a lump of pure gold in the sweepings of the first poor–house I come to, or to fish up a pearl from the first puddle of dirty water I find.

To judge by our novel–writers, play–makers and poets, with here and there a partial exception, rather by accident than otherwise, we have cottages and sky–larks in our country; pheasants and nightingales, first families, youth of a `gentle blood,' and a virtuous *peasantry*; mossgrown churches, curfews and ivy–mantled towers; with a plenty of hard–hearted fathers, runaway matches to nobody knows whom, for nobody knows what; unfaithful wives, cruel step–mothers, treacherous brothers any thing and every thing in short which goes to the ground–work of a third–rate English or Scotch novel, and nothing absolutely nothing whereby a stranger would be able to distinguish an *American* story from any other, or to obtain a glimpse of our peculiar institutions, or of the state of society here, if I except a short story or two by Flint or myself in our baby–house annuals here and there a passage of Miss Ledgwick, a portion of Paulding's rough, honest and powerful, though sometimes rather ill–natured portraiture, the earlier efforts of Cooper and I wish I might say, of Brown and Irving, but even *they* are not examples: their books are not American, though they themselves are.

Are these things to continue? I hope not. I believe not. Something I have attempted here; and more I *may* attempt hereafter, should I have time for pursuing the experiment, and preparing the way for a change; but the chief work and the glory thereof must be left to others; to the younger and the more enthusiastic, with a longer life before them.

Is the language here put into the mouth of the New–Englander, that which is heard in real life? Are the manners here ascribed to him, characteristic? Then, however peculiar and however absurd they may appear, they ought to be portrayed; nay the more absurd and the more peculiar, so much the more do they deserve to be portrayed; and so much the better will it be, not only for my book, but for the New–Englander himself. At first, he may deny the truth of the portrait I have known such a thing to occur I have known people refuse to believe their own ears. Do you doubt this? Try the experiment for yourself. Do me the favor to stop the first man you hear talking, no matter where; and you will never persuade him that the transcript of his speech you hold in your hand, is a faithful copy. Ten to one, he flies in a passion with you; but if you can persuade him to go home quietly, and watch his next–door neighbor for a day or two, you will be astonished at the difference in his manner when you meet again. But who would believe it! he will say. Everybody about me *talks* one language, and *writes* another.

The first step toward improvement is having our faults made visible to ourselves and to others.

But perhaps it may be said that I do *not* give a faithful picture. To which I answer perhaps I *do*. And if I do not, how easy to expose me.

And if the picture *is* faithful, I am betraying my country. Be it so. If she is only to be upheld by untruth; if to speak the truth, is to betray her, I shall do my best to betray her, now and forever here and hereafter whenever

and wherever I may think it for her advantage.

THE AUTHOR.

P. S. The original sketch of two scenes here, amounting altogether to about a dozen or fifteen pages, the reader may have met with before. Some time in the month of April, 1830, a person I did not know and had never seen, wrote to me from New-York, to request a contribution for a new periodical, about to be established there. Being very busy at the time, and having other and very good, though private reasons for saying no, I refused. Again he applied offering terms, which I agreed to; and I sent a paper describing a series of incidents on board a steam-boat. It was published in the first number of the periodical referred to which, by the by, never reached a second. And all that I know of either magazine or editor, and I may add of the publisher, is that I never got my pay, and that the individual who applied to me, signed himself Edward Thompson of Wall-street, New-York. Having written both to the publishers and to him, without receiving any answer, I have taken the liberty to retouch the outline referred to, on my own account. If they are dissatisfied, they will please look to me for the damages.

THE AUTHOR.

## Footnotes

[1] The *Yankee in England*, by Gen. Humphries, (dedicated to Mr. Gifford,) is a *Connecticut*-man. Mathews, Hackett and Hill, have borrowed largely from it however in their general representation of the *New-Englander*. Since this preface was written, two or three capital stories have appeared in the newspapers and annuals with a deal of pure Yankee in them; and Paulding, a New-Englander to the back-bone, has brought forth two or three good specimens of Yankee *character*, though the language is not Yankee, or to speak more cautiously, not *pure* Yankee. And as for the Yankee of Cooper, notwithstanding his great cleverness in dramatic portraiture, they are dead failures, like every sample to be found in the romances of Mr. Galt (whose early Scotch novels are unequalled for truth, humor and originality) of Mr. Fearon, of Mrs. Trollope and of Mrs. Captain B. Hall, who never by any accident happen to give a specimen of true Yankee, nor hardly ever a downright *Americanism*; the dialogues of all being evidently made up from the disjointed materials of a common-place book, put together by strangers.

## CHAPTER I.

We were on our way from Philadelphia to Baltimore, in the beautiful month of May, 1814; our boat crowded with passengers, the oddest collection you ever saw, and the British lying not far off in considerable force; and yet, so assured were we of our ability to escape, as not even to be kept awake by our dangerous neighborhood. The war, chess, politics, flirting, pushpin, tetotum, and jackstraws, (cards being prohibited,) newspapers and religious tracts, had all been tried, and all in vain to relieve the insipidity of a pleasant passage, and keep off the drowsiness that weighed upon our spirits like the rich overloaded atmosphere of a spice-island, breathing about a soft summer sea. Even the huge negroes felt and enjoyed the delicious warmth, as they lay stretched out, heads and points, over the piles of split wood, with their fat shiny faces turned up to the sky, and their broad feet stiffening in the shadow.

The smooth, steady, uninterrupted motion of our way it was like one long continued launch with the soft sleepy blue overhead, and the still softer and sleepier wave underneath, would have been too much for the wakefulness of any body alive, but a thief-taker on the scent of his prey or a reader of some such book as as as I intend this to be.

Yaw aw aw! I wonder what o'clock 'tis *now*? drawled a man who lay stretched out on no less than five differen' chairs, in a spot which glowed like the reflection of a furnace-mouth upon a white-washed wall; with a yellow handkerchief drawn over his face, and a hat fixed under his head Yaw aw aw! never seed sich weather afore since I cum inter the world; I swan if I did!

The remark was probably intended for me, though directed to nobody in particular merely thrown out, as a lawyer would say after the manner of people who want to be familiar without the risk of being snubbed. I had been dusting the face of my watch a moment before, and laughing with a pretty little quakeress, who sat near me, at the perverse ingenuity of this very man, who had lost his own shadow for the twentieth time at least, while pursuing it blindfolded, with his hat pulled over his eyes, and a bandanna over his mouth. But I told him the hour, nevertheless.

Thee appears to be a stranger in these parts, added a venerable man, who sat on the other side of the little quakeress, in a Philadelphia coat and a snuff-colored beaver; stooping toward me as he spoke, so that a sprinkle of white hair the whitest and thinnest I ever saw, blew athwart her upturned eyes I could just see their color through it they were as like the sky as any earthly thing could well be just about as blue, and just about as clear starry, with a white mist flying over them.

I bowed, and was on the point of replying *at length*, after the fashion of my country, when there are plenty of chairs within reach of our arms and legs, like one of those figures which painters draw from the points made by five bits of paper, dropped together upon a table; when a stiff, straight, bony-looking Down Easter, with a straw hat, high cheek-bones, a nose like a sun-dial, and the sharpest mouth you ever saw in a domesticated Yankee, who had been galloping about the deck for two hours at full speed, with his new coat sleeves pushed half way up the elbow, (as if he had just prepared to wash himself) so as to betray a cotton shirt with linen wristbands, and large brass sleeve-buttons; his collar turned back, and his shirtbosom all open to the waist, made a full stop in front and addressed me as follows looking another way all the time. If he *is* a stranger in these parts, I can tell him he'd better have his eye-teeth cut afore he's much older; if he don't (lowering his voice to a sort of whistle, and puckering up his mouth into the oddest of all possible shapes for a mouth, stooping over, turning up one foot sideways, and beginning to count the stitches in the shoe,) if he don't shave putty nigh the grinstun, somebody 't he's ben so ter'ble thick with 'll show him what's what, afore he's done with him ketch a weazle asleep, hey? (cocking his eye at me,) wish his cake dough; if he don't there's none o' me, that's all.

Pray sir, said I, in no little trepidation, I confess; for I saw by his look what no mortal would have gathered from his speech, that I had something to fear, Pray, sir, if you mean me, what is the danger you speak of?

Instead of replying he blew a long breath, pulled down his sleeves, pulled 'em up, looked at my watch and then at the old quaker; shifted his feet; blew another long breath; and then set off with more energy than ever walking away as if he had a wager in view, swinging the tail of his queer-shaped coat, which he had now thrown back half off his shoulders, first one side and then the other, at every step he took; now fanning himself with all his might, and now shading his face with a ragged newspaper; treading the deck as if he would go through whap into the *seller*, as he called it, where they keep the *sarse* aboard-ship; and flirting a new pocket handkerchief after the manner of most Americans and of all New-Englanders, now this way and now that, now drawing it through his hand and now flourishing it in the breeze, till every thing was in motion about him leaves, pamphlets, dust, ribbons, and newspapers.

A pretty way for a body to keep himself cool, said I, in what I meant for a confidential whisper to the dear little creature at my elbow, who let fall her dark lashes in a hurry, half averted her face in reply, and bit her under lip.

Too drowsy by half, thought I, and rather too stiff on the whole, for hot-weather companionship aboard a steamboat; and looking at her again, I thought her eyes did not appear quite so blue, nor altogether so transparent as they had a few minutes before, when she was inclined to be more sociable; and turning away from her in

somewhat of a huff, I observed a handsome young man a little way off lounging over the quarter-rail with his hat off, and a mass of black hair, of unshorn plumage rather, as black as death, and glossy with strange brightness—floating off and rising and falling over his temples at every pitch of the boat, as if stirred and lifted by a strong sea–breeze. Whether he saw her, I do not know nor whether he knew her but her eye was upon him, and I could see her mouth tremble, and the delicate lawn over her young bosom shiver, as he turned away. And then, happening to shift my place, I observed the fellow who lay stretched out his whole length upon half a score of cane chairs without backs, with his head lifted up and resting on his elbow and his face turning after me as if instead of being asleep, he had placed himself there for no purpose on earth but to observe my motions. I recollected him now he had stuck to my side saying nothing, doing nothing from the first moment I happened to pull out my watch below; with all his legs and arms stretched out here and there over the costly furniture, as if they had been all shipwrecked together; one leg lying across a superb mahogany table, another bent over the top of a tilted chair, and one elbow finding its way slowly slowly but surely through the bottom of a cane–wrought sofa, which he had contrived to fix up aslant behind him. At this moment the handkerchief slipped down from his eyes, and I found him watching me like a cat. At first I felt rather uneasy; but then, what had I to fear? The fellow was evidently a down–easter; and therefore, incapable of any thing that would bring him within the grasp of the law. Finding that he was observed, he stretched himself out, gaped like a tame lioness for half a minute or so, and then turning away, went to sleep with his back toward me.

A full quarter of an hour after this, when I had entirely forgotten the man, the handsome stranger, the little quakeress, and myself dignity and all, and was occupied with a strange tumultuous reverie, which came up, and moved before me like a vision of the future, and which has turned out since to be prophecy I heard a bell ring a slight bustle midships and then boat lurched, and all at once we lay motionless upon the slope of the sea. Some of our machinery was out of order for the first time; and though the greatest exertions were made, on account of our dear friends, the British, who were all abroad over the Chesapeake, we lost nearly five hours by the delay. During this period, the youthful stranger with the black hair, entered into conversation with the old quaker, and continued it so long and so earnestly, that I had the finest opportunity in the world for surveying his face. I think I never saw a finer mouth, more luminous eyes, nor a more exalted, intelligent countenance, take it altogether. Animated, fiery and changeable with a dash of haughty seriousness, and what I should call sorrow in another a sort of proud melancholy, that could not bear to be approached or questioned, it fixed *my* attention from the first, and absolutely fascinated the poor girl; for though the conversation did not appear to be intended for her, and was conducted in a very low voice, I could perceive that she heard it all, and was deeply interested in the subject, whatever it was. Her half–opened lips, her eager attitude her occasional change of color, and her low suppressed breathing, betrayed her. Never shall I forget the altered expression of her sweet sober child–like face! It began to light up with a look of womanhood, all alive with a new interest and a new energy. And yet, so far as I could see, and I had watched them both very narrowly above an hour, they were strangers to each other; and the young man did not even look at her, nor she at him. But there they sat he talking to the old man as about a matter of life and death; and she with her face turned away, and her blue eyes fixed upon the far shore, as if the agitation of her whole frame, down to the little finger–ends that were tapping the rail near me, had been caused by something there.

While I was watching her, with the deepest attention feeling toward her, and pitying her, as if she were a beloved sister, and greatly in need of a brother's care; the queer fellow who had accosted me before, and who still kept marching to and fro the whole length of the deck, and clearing a passage for himself at every sweep of his coat tail, wide enough to allow three ordinary men to walk abreast, now made another stop full before me, and turning toward the father, while he kept his eye on something overboard I say! says he; and having secured our attention, he proceeded I say tho'! if he don't sleep with one eye open as I said afore, which I never like to meddle with other folks's business, there's a chap taint fur off 'll git a swop out o' his hide yit slick *as* a whistle; I vum if he don't!

You know consider'ble don't ye? said the other, whom we had all supposed to be asleep for the last hour; lifting his head quietly off the chair, pulling away the handkerchief from his mouth, just far enough to allow a squirt of

## The Down–Easters, Volume 1

tobacco spittle to escape through his shut teeth, and eying the speaker with a good natured leer Whereupon the first, turning slowly toward him without appearing at all disconcerted, though evidently taken by surprise, began to eye him in return, inch by inch, as if he were taking an inventory of his features and dress; and having finished the survey, he puckered up his mouth, flung out one of his huge feet as far it would go, and then put forth a question, as usual down–east, by way of reply. There is no describing his look or manner; both must be left to the reader's imagination after all, if he has never happened to see a live Yankee about to engage another at a game of poke–fun, as they call it where it flourishes most. Didn't you never hear tell o' them air creuked sticks they cut away down–east so creuked they won't lay still hey?

To this something was said, which I did not distinctly understand, though it appeared to go to the right place, and set two or three of the bystanders a laughing.

Wal! retorted the other; you aint long for this world, I swan! judgin' by your *tongue*, as they do in the gab fever.

Not long for this world! retorted his antagonist; getting under way rather slowly, then drawing himself out like a portable fishing–rod or a telescope, and stretching himself up to his full stature gaping and throwing both arms abroad as far as he could reach, like one of anthropophagi after flies—*longer 'n yourself tho'* by an inch and a half and then with a look which every body followed with his eye, though nobody ventured to smile, he added leavin' out *noses*

Not by two chinks! retorted his antagonist, tapping the handle of his own visage as he spoke, to show that he understood him; tho' if you had all the kinks pulled out o' your carcase, your ears buttoned back, and a bladder hauled over your mouth *accordin' to law*, instead o' that air flashy handkercher, you'd be ever so much longer than ye air now, an' wuth more too, by a pocky tarnal sight. I'd give as much agin for ye with the bristles off.

This was too much for the gravity of my quaker friends, though the handsome stranger appeared to enjoy it most. The old man looked up with a smile of subdued amazement, I laughed till my sides ached, the fair girl (she proved to be his grand–daughter at last) sat looking sideways at the two down–easters, and struggled to suppress her mirth, till the tears ran down her cheeks; while they interchanged a look of triumph with certain of the bystanders, and then separated one betaking himself more zealously than ever, and with the most self–satisfied air in the world, to his journeying fore and aft the deck, pretending not to know that he was a subject of admiration to every body near; while the other, as if equally satisfied with the issue, having folded his large yellow bandanna into a new shape, threw himself limb by limb over the five chairs, pretending to fall asleep again directly, in spite of the attention he received from two or three mischievous young dogs, who wanted to keep them in play.

Again the conversation was renewed between the the stranger and the old man; but in a very low voice and with a manner that indicated extraordinary interest in both; and at last I heard the latter say Thy notions are now to me, and I should be glad of a further acquaintance when we arrive at Baltimore or if thee should ever come to Philadelphia what may I call thy name?

Middleton, sir

And thy other name?

Gerard, sir Gerard Middleton; bowing with his large troubled eyes fixed upon the daughter for the first time and looking as if he would look her through, and read her very heart without being observed by me or the grandfather. I saw instantly that they had met before and yet she stood it bravely I will say that for her bravely, considering her youth and her gentleness. A mere child in years, and looking as if butter wouldn't melt in her mouth; and yet, there she sat perfectly still, and suffered him to pore into the lighted depth of her own dear eyes, without flinching or trembling or dropping the lids; and then all at once, when the trial was over, and he withdrew, partially abashed I thought from the encounter, she recollected herself, turned away, and blushed to her finger–ends. The next time



I saw her, she was very pale, and her lashes were wet with tears.

Another bell to remind us of our passage—money; and having run forward to see what the matter was, I did not immediately return; and when I did but that will do for another chapter,

## CHAPTER II.

The confusion attendant on settling for the passage having subsided, and the trouble about the machinery being pretty well over, I returned to my favorite station by the fair quakeress; where I had an opportunity of studying Middleton yet more at my leisure. He stood near me, leaning over the rail and playing with the bolt of the gangway—I spoke to him twice about the danger, and he thanked me, though he persisted nevertheless, and at one time the slightest lurch of the vessel would have precipitated him into the sea yet there he stood, watching the beautiful countenance before him, the placid mouth and the happy eyes turned up toward her *dear* old grandfather, and occasionally wandering toward mine, (though I am sure she never *saw* me after Middleton crossed her path,) whenever he appeared in a reverie, or was looking another way. I saw now that he was rather tall, and very thin; a decided southerner in his carriage, indolent, haughty and graceful somewhat swarthy too about the uncovered part of his face, with a very intellectual forehead the temples were absolutely transparent a woman's mouth, and the most effeminate-looking hands I ever saw. I never was half so much puzzled before what to make of him, I could'nt tell for a long while. His black joyful eyes and haughty lip, did'nt belong far enough north for the fine chisseling of the other features, and the singular beauty of his language. But when I discovered, as I did before we parted, that he was born of a New-England mother, remarkable for her beauty and accomplishment, and that his father was a Georgia planter, who died in a duel, which resulted in the premature birth of his only child this very youth and that after travelling in the south of Europe, he had been educated in the north for the very purpose of counteracting his fiery temper, and fortifying his brave lineage by other and better principles than he had imbibed in the south, I had a key to the whole mystery; and from that hour the heart of Gerard Middleton lay naked before me. I read it like a map.

Finding I had no business there the grand-father being fully competent for the protection of the child I bore away for the walking down-easter the man with a nose like a sword-fish, and begged him, half out breath already with no less than four attempts to bring him to before I succeeded, to have compassion on me, and tell me what the gulp! he meant by the caution he had favored me with, so early in the day. But he only walked so much the faster, evading all my questions so adroitly, and with so much ease to himself now by a swing of his coat-tail, which struck me so heavily as to satisfy me that he carried weight, like John Gilpin's nag, and that people had good reason for keeping out of his way, and now by a flourish of his enormous pocket-handkerchief, that I began to feel rather vexed with him.

In a con-siderable of a hurry jess now, said he as if he expected to arrive at Baltimore so much the sooner for every step he took, though we lay at the time

As idle as a painted ship,

Upon a painted ocean Smashin' round like a house a fire a a a, he added passing me so swiftly that I lost a part of his remark, and he the whole of my answer. And when I lay too, waiting to fire into him as he wore upon his heel or stood away upon a new tack; another and another word, accompanied by a significant gesture, reached my ear, and then away he would go again! right before the wind! wing and wing, all sails out, the ballast shifting at every roll, and talking as fast as ever, though I could'nt make out one word in forty.

No time to talk now! dont ye see where we air? right in the jaws o' the inimy; have to fight yit, I vum if we dont! no runnin' away here, rot an' tarnation seize the everlastin' steam-boats!; you seem to be a leetle ryled yourself dont wonder dod burn an' butter my hide; if you ever ketch me aboard o' steam-boat agin, that's all! I know what you want! Stan' out o' my way I'm gettin' ready for a jump

## The Down-Easters, Volume 1

A jump! what the devil do you mean?

Yis, a jump right overboard! smash! the moment I see the inimy; you may do as you like, you and the rest o' the passengers, but I'm agoin' to swim ashore hullow! look o' there! what's that-o'-comin' up there! Aint them the boats? I say, Cap'n Trip! hullow, Cap'n Trip! aint them the inimy's boats?

Captain Trip had been reconnoitering before; and arriving aft with his spy-glass, he assured us we had nothing to fear from that quarter, even if it should prove to be the boats of the enemy; as long before they could pull up with us, we should be at work under a double pressure.

Dont believe a word on't, said the Yankee no business to come out, an' I toll him so when I wanted to walk to Havre de Grace meachin' feller! never was half so mad afore ryled all over, inside and out.

Ryled?

To be sure! ryled ructious there ye go agin! right off the reel, jest as eff you never heerd o' bein ryled afore? Hullow there! I say *you*, mister! bawling away like a two-and-forty-pounder at a mulatto who was righting the baggage forward with a handspike, and trying to get some of the best of it under cover. Mind how ye jounce that air chist about! Have to pay for all ye break o' mine, I tell ye *now*! An' I say, neighbor, (turning to me) I take you for a witness. Mind what ye're at now! never seed sich a feller since I breathed the breath o' life; no sprawl in ye great slammerkin' good for nothin' there now! What did I tell ye!

One of the boxes had pitched over upon a black fellow below, who cleared himself with a spring and a howl, and began leaping about the deck with his foot in his hand, his enormous mouth as wide open as it would stretch, and the tears running down his cheeks

There now! and away bounced the Yankee to his relief; catching him up in his arms as if he had been a child, scolding him heartily all the time; and laying him out over the bales of goods, without appearing to see the strange faces that gathered about him, or to care a fig for their profound astonishment, he began pulling and hauling the leg about, now this way and now that, and wrenching the foot first one way and then another, as if he would twist it off, while the sufferer lay grinding his teeth and uttering an occasional boo-hoo! boo-hoo!

Boohoo! boohoo! cried the Yankee, who had now satisfied himself as to the state of the case. What's the use o' boo-hooin, I tell ye! Keep a stiff upper lip; no bones broke don't I know? Seventh son of a seventh son sarved ye right though aint hurt half bad enough never hearn tell o' the rain water doctor? some calls him the screw-augur doctor, an' some the steam-doctor boo-oo boo-hoo what are ye afeard on? Got the stuff till cure ye, if ye'd jammed your leg off take the bruise right out by the roots look here! whipping out a large box, with a lead-colored pigment, blue pill or opodeldoc perhaps, or perhaps the scraping of a carriage-wheel. That's the stuff for corns, I tell ye! capital too for razorstraps! addressing himself now to one and now to another of the bystanders, and either by accident or design so as to hit rather hard here and there, and raise a good-natured laugh at the expense of a little somebody with pinched feet, and a cross-looking old woman with a beard. Clear grit as ever you see! gut sech a thing as a jackknife about ye marm? to the latter, who stood stooping over the box with a most inquisitive air, eying him through her golden-bowed spectacles, and occasionally touching the contents of the box, and then smelling her fingers in a way that he did'nt appear to relish with a red-haired girl in very tight shoes on one arm, and a sleepy-looking coxcomb with mustachios on the other clear grit, I tell ye! take a notch out of a broad axe! whoa! to the nigger, who-a! there, there! best furnitoor-polish ever you come across, mam. There, there, stiddy stiddy! don't kick plastering the foot all over with his furniture-polish, and wrapping it up with a bandage of loose oakum ah, hah! begin to feel nicely aready, don't it, mister?

O, yessa massa, groaned the poor negro him peel berry moodch nicaly; tankee massa berry much boo-hoo! gorrih!

## The Down–Easters, Volume 1

Told ye so! slickest stuff ever you see, aint it mister? snatching up a rag of tarred canvass and a bunch of spun–yarn that somebody held near good for the lockjaw tried it on myself; nobody talks faster 'an I do now, do they marm? fuss chop too for yellor–fever, an moths, and lip–salve, an bed–bugs try a leetle on't, mister, (to the youth in moustachios) or maybe you'd like a box or yer own some call it a new sort o' tooth paste with more varter in't than nineteen sea hosses; only a quarter dollar a box at retail, or two dollars a dozen box in all, and take your pay in most any thing marm, (to the red haired girl) boxes worth half the money, and more too, marm take 'em back at double price, if you aint satisfied, if I ever come across you agin sell ye the privilege right out for any o' the states, so't your son there could make his fortin' by sellin' it for bears–greese; don't kick, I tell ye! to tho nigger sartain cure for the itch help yourself, mister why if you'll believe me, but I know you wunt, I've seen it cure a whole neighborhood so privately, they did'nt know it themselves chincough striped–fever and back–bitin' to boot, only by rubbin' it over the minister's wig mortal fine stuff for the hair! turns it all manner o' colors there! letting the limb go and lifting the poor man up with a bandage on it about as big as a moderate–sized pillow see there! enough's enough, I tell ye boo–hoo boo–hoo! If yer don't stop your blartin' an' boo–hooin, you'll take cold inside, and that'll take all the varter out o' the greese and then, arter that's done, I defy yer to stop I call it greese; but its no more greese than you air, (to a very fat man who had been laughing at all the others in succession it was their turn now) an' what's more (to the nigger) your foot 'll turn all the colors of a peacocks'–tail.

How would it *answer* in a case of yellow fever? enquired the fat man.

Not knowin' cant say suppose you try it with a question or two yourself? But I've known it tried out an' out with the *slow* fever?

On a four–wheeled one–horse dearbon, hey? said somebody near me. Ah, and what's more, on a fever an' ager; and it cured 'em both afore five o'clock, an' gut all cleared away by supper time.

And ready for another, hey? continued the same voice.

Here the poor negro began to hobble off, saying as he moved away Tanka massa, tanka berry mush.

I say tho', mister, cried the Yankee, calling after him might ask what's to pay; or buy a box o' the hair–powder that's the least you can do.

Why lor a bressa massa; massa so good, he neber tink o' takin' notin' o' poor nigger, hey?

Try me.

*I sholl dat!* cried the poor fellow, beginning to whistle, possum up a gum tree ope he go! ope he go! with one hand foraging at will in the pockets of his old tarred trowsers, and the other, perhaps out of sheer sympathy, sprawling about in the matted wool over–head, the fingering whereof by a nigger implies great inward perplexity.

Meanwhile the down–easter had got under way again; giving me a nod as he went by, to make chase. But I had satisfied myself on that point before his long legs were altogether too much for me; and my only chance appeared to lie in raking him as he yawed, or waylaying him on a return passage. O, that you could see him! his newly–paved boots falling on the deck at every step like a machine driving piles, or a beetle shod with sole–leather; and his pockets rattling as he drove by, hitting first one person and then another, like a newly–freighted waggon finding its way downhill backwards without a driver.

All in good part! said he, talking faster than ever mortal talked before, with the wind right in his teeth, so that I lost three words out of four, and had to guess at the fourth. Forgit and forgive, that's my way, which if you dont git swapped out o' somthin' hansum I miss my guess, that's all! can't you see! wears a putty clever coat to be sure;

## The Down–Easters, Volume 1

but when ye git a chance, jest take a peep into the in'ards or that air umberill o' his'n with a cloth over it why its nothin' in this world but a frame o' sticks 'at he swapped for at French–town been whipped into hoss hair long ago, if it had'nt been kept for a trade. But he knows how the cat jumps, I tell ye cute as nutmeg brought up on ten–penny nails, pynted at both eends; why that air hat o' his'n 't you see there, with a new hat–case, bran fire new, see how he keeps muchin' it whenever you look that way; why that's nothin' arter all but an old three quarter dollar swap, with the wool off, an' more spots on the brim than you could try out in half a year

No!

As true as you're alive or shake a stick at between now an' everlastin'.

Pray tell me, said I, as he hove in sight again, what I have to fear from that ah he was already out of hearing.

Why as to that question, said he, some five minutes after, when we happened to cross one another's route within speaking distance; my old granfather, he said to me, says he, more 'n forty years ago here he made a full stop for a moment with his eye upon two other negroes who were at work with the baggage, and then sweeping by me as before, I lost the remainder of his reply; and the next words that reached me were, don't want yer money; only did it to try yer not knowin' cant say never thought much o' Jedediah do you chaw?

I stared and was about to answer, but I was too late. He had gone by, with the poor old negro halting after him and holding out a handful of change. We were under way once more, and there was a great bustle midships and I felt the breeze blowing fresh and heard the sail run up with a pleasure that I wondered at. If I had been becalmed for a month on a voyage to Europe I could not have enjoyed the motion of the vessel more springing forward with new life and a preternatural vigor, as the sea roughened with the evening breeze and gradually darkened about our path, over which the white foam poured with a deluge of lustre from our wheels and prow.

I had lost myself entirely again, and was wandering away I know not where over the dim blue waters; among the bright isles of the sea far, far away, when I was brought suddenly to my senses by a familiar slap on the back. My teeth rattled again at the salutation. It was the down–easter. I say, give us a nip o' that air snuff o' yourn, 't I see ye have, down below there, will ye? said he, rounding to as he finished, and resting on his heel for a moment like a fine ship that has been struck by a flaw in the midst of a capital manoeuvre. Putty good o' the sort, hey, what there is o'nt an' enough on't too, such as it is; what d'ye give a bladder?

A *bladder!* Oh ah I understand you now; I dont buy it by the bladder;

O, you don't, do ye? how then?

By the box.

By the box! you don't say so!

But I do say so.

Oh ah whoolsale? Comes cheaper when you lay it in by the box, hey? Pulling out a piece of ragged brown–paper from his coat pocket a store house of odds and ends, of slops and fragments, blackball and wafer–boxes, with a bunch of twine, a gimlet or two, and a leather strap; and having spread the paper in the palm of his hand, he began helping himself pinch after pinch, till he had nearly emptied the box and filled the paper; when seeing what he took for a beetle or a cockroach at the bottom, he dropped the last pinch as if he had burnt his fingers, and cried out lord a massy! what *is* it!

## The Down–Easters, Volume 1

*Where! where!* cried two or three persons near me, all speaking together, and looking toward the quarter where the British were expected. No wonder they were half frightened out of their wits; I should have been frightened too, had I not perceived the cause of his consternation, as he stood pointing at the box, and making the most horrible faces.

O that's a bean, said I.

You dont say so! what's it good for?

To scent the snuff.

Why how ye talk! pulling it slowly out with his forefinger and thumb, and feeling it cautiously Would'nt a cockroach do? The man evidently had his misgivings, and like a true down–easter, was trying to turn it off with a little over–acting; and then after eyeing it awhile at arm's length, so as to make every body that stood near doubt whether he was not pretending ignorance, he began to rub it slowly and cautiously over the tip–end of his tremendous nose I never did see such a nose! that's a fact it was about the color and very much the size of a long–necked winter–squash the more I saw of it the more I was troubled, and I saw more and more of it every time I looked that way no, no, I never did see such a nose! and then, having smelt it, he gave it a bite with his fore teeth I'm not speaking of the nose now heaven forbid! that belongs to another paragraph and then before I could possibly interfere, with his grinders; my attention being diverted at the time by a half–smothered girlish giggle. On turning my head, I found all eyes upon him, as he stood there making mouths at the bean, preparatory to trying the flavor in the way mentioned above. I was ready to burst with laughter and vexation, till I saw that *she* understood the matter properly; though I was not altogether satisfied I confess, when I turned that way and saw her thinking of the stranger with the passionate lip and the imperious eye. That she was thinking of him I knew the moment I saw her face; and *she* knew that I knew it; for she never lifted her eyes to mine afterwards, but sat there trembling, with one snowy hand lying *so* quietly in her lap, and the other stretched out toward me *so* helplessly, that I longed to take it into mine with the clasp of a brother of an elder not a younger brother and say to her: be of good cheer maiden! I will never betray thee! But how could I? It was not yet dark; and we were not alone; and perhaps if I had for such things have been perhaps I might have had my ears boxed for my sympathy, or a small sword flourished athwart my eyes, brother or no brother, some cold frosty morning. It makes my teeth chatter to think of it.

### CHAPTER III.

Having tasted the bean, chawed it, and smelt of it inside and out, the down–easter shook his head, and spitting once or twice with the air of a man who has heard of the *biter bit*, and feels rather perplexed on the whole, take it by–and–large, was about returning the bean to the box; and would have done so I am sure, had I not turned away in a hurry, snapped the lid with a decided emphasis, and begged him to keep it to scent the snuff with which he had in the paper.

Wal, said he, not at all embarrassed by the proposition or the look I favored him with Wal! seein' 'ts you, I dont care 'f I do for between you' an' me an' the post, I've taken a sort of a likin' to *you* rather a sorter than a sorter not I vow if I haint! and that's a slum–fac (a solemn fact I believe he meant a favorite phrase with him); for I guess you're a putty clever sort of a feller *notwithstandin'* rather equivocal thought I, as he proceeded. What d'ye have to pay for sech beans as them, hey? Where d'ye git 'em? What do they cost? How do ye lay 'em in by weight or measure?

By tale, said I.

Oh laying his finger along the side of his nose and trying to look arch at the old quaker.

## The Down-Easters, Volume 1

They are worth sixpence a piece, I added.

You don't say so! sixpence a piece! beats all nater! By jingo, if I dont plant this, right away do ye think 'till mind a scratch or two like that? showing me the marks of his fore teeth, and rubbing the bean with his cuff did'nt go more 'n half way to the heart sixpence a piece! York money though?

No Massachusetts New England Virginia currency.

Wal, *if* ever! May be you've got some to sell? rather guess ye have?

No.

Like to buy, may be? What'll ye give a thousand *cash*?

A thousand! why bless your heart, I

Or truck out o' the store at cash prices *hullow!*

We were interrupted by a great noise, and a cry of, *look out below there!* and the next moment a couple of long chests painted sky-blue, and flowered off in great style with a border of brimstone-yellow, pitched headlong from the very tip-top of the luggage; and the end of one being stove, and the top flying off, the deck was instantly littered with all sorts of down-east travelling haberdashery half a bushel of dried apples on strings, a quantity of blue-and-white woollen yarn, with sundry articles of clothing, which had seen their best days long and long before, a heap of dough-nuts, a new bridle, part of a sage-cheese, three or four nests of sugar-boxes, a wooden clock-face and a pair of spurs with enormous rowels, were among the articles I remember.

There now! cried my companion, you've jess done it! I told you so did'nt I mister? (turning to me for proof) did'nt I tell you so, when that are gentleman was a cypherin' about there with the wooden crow-bar, among all them air chists and boxes?

The gentleman he alluded to was the steward; a handsome, well-behaved, well-dressed mulatto.

Never you mind tho'; I'll make him pay for it; or Cap'n Trip shall make the damage good afore I leave the vessel I'm goin' right away to Washintin', and its wuth five dollars a day to me, every day 't I lose

A representative perhaps?

A representatyve? oh no! somethin' more'n that comes too, I ruther guess

But you've paid your passage, I believe

So I have, by jingo! What a fool I was to be sure! but never you mind though law is law and I'll have my money's worth out o' Cap'n Trip afore I've done with him you'll be an evidence for me, wunt ye? Do as much for you any time ye will now, wunt ye? say whether ye will or no; if ye don't, I'll have ye summoned right away, and here's your money all ready for ye, slapping his pockets for travelling fees an' tendance. Burn my buttons if I don't fix 'em! Cap'n Trip! I say Cap'n Trip!

And here, without paying the least attention to the trumpety that lay exposed upon the deck to every body's observation, off he started after the captain, calling upon me by name and all the others in the lump, to bear witness that he had abandoned for a total loss, and vowing he would'nt go nigh the chist *nor touch to*, till he'd come to a fair understanding with Captain Trip.

Here a grave-looking little personage who stood in his way, and whom I had seen prompting him a moment before, took the liberty to follow the yankee a few steps, when the latter turned upon him with a look of dismay, and stood staring over his head at me, while the other went on with a sort of law-lecture about general-average, common-carriers, bailment, &c. &c. till the down-easter begun to grow rather shy of him, and buttoned up his coat, and tucked away his watch-chain, and crammed both hands into his pockets. Perhaps he took him for a lawyer but why conceal his watch-chain? why screw up his mouth, and look about him, as if he expected to lose a tooth or two by sleight of hand?

No sooner had he left me, than I stole up to the seat I had previously occupied, with a determination to make sure of it for the remainder of the passage, when, lo! I found another in possession; a little dapper Bostonian, who kept a store as they call it, where every shop is a *store*, every stick a *pole*, every stone a *rock*, every stall a *factory*, and every goose a *swan*, sold tape which he imported on his own account, dabbled in literature, puffed poetry for the North-American-Review, and the North-American-Review for the newspapers; at his elbow was another, an educated and travelled Yankee cold, supercilious and stiff standing like the statue of man before the loveliest of God's creatures, and talking like a book, even to his washerwoman. I could not help observing them both; for each was a fair specimen of what are called the *talented* and *gifted* of their several classes. Both avoided the brave old English word *guess*, even where no other would serve their purpose trying thereby to conceal their lineage, and substituting for it, all sorts of awkward and silly circumlocution, like most of our countrymen who have heard that to *guess* betrays the Yankee, or at least the New-Englander: and so it does, where they make use of it to express absolute certainty, that is indeed characteristic of a New-Englander. He will say, when the thermometer is five degrees below zero Wal, I guess this is putty cole weather; and if you ask him if that house yonder belongs to him, he will answer Wal, I rather guess it dooze. But in forty-nine cases out of fifty, the rudest Yankee will employ the word guess after the manner of the best old English authors; while the educated Yankee and the Southerner, will resort to such absurd and bastard phraseology as the following to prove they are not Yankees, forsooth! I take it; I presume; I conjecture; I fancy; I imagine; I believe; I anticipate; I contemplate; I reckon; I calculate, &c. &c. betraying the former shibboleth nevertheless, even where most careful about *hadn't ought* and *legis'-latoore*, *dooze* and *Fellydelphy*, by talking through the nose in jets, by whimpering at the end of a long sentence, and by saying *I want you should go with me*, or some other pre-eminent Yankeeism, while counterfeiting the manners and speech of the South, and affecting to pity his New-England brethern for their strongly-marked and hopeless barbarism of language and behavior there! that'll do for the present.

By and by, the former went so far as to signify that he made his own poetry; and being sorely persuaded by a mischievous girl who had joined the group, and by the little creature who had so interested me zounds! what a mystery your innocent women are! They may do just what they like, with absolute impunity! he was obliging enough to recite a copy of verses, with a low sweet musical cadence, which went to the heart of all the women that heard it. Having somehow or other forgotten a word, he thought proper to refer to a common-place book he had with him, lettered ORIGINAL POETRY on both sides, in large handsome letters on opening it, I read the title of the piece, 'written by himself,' and surely never was title more appropriate, and somebody at my elbow appeared to think so too, for he read it aloud with an emphasis that proved to be irresistible 'Lines *beneath* a nosegay'

The little rogue took the idea, and laughed heartily before she had time to turn away her face, or to stuff a handkerchief into her mouth; and I what shall I say? I who had already begun to think her eyes not more than half so blue as they were when we first came aboard and sat together looking into the deep still mirror below; her stature to say the *least* of it, rather diminutive; her mouth somewhat large, though I *do* love a generous mouth, and her *unspeakable* taciturnity, the best proof she had given or could give of her good sense I who had begun to think thus of her, became instantaneously converted to a contrary belief, by the sudden burst of girlish hilarity, the ringing joyousness, and what I should call the *unexpectedness* of her laugh. Her eyes were bluer than ever her mouth perfect her good sense altogether wonderful and her shape that of the winged women I had courted in my youth. Ah ha! said I to myself, as she laughed all over I am sure she did, "for it went a-rippling to my finger-ends" who is there with courage to deny to that girl an exquisite perception of truth and humour, and a

strong sense of the ridiculous?

But of whose truth and humour? I looked up to see for myself; and there stood another Yankee as I live! close at her elbow and looking over her shoulder, with all the ease of an old acquaintance. And what was harder for me to put up with she did not appear to observe him. Oh Pharaoh! Pharaoh! thought I, if they had only thought of trying thee with New-Englanders! In the course of a short conversation that followed, I found his name was Gage, and that he and Middleton were old acquaintances; though I had an idea from the angry flashing of Middleton's eyes, that he did not half like the strange familiarity, the perfect self-possession, and the steady quiet voice of Gage. But as for me, I was delighted with him. He was evidently a New-Englander of the right sort; a full-blooded, old-fashioned Yankee; and from the moment I heard him read over the title of the verses from the book, 'Lines *beneath* a nosegay,' I was determined to know more of him. No change, nor shadow of change was there in look or tone, voice or feature; but a something so self-assured at the time, so easy and so natural, that for your life, you could not be angry, though he treated you from the first moment you saw him, as if he had been acquainted with you all your life long. He would say the severest things! but always with such a pleasant eye no bitterness no affected archness no assumed gravity was there; nothing of that manner which betrays a professional wit, who having raised a laugh, or let a pun, draws out his pocket-handkerchief with a long sober flourish and wipes his mouth, or turns on his heel and walks away, as if he attached no sort of value to his very best things, and might, if he would take the trouble, do a thousand times better.

He could reason too, and that with extraordinary power; and in the course of the day and evening we were together, he impressed me with a very exalted opinion of his moral courage. Perhaps an example or two may give the reader a better idea of him, and though it may appear to delay the story, it will serve to abridge it in the long run, by substituting fact for description the man himself, heartily engaged in a favorite cause, for a picture of him or many pictures of him, wanting that essential feature of individuality *speech*.

Take an example

Not long after this I found him occupied with the venerable old quaker in a discussion that interested me, and appeared to interest others, exceedingly. It was about war.

But thee will agree with me friend Gage, said the old man, that if two neighbors, having a dispute, if thee will, about the boundary of their respective gardens, or some privilege common to both, were to spend their time shooting at one another through the fence, or setting fire to each other's houses, or carrying off each other's children, and holding them as prisoners of war and hostages, only to be given up at the end of the quarrel if they did this, instead of referring the disputed question to a neighbor, they would only be acting as nations do, when they go to war about a patch of territory, hardly worth having at all, and *never* worth the sacrifice of one human creature *never!*

And then, after a short pause and a benevolent smile, as he sat smoothing down the soft silky hair of his grand-daughter, whose bonnet had slipped off without being perceived by herself. *Perhaps* thee will agree too, that for such neighbors to talk about honor, or dignity, or justice, while they are trying to murder one another, would be looked upon, though there were no *law* to appeal to, as a great folly and a great wickedness?

Certainly, sir, said Gage. And I would go further, much further. I would say that in perhaps ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, if individuals were to act as nations do in going to war, they would be hunted to death by common consent, even among savages.

Grandfather, said the girl, in a low timid whisper and then she stopped and seeing Middleton's eyes fixed upon her, with a look that instantly disappeared, faltered out something relative to the New Zealanders, adding that it went far to prove what friend Gage had been saying.



## The Down–Easters, Volume 1

*Friend Gage*, to be sure! and said without any visible trepidation, with no drooping of the eye–lids, nor quivering of the under–lip and yet, I had reason to believe that he was a perfect stranger to her. To tell the truth, I didn't half like her manner in this behalf, as a lawyer would say; and as for Middleton, I could perceive that he was no better pleased than my self. But when she addressed him also as a friend *friend* Middleton, it appeared to alter the case. He stared first, and then bowed, and then blushed, and then looked another way.

Yes, continued Gage, and if they were to employ other people, as the war–makers do, instead of risking their own lives and property; or go to war with one another merely for the sake of employing their supernumeraries, grumblers, hangers–on, I am very sure that even among the New Zealanders, a price would soon be put upon their heads; for if you recollect m'am bowing reverentially to the fair creature before him

Elizabeth, friend Gage Elizabeth Hale, that's her name, said her grandfather, before he had finished the bow

Elizabeth Hale whispered Middleton I could just hear the sound as he breathed it forth, just see the motion of his lips; his pale face all of a glow, and the tone so modulated, perhaps by accident, as to change a question into an apostrophe Elizabeth Hale? into Elizabeth! Hail!

But, continued Gage, as soon as he had recovered from the bow I would not be understood to mean that is to say there *are* cases I believe there *may be* cases, I should say don't you think so Miss Hale? wandering, by Jupiter! (getting more courage and more breath as he proceeded, and showing that even he could be disconcerted by a pair of fine child–like eyes to the astonishment of myself and the great joy of Middleton) there *are* cases where, in short, a a a where even war would be justifiable, not *for* the sacrifice, but to avoid the sacrifice of human life.

*Thou shalt not kill*, whispered the fair Elizabeth; and then she turned away, as if unwilling to be led into a controversy, and half ashamed of herself and sorry for having said so much; and I began to feel, as I saw her studying the deep sea once more, that I should forgive her soon, for not having appeared to enjoy one of my very sensible observations in the first part of our voyage.

But we are not to understand such things literally are we sir? continued Gage, addressing himself to the grandfather, who appeared to triumph in her application of scripture. If so, we are to kill nothing nothing not even the beast of prey, the serpent, or the mad dog.

*Thou shalt do no murder*, friend Gage Nehemiah Gage, I think thee said?

Yes; *Nehemiah* Elizabeth turned her face toward Middleton, as much as to say Thine's the prettier name by far; and Middleton bit his under lip, as much as to say I'm sure he thought so a very sensible observation Miss Elizabeth! what if they had tried to christen me Nehemiah? they'd 'a had a pretty time of it, don't you think so? And Gage continued But if *killing* a fellow–creature is the *murder* meant there, what becomes of the right of self–defence?

I find nothing said about the right of self–defence in the Book of Life, my young friend: we are commanded to love our enemies, continued the grand–father, in a tone that would have stopped that controversy or any other, ashore.

And our *neighbour* as ourself, added somebody in a low whisper at my elbow. It was Middleton talking to himself; and I saw the color come and go over the beautiful neck before me, and wander about in flashes underneath the delicate gauze, like the soft glow you see toward sunset in the month of September when the large white flowers of the wilderness and the solitude are blowing in the mist and warmth of our Indian–summer the sweet–scented waterlilies, if they would only blow in that month when every thing is unsteadied in the atmosphere. I was completely bewildered. Perhaps the reader may be so too?

And moreover, continued the grandfather, we are commanded to do as we would be done by.

Worthy of all acceptation! cried Gage, looking at the innocent mouth before him as if ready to follow the command to the very letter Middleton's eyes flashed fire! And I saw, or thought I saw, the shadow of a projected under lip over the sarsnet–lining of her little straw–bonnet, as that mouth turned away.

Fearing he had gone too far perhaps, Gage continued in a different tone, as if with a view to conciliate both. It cannot be sir, that you and others who are willing to live under a government of laws, where the guilty are punished and the virtuous protected *by law* it cannot be that you receive these and other like passages literally?

And why not, I pray thee? How are we to understand them otherwise on what authority? The language is clear very clear so clear as to need no interpretation; so clear as to be incapable of interpretation.

Yet we do, and we must continue to understand them otherwise. For if *literally*, my dear sir, we are to take no heed for the morrow, and to leave the support of a family to chance; if *literally*, we are to do as we would be done by if, when smitten upon one cheek, we are *literally* to turn the other; and if *literally*, when a man sueth us at law, and taketh away our coat, we are to let him have our cloaks also if we are to receive all these commands *literally*, what would become of us? Why have we any laws upon earth, or any government? Why any laws upon earth, or any government? Why any fastening to our doors, or locks in our houses? Why not spend all that we have in rewarding the robber and the ravisher, the house–breaker and the midnightmurderer? No sir! one of these two things we must do, whether christians or not believers or not whether friends or presbyterians, methodists or catholics we must either take these and other like doctrines in a limited and qualified sense, even as all Christians *do, in practice*, and all that make war in any manner or contribute in any manner to the making of war, under *any provocation*; Or we must give up the security of law, have done with all government, from the highest to the lowest, and all the appendages thereto raze all our public–prisons, even to our penitentiaries and bettering–houses, and lunatic hospitals to their very foundations; let loose all the unhappy creatures that inhabit them *for our security* lay bare all our treasures

Middleton began to breath fiercely here, and the fair Elizabeth to look alarmed, sitting with her lips apart and her eager eyes rivetted on Gage, who continued with great energy.

Lay bare all our treasures throw open all our doors and leave our daughters and our wives to the spoiler!

Friend Gage! Nehemiah Gage! said the grand–father, with a look of amazement.

I am perfectly serious, added Gage.

I believe thee, and am sorry for it, answered the grandfather; and when I looked at the fair Elizabeth, she was pale as death, and her eyes were full of strange sorrow.

But Gage persevered, and as for me, I was wicked enough to enjoy the idea of his forfeiting the favor of both.

*Perfectly*, my dear sir. I see no other alternative. He who contends for the literal interpretation of those passages, must do so upon the ground that all human means of protection are prohibited; that self–defence, not being *mentioned* in scripture, is therefore unauthorised; that under all circumstances, and everywhere, the Believer has nothing to do for himself; for what is law, *any law*, for the protection of property, life or character, but the right of self–defence delegated?

The old man shook his reverend locks, and poor Elizabeth breathed only at long intervals; but when she did breathe, her eyes were upon Gage there is no denying it with an expression of deep interest. I began to feel angry with her .

## The Down–Easters, Volume 1

In which case continued he, standing more upright and warming with the subject I hold it sir, to be no more inconsistent for a christian, who contends for the *literal* meaning of those passages, to go to *war*, than to go to *law*.

Grandfather would agree with the there! said Elizabeth, interrupting him with an eager smile, and a sigh that I couldn't help referring to another.

Gage put forth his hand upon her arm *so* unconsciously, that she forgot to observe it; adding as he did so, with an air that astonished me it was that of a high–bred handsome fellow, confident of his power and sure of being well received by a woman, say what he would, or do what he would; for this neither Middleton nor I was prepared, I am obliged to you, said he; but I have not finished. And I hold sir, that it would be no more inconsistent for the believer to go to *war*, than for any body who adheres to the literal interpretation of these passages, to fasten his door o' nights, or to have a lock–and–key under his roof.

But, my young friend, urged the grandfather if we were *all* consistent, and *always* consistent, there would be no need of bolts and bars, nor locks and keys nor even of laws. And it is not for thee and me to do wrong because others do so; or to be inconsistent because others are so.

There was a clencher! and I could perceive that it was so intended, and so understood, by all parties. Another might have been abashed or puzzled; but our Yankee appeared to enjoy the idea of hearing a new argument to answer. My dear sir, said he, we do not understand each other. What I complain of is that all *are* inconsistent; and they, more than all others, who receiving these passages *literally*, go to law, or lock up their money, or *under any circumstances apply to the law for protection*.

But *we* never do go to law, said the grandfather.

Excuse me sir. You never go to law among yourselves. Yet you go to law with others; and the stricteth of your faith would not scruple to apply to a magistrate for protection against any body that he seriously feared, or any one who threatened to destroy his property or injure his person.

Very true and that is what thee calls inconsistency hey?

Yes. And I go further. I say that if you were *consistent*, instead of being what you are, *inconsistent*, there would be a stop to the whole business of life among you. Society would be overrun with outlaws, robbers and ravishers. Is it a sure mode of making others honest, for a man to fall asleep in the highway or the market–place, with his gold lying about him in heaps? or the best way of making others peaceable, for a man to go with his hands tied behind him, among ruffians particularly if he assures them before hand that he is worth an experiment, by assuring them before hand that they have nothing to fear. Constituted as the world now is, he who forbears to protect his own life, either by applying to the law, or by making use of the bodily power he may be endowed with, appears to me, sir, to be a very presumptuous man. He crowds temptation in the way of those who are least able to withstand it, and then, having done this, he relies on a *miracle* for safety. Nay more, he tempts Jehovah why not cast himself down headlong from the pinnacle of the temple, in his presumptuous confidence?

The sweet girl grew very uneasy here; and I saw her thoughts wandering visibly between the eloquent northerner, and the silent southerner who stood aloof with his haughty lip contradicting his lighted eyes; a gathered and concentrated power about the mouth, dashed with a something scornful; a loftier and a more glorious look above, as though he felt himself carried away by the generous language, and high bearing of the man before him spite of a constitutional antipathy and a something more, which nobody understood better than the fair Elizabeth, who instead of being offended by the familiar manner of Gage, appeared to be pleased with it or not to observe it, where to a southerner it seemed worthy of immediate and special reproof.

Talk of consistency sir! continued Gage, stepping out from the circle and throwing a hurried glance round the whole company, as if he had another and a higher object in view, than the refutation of the old grandfather, his pale cheek reddening with concealed fire and his grey eyes dilating with extraordinary brightness for a man of the north. Talk of consistency sir! If our Father above were *consistent*, according to such notions of consistency, he would love his bitterest enemies most, and he would treat those best who behaved worst and so would the Savior of men!

And is it not so said Gerard Middleton; do we not find it so? stepping quietly forth, and urging what he had to say with a voice that thrilled through and through me so earnest and so musical was it and so eloquent with subdued emotion. What are all the blessings we receive, all that we enjoy upon earth health, strength and intellectual power opportunity for doing good *equally* distributed every where and at all times, without regard to our *unequal* merits? Nay sir What is the parable of the prodigal son? What the illustration that goes with it, showing that there is more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner that repenteth I have a bad memory for language sir What are all these things but the recorded interpretation of our Father's will? the everlasting order of his works on earth?

Having said this, he fell back as if astonished at himself and more than half sorry for having been so betrayed in such a place and in such company and his lips quivered, and I could see that his hand trembled violently.

Gage looked up with a glow of surprize and joy overspreading his intelligent face, and putting forth his arm, he would have taken Middleton's hand, as it lay palpitating over the top of a chair; but Middleton withdrew it, and Gage instead of knocking him down

smiled, not bitterly nor insultingly neither, but pleasantly, as if he understood every pulsation of the youthful and imperious heart before him.

Magnificently urged! cried he. And yet, if all were to understand these things as you do, would there not be encouragement for the transgressor, and discouragement for the obedient and faithful? encouragement for *transgression*, I should say?

My young friend Gerard Middleton I must know more of thee, said the old man, seeing him about to reply; and of thee also, Nehemiah Gage for I am satisfied (with a smile) I am *satisfied* that in thee, our people have a dangerous adversary. I have heard of thee before. Not contented with abandoning the faith committed to thee by our fathers', I am afraid (smiling benevolently upon him and upon Middleton, as he proceeded) thou hast profited a *little* to our disadvantage by thy long familiarity with our opinions?

Gage colored. And Elizabeth poor Elizabeth she looked as if the Arch–Apostate himself had appeared to her bodily.

Nevertheless, continued the grandfather, I cannot deny that thee has a very ingenious plausible way with thee, Ne–he–miah. I am not convinced to be sure; and between ourselves I dont much think thee would wish me to be convinced thee would rather have such a controversy continue; would thee not, Nehemiah?

Gage laughed, but assured him he was greatly mistaken.

Well, well I dare say so. Thee is not the first that has convinced himself in failing to convince others; but before we leave the subject, there is one passage I would refer thee to, and leave thee to examine it for thyself, at thy own leisure. I allude to that, where Simon Peter having a sword, drew it and smote a servant of the High–Priest and cut off his ear. Whereupon he was commanded to put up his sword; for said he, who spake as never, never man spake, all they that take the sword shall perish by the sword.

One moment if you please! cried Gage, seeing the old man draw the hand of Elizabeth through his arm, and pull her bonnet over her forehead as if about to leave us. I am as unwilling as you to continue the subject *here* (with a decided emphasis, and a flutter that betrayed the hope he entertained); but as I may never have another opportunity

The devil take your impudence! thought I. Now there is Middleton, who would give his little finger for another *opportunity* as you call it; and here am I, a personage not very easily disconcerted yet neither could have said as much, in that way, if our lives had depended upon it.

*Never* continued he much as I may desire it, And some how or other, even I could perceive as well as the fair Elizabeth, whose blue eyes trembled in their own lustre when he looked at her, a something very mournful and sweet in his altered voice *touching* I would say, but for the fellow's breadth of shoulders, high clear forehead, compressed mouth and perfect self possession Allow me to ask you whether you receive *that* passage literally?

The old man hesitated.

In point of fact, I would ask you sir if *all* who take the sword *all* sir, do perish by the sword?

By the sword of the spirit *perhaps*, if not by the sword of the flesh.

Ah! then you give up the literal meaning! Now, without referring to the passage where the Saviour commands every man who hath not a sword to sell his garment and buy one I too have a bad memory for language sir, glancing at Middleton and without relying upon the circumstance that he never reproaches a centurion for following the trade of war; I should argue from the very passage you have cited, that one of these things *must* be true. Either the Savior of Men did not teach the doctrine of nonresistance to evil as *you* understand it; or I pray you to consider the alternative: *Or*, he did not teach it clearly and explicitly, and to *all*: in other words, my dear sir, that his immediate followers and constant companions did not so understand it as you understand it: *Or* and here again I beseech you to consider the alternative *or*, that they were guilty of the most unpardonable outrage toward him, at the very moment when all his teachings, and promptings and sufferings were about to be consummated forever! one of his followers an *apostle*, not only *having* a sword, but *wearing* it into his very presence; and wearing it too unrebuked of the others! up to the very moment when he drew it before the face of his Lord–and–Master, the Prince of Peace, and smote off the ear of his enemy! To judge of this argument as I do think it deserves, let me ask you sir, what would be thought by your brethren, if a follower of George Fox were to go armed into the midst of them on a yearly–meeting day? Yet sir if the Savior taught the same doctrines, and taught them as clearly as George Fox did, Simon Peter offered a greater affront by far to *his* teacher and to *his* brethren!

A dead silence followed nobody moved nor spoke, till the fair Elizabeth murmured out something, which led her grandfather to observe, as he looked hurriedly and anxiously, now at Gage and now at Middleton *We are commanded to love one another.*

Yes, echoed another and a nearer voice, trembling with timidity and issuing in a low sweet murmur *Yes! We are commanded to love one another!*

Would you believe it! her eyes her dove–like eyes instead of wandering from Gage to Middleton and from Middleton to me when she said this, were *fixed* upon Middleton!

The fervid young Southerner was completely overpowered. He stood before her, like a child, speechless and motionless; I have no doubt, with a dreadful sinking of the heart, and a terrible ringing in the ears. How I pitied him! But I pitied Gage more. Both are dead in love with her, said a stranger at my elbow and I'm ditto!

## CHAPTER IV.

On shifting my quarters and going farther forward, where I might pursue the train of thought conjured up by the lively picture of society I had just left, I found myself in the company of another stranger, evidently from the south perhaps from Baltimore, as he was remarkably well–dressed, rather sallow, and given to calling unmarried females, whatever might be their age, *Miss* hit or miss, I should say, though if I were a woman of a certain age, like Hannah Moore, Joanna Bailie or Elizabeth any body, I think I should rather be *hit* any how, than *missed* in that way; at the south, it is regarded as *peculiar* to the north, as downright a vulgarism, to say *ma'am* to the unmarried, as to talk about a *dish* of tea, though both, instead of yankee are English modes of speech. Before five minutes were over, that which was only conjecture at first, became certainty; for the individual in question while talking with me about the curiosities of our northern speech, had the misfortune to say in'–quiry, deciss'ive, adver'tiss, and dif–fic'–ult. We were interrupted by the Down–Easter with a figurehead to his face, talking to another. Why then, to the best o' my belief, said he, the tor'–mented critter! he's a sort of a travellin' missionary goin' about to an' fro in the airth seekin' what he may devour ho ho ho!

I started and turned to see whom he had in view and whether it was really and truly a laugh or only a dry cough; but I did not succeed in satisfying myself, and to this day I continue in doubt. He had never laughed before to my knowledge nor do I believe that he has ever laughed since like other people.

No great shakes tho' arter all, continued he, sitting on the windlass, talking apparently to himself, with a long nine in his mouth, and swinging his legs, somewhere between 225° and 280° on the average, for ten minutes together; lives by swappin' watches and *so–forths*, six days o' the week, an' preachin' at the halves, or maybe for his board an' hoss–keep a' sabba–days.

Preaching at the halves how's that? said the southerner.

Why dont you know? in partnership for what's taken up arter the sarmon's over; sometimes they go snacks, an' sometimes they sell out aforehand for so much over an' above thir reglar wages.

How? *snacks* hey? I don't understand you I never heard of this before.

I *want* to know! exclaimed the other down–easter.

Well you *do* know, replied the southerner, in perfect good faith, mistaking a northern exclamation for a formal interrogatory.

Why, continued the down–Easter there's them that preaches yer see and then there's them that rides about an' drums up the congregation poor business though, now I can tell ye quite spylt for the reg'lar trader so many pious young men about now that has their expenses paid, so 't they are able to under–preach the rest of us; there's some on 'em gits a dollar a day an' found; when if they was obleege to work honestly for a livin' they wouldn't airn the salt to their porridge

Let alone their porridge! said the Baltimorian.

Well well I've no objection to that nyther, answered the down–easter, also in perfect good faith and simplicity, mistaking a southern idiom, for a gentle reproof.

Here a most obstreperous peal of laughter broke forth, from a tall, showy, handsome, savage looking–fellow, whom I had not observed before. Who is he what's he laughin' at? sees somethin' over–board, I ruther guess, dont you? wonder where he was brung up, to have no more manners than that comes to? continued the latter of

## The Down–Easters, Volume 1

the down–easters, tacking question to question by the score, without waiting for a single answer. Taint half an hour ago 't I heard him talk about *growin'* potatoes an' *makin'* corn, an' raisin' niggers guess he was pokin' fun at somebody; an' then I should like to know (in a whisper) what upon irth he means by hog–an–omminy, an' hoe cakes, an' pone bread, an' mud–larks that's made into Virginny–ham. I'll be driv right in eend, if I can see through that.

Before I had time to reply, my friend with the nose, rounded to and bore away on another tack, propounding so many questions without appearing to see me or any body else, or to care a fig about being answered talking to himself as it were in a loud earnest voice that I determined to have a pull at the game he was putting up, on my own account, or perhaps I had better say, on my own `account and *risk*; ' for there is no little risk in *setting* a down–Easter.

If I am not much deceived, said I you are a New–Englander; are you not?

Me! What makes you think so?

That's enough I am satisfied now.

Satisfied? who with? yourself or me?

Perfectly satisfied best *answer* I ever heard in my life; a great deal better than yes or no; for it amounts to proof proof *positive* that you are of those that always answer a question by asking another.

Why how you talk!

Here, the travelling–trader against whom I had been cautioned, and who had followed me without being perceived, spoke up and addressing himself to the other who was on the wheel asked him what he thought of the war `take it altogether inside an' out, as the nigger said.'

Why, what do you think of it yourself? was the reply.

Ah ha! I know what makes ye so snappish; see through you, when you fust cum aboard if I didn't, there's no sneks in our part o' the country leave't to you, neighbour: appealing to me as if we were on the most familiar terms in the world, and taking up my hat as he spoke, and blowing about the rich fur by way of parentheses.

I replied as well as I knew how, and forthwith a political set–to began, which continued till there were five or six of a side all talking together laughing swearing smoking and calling one another blue–lights, jacobins, tories, democrats and enemies to the country. The sharpest and bitterest, nay the rudest and coarsest things were said but all in a good–natured way, like brothers pretending to be in a passion, though they would strike their fists upon the empty hogsheads, and their eyes would flash and their chins quiver with rage one minute, and they would all burst out a laughing together, and clap their hands, and stamp their feet, and hourra the next, as the one side or the other happened to give a good hit. In the midst of the uproar my attention was called off to another group so thoroughly characteristic of a steam–boat conversation–party that I could not forbear listening awhile.

One had a newspaper and was reading aloud to the rest in a way that appeared to amuse them exceedingly. When he came to what he called an outlandish word, he would stop and spell it, and then push forward again with a speed that left him breathless at the end of every paragraph. T. Z. A. R said he, how do you purnounce that air, mister? turning to Gage; never had no schoolin' to speak of myself

Ah! said Gage, with a look of surprize

## The Down–Easters, Volume 1

No, never, an' the leetle I do know I've picked up here an' there, nobody knows how; an' I don't purtend above all to know but plaguy leetle about grammar an' jogrify. T. Z. A. R. I should call that Teazer the Teazer of Rooshy, hey?

Well, and why not? said Gage; free country you know.

Wal! I declare! If that aint jest *my* way o' thinkin'. Taint more an' three years ago last fall raising his voice and looking about him with an air of growing superiority when I was a candidate for our leegislater, or may be youd call it legis'–latoore? some folks do an' bein' one o' the se'–lectmen, I was in the school–committee, says I to master Smith says I, who cares for Noah Webster, says I, or his Third part eyther says I or for Perry's dicksonary I've gut as good a right to my pernouncyashun as they have to theirs, says I, ary one of em, says I T–Z–A–R, T stands for T. dont it? and Z–A–R spells Zar, dont it? an' that makes Teazer, if I aint most plaguily mistaken.

Precisely, said Gage. And if you are ever on the school–committee again, I advise you to try them all round with that very word. See if they can spell it after you, or pronounce it either.

Work em about right, hey? plaguy tough fellows some on 'em though; take most any word apart ever you see, and put it together again full as good as 'twas afore an' sometimes better. Tried him once with tremendyous and squire Joe Smith he yaw hawed right out, and said he'd be most particularly dumsquizzled if there was any sich a word. Putty feller for a squire, wantt he? an' a 'chool committee–man too! But I guess I paid him well for it, afore I was done with him. Next year he might 'a been governor, with a salary o' six hundred dollars a year

And *found*? said Gage.

An' found? no indeed find himself putty good wages too, I should say; for my part I offered to take it for half price and give the balance towards a new meetin'–house but bein' a lawyer, he might 'a had the whool, an ben allowed somethin' hansum to boot for wear an' tear.

Washing and mending, you mean, hey? said Gage.

No I don't nyther we do our own washin' an' mendin' where I live all the representatyves, and why should'nt the governor?

Taint possorable! said Gage. I looked at him in amazement. *You*, would'ntbelieve it possible reader, for such a man, with such a face, to hoax any body alive

The down–easter went on describing how he had managed to defeat squire Smith, electioneering against him throughout the whole neighbourhood; putty feller for a governor! added he, when he had got through not to know there was sich a word as tremendyous!

Pray sir, said the little Bostonian turning with an air of authority toward Gage, and glancing at the bystanders, as if to prepare them for a triumph, pray sir, upon what ground, if you are serious, do you pretend to justify the pronunci–ation of that word, Tzar? *if* you are serious, I say?

*If* I am serious my dear sir! What can have led you to suppose me not serious? The true sound of the ancient C. (I began to be puzzled myself here: was he or was he not humbugging a brother yankee? For my life, I could'nt tell.) Of the ancient C. has never been settled. The learned, (with a bow which the other took to himself) are uncertain to this day, whether he whom we call cæsar was not called Kæsar by the Romans. The emperor of Germany, the direct inheritor of the title you know (another bow) is called *der Kaiser*, which would seem to justify the idea. Odds in favor of Gage.



To be sure, but and here the other began to look bewildered.

But then, as the Italians say *ladzaretto*, and *pentsiero*, for *lazzaretto* and *pensiero*, mixing the sounds of *d* and *t* with those of *z* and *s* like the Russians another bow and the Russians having borrowed the title of Caesar, and corrupted it by their horrible orthography into *Tzar* (speaking faster and faster—every moment, so that his antagonist had no way of escaping the mystification) I confess I do not well see how we can avoid following them so far at least as to call their T, by its right name T, instead of C. Three to one for Gage.

Nor I sir nor I but then as to the a a I want you should show me, that is to say for where the object of discussion is not so much victory, as truth, we had'nt ought appealing to the company never ought I should say blushing to the eyes and beginning to switch his boots with his pocket–handkerchief to take too much for granted as Butler says ever read Butler's analogy sir? or Adam Smith, or the Spectator ?

Precisely sir I agree with you there, said Gage; but then, Rome was not built in a day! and he looked about him with such a knowing air, that several of the bystanders began to wag their heads at one another, as much as to say what a snag of a fellow at an argument! all to nothing for Gage no betters.

And moreover, continued he, addressing himself anew with a deferential bow to his antagonist I have an idea, and I should be happy to have your opinions upon the subject sir. I have an idea that the languages of Europe abound in similar corruptions why may we not have the Teazer of Russia, as well as the Dolphin of France, the Clam of Tartary and the Dog of Venice?

The *clam* of Tartary, and the *dog* of Venice! cried the other; as if, notwithstanding the perfect simplicity and good–faith of Gage's countenance, he had begun to suspect for the first time, that we were laughing at him. And what might have been the consequences but for an accidental interruption, I would not take upon myself to say: for he grew very pale about the mouth, and there was an angry flashing of his bright blue eyes that indicated a dangerous temper. A hundred to one offered; no takers.

*I presume sir*, said a tall thin awkward man with knock–knees, and green goggles and protruding eyes, lugging out his pocket–handkerchief with a violent flourish, and stepping up to Gage *I presume sir, that you have never been in Rooshy* speaking in a very sharp key, and so as to attract every body's attention pulling off his goggles and wiping them *so* carefully, with his teeth clenched and his queer–looking eyes roving about over all our faces with an expression of cool confidence which had a very unfavorable effect upon those, who, but a moment before, had been ready to hurra for Gage, *have you sir?* bets equal for the new comer.

Never, said Gage, without any change of countenance *never*.

Well sir I have!

*The devil you have!* said Gage; with an air of such unaffected astonishment, as to deceive me for a white. Gage losing favor.

Yes sir! straightening himself up, replacing the goggles, withdrawing his feelers and giving his pocket–handkerchief another deliberate and circumstantial flourish, (five to four against Gage) and there they pronounce the word give me leave to tell you sir Tzar and not Teazer

With all my heart, answered Gage; but give me leave to ask you sir what does that prove? Bets even.

Prove sir *prove?* said the other, shifting his feet once or twice, changing his pocket–handkerchief no less than five times from one hand to the other, and taking off and putting on his goggles three times, before he had worked out the answer wiping them every time and appealing to each of the different by–standers by turns, with a

## The Down-Easters, Volume 1

peering into his very eyes that diverted me inexpressibly *Prove* sir? why sir, it proves that if the Italians do say Ladzaretto, that's no reason why other people should say Teazer!

Indeed! said Gage, and bets were all going the other way.

Ah, ha! there you have him! said the other antagonist! answer me that if you can! whispered a third. That's into yer, a few! I ruther guess! cried a fourth. The current was evidently setting hard in favor of the new comer.

Why sir, continued Gage, if you mean to infer that pronunciation of the word to be right, because they pronounce it so in Russia, then you would justify every sort of corruption, every sort of pronunciation; the Scotch, the Welsh, the Irish, and the Yankee in talking *English* as they do: For they do what? just exactly what the Russians do, borrow other peoples words, appropriate them to their own use, without leave or license, and *spoil* them. And then forsooth, we are to follow their example, are we? If they cannot spell, we must'nt if they spell Cæsar with a T, we must, hey? Hourra for you! cried a by-stander, give it to him Gage! One more round my boy and the game's up!

My own idee 'gzackly! cried the school-committee-man.

Not a fair case though, answered the man with the goggles by no manner o' means; wunt allow it, nor touch to! As if them that use a word most are not likely to know best? Getting wild into him Gage! One hundred to five no taker.

Do we always find it so in point of fact? continued the imperturbable Gage. Did you ever hear a mechanic say le'-ver? Don't they all say lev'-er? even the watchmaker and the machinest, with their patent lev-vers. Do you know a single navigator who doesn't say hor'-izon for hori'zon, a painter or drawing-master who doesn't say a'riel for a-erial? a schoolmaster who doesn't say pronun-ci-a-tion instead of pronunshiation, though he never thinks of saying offi-ci-al, but offishal; a lawyer who doesn't say tosummons for to summon, evidence for witness, ten'-ure for te'nure, and perhaps recon'nizance, for recog'-nizance; a builder who doesn't say pylaster for pilaster, or a lover of back-gammon who doesn't play the very devil with the names of the throws, however well he may speak French at other times saying tray-ace, and syzes, and deuces and kayters I might go through with society in the same way.

The man with the goggles had nothing to say he was thunder-struck at the volubility and seriousness and readiness of Gage, and stood staring at him, speechless and motionless, with his mouth wide open. Fifty to one on Gage all to nothing! Time! time!

and the adversary not being able to come up, Gage untied his handkerchief and jumped over the ropes.

## CHAPNER V.

Wal done you 'squire! cried the se'-lect-man, clapping Gage on the back with tremendous good will; Hooraw for you, I say! gin' it to 'em both about right, hey? trig little feller he is too tho' I cant say 't I admire to see peeked-toed shoes, or a man's eyes rigged out with spy-glasses and feelers gut a half-pistareen about you frind? hytee tytee! turning to another, who appeared to be laboring under some fierce emotion, his upper lip working after the manner of Lord Brougham's, and his mouth twitching convulsively at every motion of his head who are *you* makin' mouths at, hey?

God bless you, my friend, whispered I the poor fellow cant help it.

Cant help it! why not, I should like to know?

## The Down–Easters, Volume 1

Why don't you see, whispered another yankee, he's got a wry mouth.

*Rye–mouth rye–an–injunn* more like.

What more could I say? All further explanation would be useless; and to tell the truth, I could not help agreeing with the man as to the sort of mouth before us, much as I pitied the proprietor.

Everlastin' hot weather! aint it *you?* continued the down–easter; 'nough to try out a side o'sole–leather; for my part, I'm all runnin' away.

Taint the fuss time nyther, I'll bate! said the man with the unfortunate mouth; and then turning toward a fellow–passenger, he continued, as if renewing a conversation about a murder which had occurred the day before at Philadelphia, I'm no frind to capital punishment, an' never was; but if ever a feller desarved to be frittered in two with a hansaw, that feller dooze.

Sarved her right! cried another; and then after running himself entirely out of breath, he protested the man had no *right* to be hung; while another declared, with equal appropriateness of language, that such a cold blooded murder was *ridiculous*, and that the man ought to be hung right away had'nt ought to live another hour.

The eyes of both were turned upon Gage. I'm of *your* opinion said he, speaking to the last nothing can be more *ridiculous* than cutting a woman's throat in her sleep in the dead of night.

Ah ha! what did I tell you? cried the individual whose opinion he had so handsomely adopted. And I agree with *you*, also, continued Gage, turning to the other, the poor fellow has no *right* to be hung, and I dare say if he were hard pushed, he would own it himself or give it up, if you were to try him at the foot of the gallows.

There now what did I tell you! cried the other.

I say *you! mister!* shouted the man with the nose, rounding to, as he happened to see a passenger at work upon his lips with a sponge dipped in sweet–oil. They were dreadfully chapped. I say! try some o' this ere lip–salve, wont ye? had'nt ye better? allays care some on't about me slickest stuff for piles ever you see! lugging out the identical box we had seen before, and offering the blue pigment to the sufferer.

Faugh! cried the other should our engine get out of order, your panacea might come in play there again!

Te be sure! take a notch out of a broad–axe in less 'an three wipes; did'nt I tell ye so have some?

Go to the devil with your nasty trumpery!

Frind! I meant no offence, an' I'm sorry for it; but if you'll allow me to express my opinion, I should say that a *leetle* o' that are a very *leetle* scooping out as much as he could with his thumb–nail, and holding it up not more 'an you'd want to soap a griss–mill with jess slicked over your lips, *inside an' out*, you'd be a much easier man for the rest o' the day; an' talk more to other people's satisfaction.

And then, having said this, he walked off, enjoying the half–suppressed laugh that broke forth at intervals for five minutes afterwards, with the most innocent look you ever saw. After a while he crossed my path again Hullo! said he; don't care if I do take another nip o' your snuff, seein'–ts you!

I reached him the box, and my gentleman, after opening it as far as it would go and rapping the kiver as he called it, and shaking it as a puppy would an old hat and tipping it up, first on one side and then on the other, till his forefinger and thumb, already prepared for the business by the lip–salve, had cornered the last pinch there was

## The Down–Easters, Volume 1

left as the dog Billy would the rats; and then, without the slightest compunction or hesitation, availing himself of the advantage, so that none escaped, he *slicked* it all up, and returning the box he said he ruther guessed I want very fond o' snuff only cared a box for fashion–sake! and then, after a short pause and a laugh or two which set my ears ringing, he added proper snarl o' folks here aint they? Wonder how much the skipper here he turned to a neighbor how goes it Nathan? Cleverly, I'm obleege to ye; how goes it with yourself? wonder how much he gits a year, privilege, perquisytes an' all hey? putty good bairth I'm a thinkin', if they let him drive on sheers, an' I rather guess they do by all accounts; ever ben over the Bay State or Varmount?

Never, said I.

I'm sure I've seen you tho', or somebody plaguy like you, haint I?

Quite possible.

Quite possorable, hey! more 'n that I rather guess why, you look as *naiteral*, as the nigger said don't know yer name though?

No.

Somewhere in the back–parts o' New–Hampshire may be?

May be so.

Wal! I *thought* so I swamp it if I did'nt! felt considerable acquainted with you from the very fust what may I call your name?

What you please.

Ah! oh you aint mad nor nothin' I hope.

Not in the least.

Wal then can't ye tell a feller yer name?

Pretty fair! said I in a voice intended for Gage, who stood near me, with his arms folded, leaning over the rail and evidently enjoying the catechism of the down–easter.

Ah, but your chriss'n name: your given name?

Peter.

Peter! Peter? ah, I know I'd seen you afore *somewhere!* travellin' hey? ben to Pheladelphia?

I bowed.

Wal, I say though, Mr. Putty putty putty quair name tho' that o' yourn by the hokey! as ever I come across.

Pooty–far pooty–far? drollest name ever I heard, make the best on't though taint none of your choosin' I spose bear it like a good feller, thats the way, never know'd many o' that name in our part o' the world.

What! never heard o' the Potiphar family! cried Gage.

## The Down–Easters, Volume 1

Lord you! that I have! Speakin' o' names though, there'll be a fight aboard, afore long.

A fight! said I, rather alarmed I confess at the abrupt communication of what I dreaded more than any earthly thing a fight in a crowd. I hope not.

O, but there will tho'. That air long chap there from Tennessee, he's ben havin' a spat with the capun about you mister (looking at Gage) and he vows he'll whip you as soon as he gits you ashore.

I looked at Gage. His countenance never altered, and he replied in such a quiet natural manner, that I believed him, when he said You are under a mistake, my friend; it cannot be with me that he would quarrel. I have had nothing to say to him.

Thats the very reason! He swears he'll take the stiffenin' out o' *you* an' that air little southerner.

Which little southerner! demanded Gage in quite another voice. It startled me, and when I looked up, he was leaning forward with lighted eyes and trembling very hard his hand shook too, I saw that, as it lay spread out on the bench, with its rigid sinews and square muscles in action. It was like the paw of a wild–beast for strength, and gloriously fashioned.

Why that are chap you was with below, said the Down–Easter.

Gerard Middleton, hey?

Do tell! is that his name?

Take the stiffnin' out o' Gerard Middleton *will he?*

Never shall I forget the expression of that man's face, when he uttered these two brief words *will he!* It made me catch my breath. He got up and walked away after saying this, and when I looked again I saw him in close conversation with the down–easter, in a distant part of the vessel where they could not be overheard.

If they go to kickin up a dust here, they'd better look out that's all, said somebody at my elbow, who appeared to understand my very thoughts it was the swapper against whom I had been cautioned. I know a feller 'twould whip the whool boodle of 'em an' give 'em six an' there he goes now! ever hear tell o' Gage Atherton Gage? that's the very man; rather too much of a gentleman to be sure, but he can't help that runs in the blood, naitral to the family old Jerry P. R. Gage was the biggest gentleman ever you see, an' so's the whole bylin' of 'em.

Atherton Gage said I you must be mistaken; his name is Nehemiah.

Nehemiah! Nehemiah Gage! Nehemiah Fiddlestick! don't I know?

But I heard him say so it must be Nehemiah?

I tell ye taint. His rayal name is Atherton Gage his mothers name's Atherton, but jess for the fun o' the thing sometimes he calls himself Nehemiah, or Peltiah, or Hezekiah, or some such old–fashioned name. He's rayal Yankee, I tell ye! clear grit an' smooth as ile; slick as grease, we say. Why where 've you ben all your life, not to hear tell o' Atherton Gage son of old deacon Jerry P. R. Gage of Quamphegan? best wrastler in all New–England; gwin' right away inter Kentucky, jess to have a try there with some o' them air fellers that's brought up to Ingeen–hug among the bears, an' if you ever bate, I'll bate ye any thing you like in reason an' plank the money too which as I was a sayin' Old rugged–an'–tough they used to call his dad, famous wrastler he was

## The Down–Easters, Volume 1

too, warped with hoop–poles an' filled with oven–wood; beatemest feller ever you see for some things ought to go by the name of old say–nothin' away from our part o' the country, but when he's to home (talking very slowly and quietly, and eying my watch–fob all the time) why Lord you! he's a match for gab with any body 't ever you come across getting hold of my hat and blowing up the fur and examining every part of it, inside and out, and glancing every now and then at his own, which he had rigged out with a new hat–case and stowed away under the chair. But as you're from Feladelphy what a pocky tarnal great place that must be! by all accounts, may be you can tell us how dry–goods in jinral is there ?

Dry–goods?

Yes needles an' pins, and calico and cultery an' so forth and so forth putty good cloth that o' yourn

for war–times laying his hand on the sleeve of my coat, and smoothing down the nap who's your maker?

My Maker! Oh, I understand you my tailor you mean?

Yis who made your cote? Is that a Feladelphy hat o' yourn, though? What do they come at there, cash on the nail? 'Spose abody was to take three or four right out, and say no more about it whoolsale hey?

I do not know.

My stars! why did'tnt you say 't you'd come from Feladelphy?

So I did but as I do not live there, it would be impossible for me to answer such questions .

New York then, hey?

No.

Albany?

I shook my head.

Or New–Haven? or Providence? or Boston? or

No sir no sir

Or Salem? or Newberyport? or Portsmouth? beginning to say over Morse's Gazetteer, page by page.

No! no! no! said I, speaking as fast as I could, and enjoying his look of amazement and perplexity put on for the occasion I believe now more than I ought perhaps, if it was not.

Well then! drawing a long breath, and beginning to admire my boots where upon airth *do* ye live! I *should* like to know, laying his foot alongside of mine, and turning it this way and that, as he pursued the investigation, either to satisfy himself about the comparative size of our feet, or to make me observe that his boots, evidently new, were topped off in the highest fashion of the day.

*Live* said I in reply to the last interrogation here and there, and every where; in other words no where.

Jess so! and then after a long pause where do ye stay then? Where do ye keep?

No where.

Wal! you're more'n a match for me, I'll say that for ye any how! another long pause, but only long enough to breathe our indefatigable down–easter for another attack .

Aint the wandering jew, air ye? and then, instantly aware that he had overacted his part, he added; you're from tother side arter all, I'm a' thinkin'?

'Tother side?

From over there away yender, pointing to the high–seas. What do ye pay for sech a pair o' boots as them in Eurup? Newest fashion there all the kick I spose, hey?

I laughed I could *not* help it laughed aloud, and long and heartily. But he was no way disconcerted.

Wal I thought so! if I did'nt there's none o' me, thats all! more n two hours ago, says I to capin Trip says I, capin! says I; that air chap there with the gool watch, he's from the old country, if he aint, I'll eat a grin–stone *jess so!* an' whats more says I, that air hat he's gut on, aint a rayal beaver hat no more 'n you air, says I nothin' but a silk hat says I an' then, says I, capin Trip, says I jess look o' them cloth stockins outside o' his shoe (eying my drab gaiters) any body might know.

Cloth stockings outside of my shoes the rascal!

Capin Trip, says I, any body might know, says I, did'nt I mister? (to the man at the wheel) that he's from tother side or (lowering his voice) or wants to be thought so; and whats more 'an all that, says I he dooz'nt seem a mite afeard o' the man' o' war's–man off there 't we passed as tight as we could spring and you know you did'nt! and what's more yit, says I, he never says nothin' about the war says I, an' when he seed leetle Georgee, says I, an old Tennessee says I, jess goin' to pull hair, says I, he would'nt hourraw for nyther side, says I *jess so!*

Nor did you, sir, if you mean the foolish dispute below.

Not I, you may depend! a *leetle* too fur east, I ruther guess for them sort o' didoes. When the southerners come to a close grip with one another, what do we care? don't they keep a hundred or two o' great nasty bull–niggers a piece, jess to sharpen their knives on without a rag to kiver 'em, starvin' 'em most to death all the time, an' lettin' their women folks and babies slash 'em up with case–knives, for jess nothin' at all, an massacre 'em most to death, when there's company to dinner, jess to sehwa 'em what they can do? Haint they sold their own flesh an' blood many a time to get money for a cock–fight or a hoss–race? do'nt we know 'em of old? Thats what they call gettin' the yellor–boys, I spose I've been there, an' I've heern 'em say so many a time; pocky tarnal shame! butter my hide if taint; an' what should we care, comin' from a land o' liberty where there aint no niggers to speak of, when we see sech folks fall together by the ears where there's hundreds an' thousands on 'em taint washed from one years eend to another, an go about the houses thicker 'n the frogs in Ejup, an' a plaguy deal nastier I've ben there, I tell ye, an' I know what I'm sayin' of which it is no wonder we love to see the feathers fly.

And why so pray?

Why so! Why what business has the niggers there? Let them that likes 'em have 'em, I say: An' if they go to quarlin' about 'em, an' cuttin' one another's throats, whose business is it? Not ourn I'm sure. We told 'em how twould be, long enough ago.

Yet in your part of the country, you are not over friendly to the blacks *I believe* said somebody in a quiet mild voice, at our very elbow. It was Middleton himself.

## The Down-Easters, Volume 1

*Frindly!* what dye ye mean by that? do ye think we keep company with niggers, or make frinds of 'em, hey?

And why not, if they are well-behaved?

A nigger well-behaved! guess you don't know what your talkin' about mister.

Or a mulatto

Jess as bad all alike I tell ye; aint a copper to choose betwixt 'em if there's a drop o' nigger-blood in 'em, they'll always show it in their temper.

How in their temper?

How in their temper? Why you know as well as me they're right down ugly when theyre mad, clear niggerish. Why taint more'n a month ago t' I heard a great he-nigger tell a white man that if he struck him with his whip, hed split his head open with the axe why, in our part o' the country they think themselves most as good as white folks, every bit election-days.

And what if they do if they are otherwise well-behaved you tax them, dont you?

Tax 'em! to be sure we do; they are free-niggers that way.

Do you ever put them into the jury-box?

Into the jury-box haw, haw, haw!

Or into the militia?

Into the militia! Why frind, you dont seem to know much about New-England who do ye think would train along side a pesky nigger, in a free country in the dog-days.

Or a mulatto

Yes, or a mulatto eyther, down to the fortyeth generation.

Do you ever allow them to visit you?

Visit me! niggers visit me! I'll tell you what tis frind, if you are pokin' fun at a feller you'd better find somethin' else to do, that's all!

But I am perfectly serious. I am only asking a few questions, which I hope you are good-natured enough to answer, as civilly as they are put.

Oh, wal! if thats what you're divin' at whip away.

Do even the poorest and most worthless of your white men ever associate freely with the blacks or mulattos in your part of the country?

Why no! I tell ye. They wunt eat together nor play together, nor sleep in the same room together if they can help it; and our overseers o' the poor would be ashamed to ask it, when they're a town-charge.



## The Down-Easters, Volume 1

Are the children of colored people admitted to the same benches with the whites in your free schools

On the same benches! By gimini! if I should'nt like to see sambo Smith's boys cipherin' along aside o' mine at our town-school! I guess I'd have a word to say to master Cobb an' the school committee too! an' the select men! Putty fellers to be sure!

But who is Sambo Smith?

What! never hearn tell o' Sambo Smith! he twas out in the revolutionary war, and tho' he was only a hired man o' ginerel Green, he fit the innimy more in three hours one arternoon, with ony one other great lazy good-for-nothin' nigger 't had lost his arm to help him old Cato Frost you see old Cato laid down in the grass an' bit off the catriges and primed the guns, fust one and then tother, as Sambo blazed away at 'em out o' the stone-mill, where old Put had left some flour for the continentals no idea afore 'at ever Sambo had shot off a gun; killed ever so many o' the troopers afore they'd give up, some said eighteen or twenty; others not so much, though some was carried off, my dad says, and he was out the whool war, that six bodies was found arterwards, in the bushes an' among the logs in the river.

Ah! yet this man who pays taxes and is free-born perhaps of free parents?

So I've hearn tell.

What kind of a character does he bear?

What kind of a character? O, good enough for a nigger, I tell ye; works hard as any body and brings up gran children like the rest of us; owes nobody nothin', takes off his hat to every body he sees when he goes to the corner, never drinks a drop, nor swears a word, an' they do say is a rayal christian belongs to the church too.

Ah, a member of the church!

*Oh! yes!*

Do they allow him to sit side by side, with the white communicants at the communion-table?

What! in a tone of unqualified amazement; and then all at once perceiving the drift of Middleton's questioning, he added Why no! the nigger'd rather take his 'lowance in the porch I've hearn him say so.

And so they let him take his allowance in the porch, hey like Lazarus.

O, but ahem! old Sambo, he's gettin' old now 'an he'd a little ruther not go to the table, *I* know.

And rather not serve upon the jury, or train with the militia perhaps even before he grew old?

To be sure! The nigger'd only be laughed at, if he was to be darned fool enough to sarve.

You let him go to the polls I hope?

*Oh! yes!* We all'ys care him up parties ben putty equally divided, so good an' so good, in our town this five years, an' Sambo gets a ride every year, one side o' tother; stuffiest nigger ever you see tho'! Wunt vote for nobody 't he dont like, no matter who gives him a recommend; and what's more nigger than all that, he wont tell aforehand which side he's goin to vote for, and sometimes he wunt vote for nyther, an' sometimes he'll vote right agin the side that brung him up.

## The Down-Easters, Volume 1

Middleton took off his hat, and drew himself up, and looked about him, as if wondering to find himself so altogether alone as he appeared to be, in his majestic admiration of old Sambo Smith a glow of indignant wrath burning all over his forehead in the depth of his large dark eyes, and about his firmly shut mouth, as he walked proudly away.

Ah, ha! gut his belly-full, I ruther guess, continued the other; don't care which side whips, when the nigger-drivers falls out among themselves; an' I told 'em so did'n I mister? oh, you're in the sulks agin I see! dont care for that though; raial down-easter I tell ye.

And how do you know but I'm a down-easter?

You a donw-easter! eying me more narrowly then ever, and fumbling for his pocket-handkerchief, as if to assure himself that all was safe, before he ventured upon a more particular acquaintance you a down-easter! *you!* shaking his head slowly very slowly. Why how can that be? Haint I axed you one by one about all the places down-east, where a feller could find sech a slick fit as them are glancing at my boots and then at my coat? No, no, Mr. Potiphar Peter Potiphar I think you said? thats what we should call a snorter, down-east. Ah, you may laugh! laugh away; laugh as much as ever ye like, but I want you should go long o' me to the map, and show me where yer live. Tell you what 'tis neighbor I can see through *you*.

What dye mean sir?

Dont I know ye! an' did'nt I say so when ye fust come aboard! dont talk to me whizz! You from down-east! putty joke faith! Do you play checkers? or fox an' geese? or morris? or all fours? or shoe-make-loo? or te-to-tum?

I shook my head, one by one, to this string of questions, uttered at longer and longer intervals, in a sharper and sharper voice, till the astonishment of the man exhausted itself in a long and a fixed stare.

Draw cuts? or open a book for the nighest letter? or chalk the floor, hey? or jump up and kick?

I'm yer man by Gawd, stranger! I'm the boy for any thing or that sort! cried the tall Tennessee youth, who had kept aloof till now, lying on his back by the hour, with a long nine in his mouth and a shotbelt full of sugar plums dangling over his breast. I'm the boy for that! hourrra! run, jump, or kick, wrestle or fight, for all I gut here! slapping his breeches-pockets, and springing up with a loud boisterous laugh that sounded not unlike the half-smothered roar of a good-natured wild-beast I'm your man for all that, an' half the plunder about ye if ye dare! hurra! And then he flung a handful of sugar-plums right and left over the deck where a group of children were at play.

I had observed him at the breakfast-table, eying the dishes with a wary look, and fighting shy whenever he was helped as if he hated the very knives and forks for interfering with a more summary method of getting into what he called the `belly-timber,' after a fashion of his own with the paws of a she-bear, and the appetite of a grist-mill. Yet he was a good natured, handsome, savage-looking fellow; and at the worst only a rougher, and I believe in my heart, a better sort of Yankee, with more manliness and straight-forwardness than our people have now.

While I was trying to get a sketch of him, as he threw himself out his whole length over the bench, the swapper renewed his attack on me. Fore-warned, fore-armed thought I, and I determined to favor him with all the opportunity he could wish.

## CHAPTER VI.

I say tho' Mr. Potipher, thats a plaguy neat lookin' watch o' yourn 'ti seed ye have; I should like to heft it, if you've no objection I put my watch into his hand, without a word of remark I wonder now if you'd mind my seein' how'ts put together? over–hauling it and *hefting* it between every two words, ransacking it inside and out, seal, chain, clasp and guard, but so cautiously and so skilfully as to show that I had nothing to fear. That he might proceed with the investigation more at his leisure, he off coat, rolled up his shirt–sleeves, loosened his shirt–collar, and put away his old hat with a deal of superfluous care, and actually dropped upon his `heads antipodes' while the boat was plunging through a heavy sea, much to the amusement of the fair Elizabeth, who had been clinging to the rail ever since the departure of Middleton, with desperate strength, and looking overboard with half–shut eyes and a quivering lip growing paler and paler at every plunge.

After he had taken it apart and put it together again or adopting the definition of the other down–easter about orthography after he had *spelt* it, as thoroughly as I would allow him using only a tooth–pick and a ninepenny *whittler* as he called the knife he made use of he *shot the kiver* and wiping the face with his new bandanna as affectionately as a mother would that of her youngest born after a somerset in a duck–puddle he seemed on the point of returning the watch hesitated withdrew his extended arm, the fingers involuntarily contracting over the treasure even while he kept saying, there she is frind! there she is! take her, and never say 'tive hurt her, hide or hair. How old is she? not that I want you or any body else on airth to tell me that; guess I know by her click, about as well as any body, without lookin' at her teeth

Take care! said I, as he held her up, and swung her round by the chain: the watch is at your risk if she flies off, you must pay for her!

I pay for her! What for? Wal, wal, I spose you know more about the law 'an I do; dont seem to me to be altogether fair shakes somehow for a feller to have to pay jess as much for only lookin' at her insides a minnit, as if he'd bought her right out slap dash I'll leave it to ary one o' you if tis?

How much do ye offer? asks the Tennessee–youth, who had been capering about hither and thither for the last quarter of an hour, like a dislocated windmill adrift under an idea that a man six feet high was a fool to be sea–sick how much 'll ye give stranger? And then without waiting for a reply, he added You may look at my insides for half the money! out whittler if ye dare! And away he scampered with both hands plastered over his mouth paws I might say, though he did'nt go on all fours toward a place where he told me afterwards he threw up his shoes and stockings, a jacket lined with tripe (I give his own language) and his commission, that of major in the mounted militia, which he had torn to pieces and swallowed the day before in a rage with his brigadier, for saying twa'nt gentlemanly to spit on a hearth–rug, or to blow your nose with your fingers, and wipe them on your pantaloons. And I'll leave it to you, stranger! said he as he wound up the story of his affront if sich a feller as that's fit to be a brigadier o' the mounted rangers? Taint more 'an a month at the very outside, sense he turned out with a new pocket–hank'cher for the fuss time an'ts never ben out of his hand sense, by Gawd! An' I up an' told him so right to his head mister brigadier says I, by the time you're a gineral right out, you'll have a ruffled shirt o' your own says I, an' expect your understrappers to wash their faces every campaign, says I; an' eat buffaloe–punch with a knife an' fork, says I hourra! if I did'nt I wish I may be d d!

Ruther a limpsy chain though, continued the down–easter as soon as he had got his breath; watch putty fair best imitation I've seen since I dont know when.

Imitation? said I.

Yes pinchback.

Pinchbeck?

Yes that what dye ye call 'em stuff, washed over with gool leaf.

Pho, pho man that is neither pinchback nor imitation.

Possorable! What is it then?

Gold fine gold.

Maybe you'd like to wage somethin' o' that man enough aint ye to back your word with a trifle? pulling out an old tattered wallet with what appeared to be a large roll of paper money in it. Say the word, if you dar'st and we'll leave it out to the fuss man comes along for jess what you like.

Pho, pho nonsense; I'm no friend to wagers. What I tell you is the truth, nevertheless.

Sneks an' spiders! you dont say so! If the wind cants in a little more 't the norrard the fog 'll scale off I ruther guess; wherebouts are ye goin' to set now marm? I did'nt speak to *you*, mister; nor to you nyther, marm nary one o' ye; but to that pore little gal there; she ought to have somethin' to take right away and somethin' to hold on by too ah, what's that are book about? Leetle a more.

All these questions and remarks were uttered in precisely the same tone of voice, now to one by-stander, now to another; and then he took up a volume it was Walter Scott's Rokeby Leetle o' more, you'd a' lost it overboard R. O. K rok-E rokee b. y. by Rocke-eby that's it, hey? chock full o' varse hey?

Precisely, said Gage Rockeby baby on the tree-top! humming the old nursery air with his eye upon Middleton, poor fellow! who sat near the little quakeress, so altered and so pale so deadly pale and so helpless, that much as he desired to continue a conversation with her, which the down-easter had interrupted, he could not and after several attempts, rising up, and opening his mouth, and clinging to the rail within a few feet of her, anxious to betray a proper sympathy for one so beautiful and so attractive, he finished, by turning his back abruptly upon her, and rushing to a distant part of the deck. I saw him and pitied him of all sickness, there is none so selfish, so hateful and so prosaic, none so trying to a first love, I do in my heart believe, as that of the sea with its 'untrampled floor,' and glorious depths, and magnificent shadows, and glad waters, and blue lustre, and all that.

They were like strangers for a time, sitting so near to each other all the while, that over and over again, her beautiful hair swept over his very mouth and eyes, and instead of thrilling at the touch, he never knew it nor did she! I pitied them both, and was happier than either I verily believe, when they recovered so far as to recognize one another, and smile and blush, at their odd forgetfulness of propriety; one of the prettiest feet in the world having wandered away from the modest drapery that clung to the instep and shivered with every breath and the slope of a perfect shoulder, from which the plentiful gauze had been lifted away by the sea-breeze, or the motion of the boat, having some how or other found its way into the open air on the side next the enamored youth whose cravat always negligently tied, was now dropping like a shower of snow into his bosom while his black hair fell with a prodigious effect about his pale face I never saw a finer picture both were in love, deeply desperately in love. I saw it in their eyes, I heard it in their breathing and I turned away.

Not *pure* goole tho' whatever you may say, neighbor, continued the down-easter, following me as I moved away; jewellers goole may be? or Attlebury-goole? We make broches o' lead an pewter, at most of ou tin-ware factories, and then give 'em a lick o' goole leaf or copper-leaf all the same in dry weather never seed a watch sarved so before to day tho'.

## The Down-Easters, Volume 1

Maybe, you've seen a chist o' draws washed over with mahogany, hey? or tin-ware put together with shoe-maker's wax, said the man with the nose, dropping into conversation here as naitral as could be. If you haint, I have!

You dont say so!

Wal that's pooty nigh the truth for you what if you try agin!

Wal, *if* ever! fetching a long breath and pretending to be overwhelmed with astonishment. Con'sarn it all mister! anybody that takes you for a dumb fool would'nt be very much mistaken, would they?

Not more 'an half as much as if they took you for an honest man. Try agin, will ye! and off he marched.

You shet your yop, an' mind your own business if you know when you're well off! said the the first after the other was out of hearing. And so mister Potipher, as I was a sayin' Peter I think you said: I've gut a neephew o' that name, all'ays a favoryte name with me; smart feller as ever you come across lugging out a heavy silver watch, as he said this, a genuine bull's-eye with a huge copper logging-chain, a bell-metal face, and a bear-trap for a toy dangling at the end of it; dropping his voice or changing the subject whenever any body came near. What an everlastin' spell o' weather we have had! haint we? a bit of a rogue he was too, when he want more 'n knee high to a bumbly-bee

Jess what I should expect! said the other, cutting in again as he passed by, and continuing a sort of *yaw*, haw! till it was drowned by the noise of the sea bursting and roaring about our path.

Clear grit an' no grease I tell ye! twirling the great lubberly chain about his wrist, and leering at me through a pair of eyebrows like swallow's nests. Not much in names tho' arter all *may be*? There now! jess look o' that air! There's a watch for you! That's what I call somethin' like! none o' them pitch-pine bureaus jess slicked over with a wash o' moggany not half so thick as your nail that are feller's ben talkin' about wonder what he's good for all jaw like a sheep's head, while I'm allers right up an down like a sheep's tail goin' over a wall why, neighbor, that air's about the beatemest watch ever you see ben a a-guyin' more'n sixty years right off the reel never stopped to wheeze, I tell ye! jess look o' here now see what a hell-fired noise it makes!

He was right. Whenever he shook it, and held it up to my ear, it made a noise like a coffee-mill. I jumped when I first heard it, and he called out for me not to be afraid.

Heft it, said he heft it man; what are ye afeard of? twunt hurt ye.

I took it up, and seeing Gage a little way off, began heaving and weighing it with both hands.

Heavy agin as that o' yourn, ye see! capped an' jewelled and then, lowering his voice to a dry whisper, he added, what'll ye give to boot?

*Give!* said I, in amazement.

Or *take!*

I laughed I could bear it no longer laughed till my sides ached; and poor Elizabeth laughed too, and her excellent old grandfather upon whose arm her head lay, with her luxuriant hair all abroad over her disordered neck, he laughed, and all who heard us, except that strange fellow Nehemiah Gage or Atherton Gage, if I might believe the down-easter, laughed with her.

## The Down–Easters, Volume 1

But our swapper was not a man to be so easily thrown out; and after a little rest, he began once more in a still lower whisper, with his eye upon Gage; and after saying, I want you should give me a letter o' recommend to Pheladelphia, as I ruther guess I shall go back that way, and I'll give you another to Barnstable, or Boothbay, or most any where along ashore he wound up with, *How'll you swap?*

*Swap!*

That's it! ben out in no less 'an two wars already heft it will ye? spry as ever yer see! another pause, and another careful examination of my countenance followed, as if he the poor innocent was afraid of being cheated by me! we are pon honor, I hope?

I hope so, said I.

Fact is, I aint much of a sharper myself; and then seeing the other down–easter approach, he lifted up his head as if talking about some very indifferent affair, and asked him if he could whittle agin the wind.

The other, who had been whittling a bit of soft pine for the last half hour, into forty successive shapes now rounding it into a spigot, and now into a clothes' pin now into a small spoon, and finally into a miniature snuff–box with a moveable cover and a perfect hinge, cut out of the solid wood, working his penknife with consummate ease and swiftness, heaved to at this queer salutation, and after eying his antagonist with a knowing look for a moment, he tipped me a wink, as much as to say didnt I tell ye so! and was walking off; when the other, not at all embarrassed by the reproof, stopped him by saying, I say, mister, let me see your knife a minnit!

Wal there! said the other holding it up before his eyes.

Pshaw! you know what I mean I want to borry it holding out his hand cant you let a feller see the edge.

No nor feel the pynt, without I keep hold o' the handle; gut eyes in the eends o' your fingers hey? and off he walked.

That air chap's no gentleman I swan if he is! aint fit to carry guts to a bear; howsomever as I said afore; aint much of a sharper myself, and if we're gwyin' to trade fair

To trade fair I dont understand you; who spoke of *trading*?

Fair play's a jooel friend hate a sharper as I do pyz'n; a dicker's a dicker I allays concate, where people's upon honor, but not where they aint; dont care how close a feller is closer an' button–wood–bark, all the better for me, for I love to git away jist by the skin o' my teeth an' a *leetle* more.

I began to grow tired of this. Thank you for my watch, said I; offering to return his at the same time.

But he hesitated about receiving his own back, and began looking about perhaps to find a witness that would prove a swap saying as he did so, with more and more earnestness and vivacity every moment, Which as I said afore, if you've a mind to stick to the swap a bargain 's a bargain you know? aint it mister? to a foot passenger on his way to Baltimore.

I'll thank you for my watch, was my answer to this.

My stars! Have it now, or wait till you can git it? all honey an' hug a minnit ago; an' now! marsy on us! what a change!

Give me the watch!

Why what a feeze you *air* in, to be sure!

Dont provoke me sir!

At a word then how'll you swap?

No how give me the watch I say.

Possible! Buy it of ye then what 'll ye *take*?

I started to my feet, I dare say with no very amiable expression of countenance, for I had grown heartily tired of his pertinacity.

Buy or sell frind all the same to me what 'll ye *give*? make us an offer, if ye dare!

At this moment a loud jarring bell, wheezing and sounding far and wide over the agitated sea, interrupted our talk; and up came the steward to say dinner was ready. But I would not stir a step till I had secured my watch. And the down–easter, who tried to allay my fears by reminding me that he did'nt consider the watch as altogether at his risk, would'nt leave me till I agreed to a proposition which tickled me prodigiously. And what do you think it was, reader? Why nothing more nor less than for me to leave the value of my superb repeater to be fixed by a third person, and then to sell her at the price he named!

As I live, I had half a mind to say *yes*, and refer the question to the very individual who had watched over me so faithfully, and warned me so frequently against the tricks of this fellow.

But perhaps he suspected my design; for he added in the same breath, as if to secure himself against any misfortune of that nature that instead of choosing an umpire, we should take the first person that came along, and then if I refused to sell, or if he refused to buy, at the price mentioned, the party falling back should treat or pay for three dinners. By jove! said I to myself, but I'll fix him so far as three dinners go he richly deserves it and so under pretence of more fully understanding the proposition, I repeated it after him, keeping my eye upon the man with the nose, then evidently preparing to follow the others to dinner and finished just at the critical moment, to secure him as the *first person that came along*. Already had he grasped the mahogany railing a moment more, and he would have disappeared down the companion–way. Such an opportunity for revenge was not to be let slip, and I insisted on the very letter of our contract. My antagonist demurred for a moment, and there was a something in his eye, which at any other time would have induced me to relent.

Wal, said he, if it must be so, it must I 'spose though I should'nt think twould be any put–out to you to take somebody else; and then he gave up, though with evident unwillingness, and a peculiar twitch of the mouth and sparkle of the eye that delighted me exceedingly at the time though not so much afterwards; and we called the man to us, and I stated the question chuckling at the bare idea of out–witting one down–easter by the help of another, and so handsomely too!

*Why!* said the umpire, whose hurry to get away augmented in exact proportion to the noise below a noise like nothing I had ever before, asleep or awake a country–tavern election day, or a crockery–ware shop running off at the heels of wild–horses, or another Brummagem got loose and breaking up for a voyage over sea, with steam–engines to match these and these only occur to me as even tolerable types of the uproar that followed, growing louder and louder every moment, till we could hardly hear ourselves speak *Why* a standing first on one leg and then on the other if you're both agreed.

## The Down–Easters, Volume 1

We assured him we were, and my companion, began to look *so* sheepish you've no idea how diverted I felt, though as the venerable quaker afterwards assured me, I kept my countenance to a charm, all things considered. N. B. I never forgave him for the remark.

*Why*, continued the umpire twisting the watch–chain about his fingers and hefting the whole concern as he called it and weighing the whole matter *so* conscientiously upon my word, I have no patience with myself, when I think of his unmatched coolness or of my own self–satisfied stupidity why to tell ye the truth mister; you're both strangers to me I'm no great judge o' these ere kind o' jimcracks fair tradin's gut to be putty pore business now, an' fair traders terrible skase most every body jockies for themselves now feller cant cut his own fodder, if he dont shave tarnation close, I tell ye! which its my opinion, an' you may let it go for jess whats worth an' no more that's my way an' your watch may be gool as you say and *may be not*: whereupon shifting his leg and interchanging a glance with the old quaker, who bit his lip and looked at me whereupon, as I said afore, considerin' how turrible thick you've ben all the parsage, notwithstandin' all I could say could'nt tell which was which five minutes ago, you sot so close together hitching up his mouth till there was only one side to it, as if astonished at the clearness of his own exposition A–a–a its my best judgment frinds never good for much though, as I said afore that somewhere about fifteen dollars or fifteen–fifty or say fifteen–seventy–five, at the very outside, weighing the watch again with a grave thoughtful air as he concluded the decree would be about the fair valley on't these times, an' pesky hard times they air too, I tell ye! Judge of my amazement!

Why sir said I, laughing in spite of my vexation at the ridiculous figure I cut, between such a pair of thorough–bred sharpers only consider; fifteen dollars or fifteen–fifty, or fifteen seventy–five, at the very outside as you say upon my word, the little amethyst you see there, the smallest seal of the whole bunch, cost me double the money!

Dare say! cant help that tho'; dont pertend to be much of a judge both strangers to me, as I said before.

Very well, said I, though I longed to remind him of what he had said of the other, some three hours earlier in the day when he knew him of old Very well! lifting my foot with an emphasis which diverted the old quaker prodigiously, and the young quakeress too, if I might judge by what I could see of her mouth below the handkerchief that she held up to it, and beginning to descend the stairs very well *I am satisfied*.

What! hey! *satisfied!* you aint though, air ye! cried both together, struck all of a heap it seemed to me. Taint possorable! cried the umpire. Why!....! cried the swapper; and there I left them staring at one another as if thunderstruck. Their first idea undoubtedly was, that instead of *jockeying* me, as they termed it, they were handsomely jockied themselves, perhaps with something inferior to pinchback or bell–metal.

Yes, I repeated, yes my good sir, *satisfied* so far as to making a full stop to enjoy their perplexity so far as to we were interrupted again just here.

Mind though! cried the umpire, the disinterested umpire, who had *happened* upon us by accident, after cautioning me so frequently and so earnestly to beware of the other, mind though! you jest warranted that are watch pure goold; an' what's more, I'm a witness on't; and if I'm no *judge*, as I said afore, I ruther guess I'm a bit of lawyer when I am at home haw, haw, *haw!*

Whereupon, I continued *satisfied*, gentlemen, if you will hear me out so far as to pay for three dinners, and *treat* you both

Jess so! cried the first. Ginmee you yit by Jings! added the other hourray! their countenances brightening up immediately



And treat you both, *as you deserve*, I added from between my shut teeth I could'nt help it the rascals! Saying this, I hurried down the steps and left them whispering together. But my ill-humor I own vanished on my arrival at the dinner-table, whither they pursued me instantly and without shame or remorse, each fortifying the other at every remark and pretending to the last never to have met before, nor even to know the others name. I saw clearly enough now that they had been playing the whole voyage through not so much for the watch, as for the dinners, being, after all perhaps, rather better judges of the latter than of the former commodity; and that if they had failed to get it in this, or in some other similar way, by hook or by crook, as they term it, they would have gone without or dined on the contents of their sugar-boxes, and wallets, and saddle-bags ginger-bread and salt-fish perhaps, or apples and cheese, or rye-and-indian-bread, fat-pork and cold beans but we have gone far enough perhaps, for one chapter.

## CHAPTER VII.

Mind, Cap'n Trip! this ere man pays for the three for both of us two an' himself! cried the foremost in doubling the captain's chair, on our way to the table; to which very delicate intimation I had nothing to say, as the captain did not hear them in the bustle of making room for two or three new comers. Our places were now secure, and I had seated myself with a view to business being, if I may be allowed so to speak in a devil of a hurry to go to work, and as hungry as a wolf, two-thirds famished when one of my two associates called out to the steward in passing, a colored man I say, mister! this 'ere man here, pointing to me, and then laying hold of my collar, pays for three; mind now! ye're to look to him for all we eat an' drink no put out to you, I hope?

This matter stated, and the judgment of law fairly bespoken, they seated themselves one on each side of me as if to make sure of a subject, much to my annoyance, but altogether more to my amusement; for all eyes were upon *me*, whenever they condescended to open their mouths. Middleton I thought understood the matter and compassionated my situation; but as for Gage I believe in my heart I should have quarrelled with him any where else, but for the reputation he had, so much did he appear to enjoy my occasional embarrassment and their uncouth familiarities, though he said nothing, and there was little in his look to complain of, except perhaps a slight convulsive twitching about the mouth, accompanied by a brief contraction of the forehead, now and then, which another might not have cared for.

Two tables were spread the whole length of the large cabin; both were crowded at last, and I have no doubt there were two hundred passengers, may be more, all eating together and all talking together as fast and as loud as they could speak, for about half an hour.

Pray, sir to give the reader some idea of the scene pray, sir, murmured a fat choleric-looking man, opposite me, will you do me the favor to pah! what the devil is that! cried another at my elbow, jumping half out of his chair and overturning a dish of melted butter that a servant was trying to push by his elbow. Will you do me the favor, sir, continued the first, as to help me to a a to help me to a to a! growing more and more nervous and impatient, and speaking louder and louder at every repetition, till the murmur had become a shout

Hullo there! bear a hand, will ye interrupted another.

To help me to a to a

Louder! louder! screamed a voice further off, like a wretched clarionet with the reed split louder! louder! can't hear a word you say! Two plates encounter each other at this moment midway of the table both are smashed the veal cutlets fly one way and the fried fish another louder, *if you please!*

I turned my head toward the speaker, and saw a little thin man stooping half across the table with his hand to his ear, trying to make out the bluff petition of the choleric old gentleman, who had risen half out of his chair, and

## The Down-Easters, Volume 1

now stood with his mouth wide open his head stretched toward the other and gesticulating, like a thorough-bred East India captain, doubling the Cape with bad officers in a hurricane.

A laugh on my left obliged me to turn my head that way. One of the down-easters had pulled a large roasted fowl out of the dish, upon the soiled table-cloth, and was sawing it in two mid-ships, with his mouth full of bread-and-butter, which he kept supplied during the whole operation.

Waiter! wai ter! screamed another shrill voice afar off, so shrill as to be distinctly heard through all the uproar, like a "wry-necked fife" at a militia muster, or an octavo flute in a full band haloo there! not a waiter to be seen, by George!

Not a *waiter* to be seen faith! I can see nothing *but* waiters, answered somebody else.

Here, boy, here! this way an' be damned to you! growled another. Cuss the nigger! he shouted again, with his mouth so full he could'nt make himself heard.

Begga parron, massa! twan't my fawt, if massa preeze.

Nor was it. The chicken a devilish tough chicken I thought, and so did the sufferer, I dare say, had slipped from the clutches of the operator from down-east, into the lap of a burly midshipman, who was that instant reaching his plate across the table, swimming with fish gravy poor fellow! it turned out to be pudding-sauce, after he had cursed the nigger again, cleared his throat and swabbed his white kerseymeres. Nobody knew how it got there he had just spread out the favorite part of a favorite fish and there he sat, eying it in dismay, and breathing as if he had been under water half an hour; while the down-easter stood leaning over the table with his knife and fork in the air, and his eyes rivetted on the hacked and hewed skeleton, as it tumbled from the midshipman's lap into the settee, and from the settee into the middle of the floor there to be kicked about until dinner was over.

Hullo there! bear a hand, will ye? what's the matter now? Devil to pay and no pitch hot! There ye go agin! sloppin' the grease all over the table cloth! What's that to you, I should like to know? Should ye? Yes I should. You be damned! I say youngster, can you tell the difference between the the capital fish, hey? the hypotheneuse of a right angle-triangle with the stops off, and the distance between a mouthful o' cabbage if you please between time and space? helping the other who had interrupted him, to full half a cabbage.

No, sir! but I can tell you sir raising his voice by degrees, and waxing warmer and warmer as he proceeded, till he was actually inarticulate with rage while the other kept on eating you're a boo oo—oo Thank ye sir, said the other, interrupting him with a good natured laugh that's what I call a smasher!

I say, *you* mister! thank ye for a leetle more o' your'e sarse! The man stared, and then began to pour out some pudding-sauce upon the offered plate

Dod butter it all! I did'nt see what you was a doin' of. That aint the kind o' sarse I wanted, puddin'-gravy to corn-fish! pulling away his plate and leaving the sauce to run all over the table-cloth I wanted cabbage or potatoes, or most any sort o' garden sarse there, there! most any one 'll do for me aint over an' above particular.

A short pause followed a breathing spell and the clamor died away, voice by voice, like the prattle of girls at a crowded party, where all talk together and all are silent together; and then, after a minute or two, recommenced again louder than before you'd have thought the vessel afire, by the shouting and screaming.

Bread up there! This way nigger! Goode-goree-midee never heerd nodin' like 'm! yelled the nigger, in reply. Hourraw there, hourraw! I say steward steward! this way, my good fellow; can't you give us a mouthful? Stewart, I say Hell and damnation! must I bawl my heart out before I can make you hear? Ay, ay

## The Down-Easters, Volume 1

sir! comin' directly sir. Stewart, I say! Sir to you.

Here boy, here, cried another somebody, in a voice like one suffocating with heat and thirst take my plate get me a clean glass and a bottle of Ay, ay, sir! *porter*; an' some fruit pie is that dried peach or cramberry (*cram*-berry! whispered Gage) and a small piece of fresh butter, and a stop, stop! aint half done yet; where the devil are ye goin' to? Stop! I say But the servant was already out of hearing.

Josh! I say Josh slobber-cakes all gone? Jawsh! I say! hand us over the big speakin' trumpet, hollar *fire*, and set the big bell a-gooin'! theres a good feller; nobody 'll hear it!

Fire and fury! squeaked another `still small voice' never seed sech a boat since I breathed the breath o' life driv me fust one side an' then 'tother, ever since I cum aboard, an' never get me nothin' to eat arter all. One day in the courts of the lord is better than a thousand, so I've hearn our preacher say, an' that's my notion of a steam-boat. Hush your jaw there!

Dont you say that agin!

Shet your clam! like that better? hold your yop!

Tell you what, my frind: you'll run agin the eend o' my arm if you dont look well ahead through you, like shell-beans, if you get me ryled in airnest!

A feller might starve here an' nobody know nothin' about it. Nigger I say! nigger stewart nigger! Why don't ye strangle that child? Ma! ma! where's ma? I want ma! if you dont, I will, by the Lord Harry! git out ye little tom-cat! give him a two-and-forty pounder to play with No ma go away! *waugh!* Chuck him into the boiler! Wau au augh! I want ma!

Here a very pompous gentleman, who had not opened his mouth before, reached over toward a short citizen, whom I had been observing, and who was just in the middle of a large plate of beef, reeking with delicious blood, gravy and yellow-mustard, over which you could see his huge bald-pate vibrating this way and that with the regularity of a pendulum as he cut and swallowed and sopped, and sopped and swallowed and cut, puffing and blowing at intervals of a minute or more, and never lifting his eyes from the plate reached over, as I said before, and begged him with a sober countenance and a dignified motion of the extended arm, speaking very slowly, and loud enough to call the attention of the whole company toward him *to put his fork into a potato.*

The other did so took the offered fork, and thrust it into a potato, without looking up *and left it there.*

The pompous gentleman stared and then with another and a lower bow and a compassionate smile for the by-standers, he told the other *he'd be obliged to him for his fork.*

Whereupon the other bowed in reply, and pulled out the fork, without looking up, and reached it across the table to him with such a literal innocent air, that the midshipman who was just pouring down a tumbler of porter, burst forth into a roar of ungovernable laughter, scattering the foam over all his neighbours, and showering his white kerseymeres with a new color, as he held the empty bottle in the air with one hand; and the empty tumbler in the other. The laugh was *so* hearty *so* unexpected and *so* outrageous, that all within reach of the echo were obliged to laugh with him, before he had finished save and except the pompous gentleman himself who sat swelling and heaving with rage, till he grew almost black in the face; and the gourmand, who was too much occupied for a laugh looking up only once during the whole uproar, and then with such a stare of unsuspecting good-nature, as to set us all a-going again, louder than ever. And now, reader, imagine yourself surrounded for half an hour by outcries like these already mentioned, intermixed with the following, of which I took a memorandam the first opportunity after I left the dinner-table.

## The Down-Easters, Volume 1

Stewart I say! Ay, ay, sir. Stewart! Stewart! Here I am sir lowering his voice, I aint deaf, sir. Who said you was? take my plate an' be hanged to ye; an' ax that lady there, with my compliments to her, if she'll take a glass o' porter! What'll you have *now* sir, said another blackey, in passing our part of the table.

*Now* sir! why zounds an' death, you lump of tarred rattlin with a figger-head to match; I havent had nothin' at all yit your very good health marm! beg your pardon sir (the speaker had just blown the froth from his porter into the ruffled-bosom of his next neighbor) I was lookin' at the lady sir.

Hourra there, hourra! green peas 'll be all gone if you don't mind your eyes, cuffee. Thank ye for a few more o' them air green peas dont feel very well somehow never able to eat nothin' hearty when I'm at sea!

By jingo, growled a double bass in reply guess he never *was* at sea then; eat nothin' but green peas since he sot down hourraw for you, cuffee!

Sir, said a well-dressed, well-bred looking man with a short neck, a tight stiff cravat, a florid face, drab gaiters, and hair powder that flew about the table strangely enough, as he wiped his mouth on the table-cloth, or helped himself, as he did frequently from the open snuff-box at his elbow, with decided emphasis a a sir, I never could exactly understand filling his mouth with water and squirting it through his teeth into what he called a finger-glass, to the astonishment and disgust of the low-bred natives about him a—a not exactly why the *colored* Americans are called *cuffees*.

Gerard Middleton started and sat eying the stranger a portentous flash going over his high pale forehead a swarthy glow leaving it instantly paler than before; and but for Gage, who interfered with a remark that caused every body to turn that way, I believe in my heart we should have had an immediate interchange of cards. A stranger, I presume? said Gage, with a most deferential bow; to which the other returned a very encouraging smile, and a bow remarkable for its dignity and impressiveness. Gage continued The people of this country sir, as you have undoubtedly observed, are of two colors, black and white.

Black *or* white, I presume sir with a still more encouraging bow.

As you please, my dear sir one should be careful in the use of copulatives in such cases black *or* white sir—or glancing at Middleton or half—and-half sometimes at the south, where they are called milk—and—molasses.

Middleton's eyes flashed fire; but the imperturbable Gage continued

The whites in America, are the *cuffers*, and the blacks are the *cuffees*.

Middleton smiled faintly and was turning away, when the stranger whipped out a memorandum-book and began writing in it with unspeakable earnestness. The smile became a laugh, and he stopped and took the hand of Gage with an expression that I never shall forget while I breathe. The stranger was out on furlough perhaps from Sheffield or Birmingham, or peradventure from the Scotch navy, on a holiday voyage of discovery. A book which has appeared since, would appear to be a—a but no matter for that.

I had now leisure to attend to the doings of the company in another quarter. For my own part, I could eat nothing there was no time to eat no elbow-room no space for swallowing; it was about as much as one's life were worth to try where I sat, wedged in for two thirds of my length between the two indefatigable down-easters; so that if any one of the whole three moved or wriggled, the other two were certain to drop their food from their lifted-knives, or to slop their tumblers over, on the way to their mouths.

## The Down–Easters, Volume 1

Here you nigger! this way fetch me another glass o' that air coslin' stuff, you know what (with a wink and a laugh) I say Bob! hourrah there! will ye take a pull with me, if ye dare? Will I? try me. Well then you–go to–hell! as the Frenchman said, ha, ha, haw! Same to you Swipes! You're from Rhode–Island, hey? An' you're from Delaware *hey?* Not as you knows on! Have a gardeen 'pynted for *you* as soon as I git ashore. Would ye though?

Having now made sure of a plate of soup, not so much to eat, as to play with, I renewed my conversation with my right–hand neighbor, and asked him how he came to suppose me an old–countryman, as he called me. Why, said he, us ra–al ginooines always begin what we have to say with a *wal* or a *why* and then in the first place fustly, fact is, jest arter you come aboard eat away man! eat away! if you know when you are well off, any body might know you're not o' these parts

I have divided that pie twice already, said a man opposite, to another who wanted a share.

So you have with yourself both times; said the other; you remind me of the boy who complained of his bed–fellow for taking half the bed and why not? said his mother? he's entitled to half, aint he? yes mother, said the boy but how should you like to have him take out all the soft for his half? he will have his half right out o' the middle! and I have to sleep both sides of him

Ah! and what did his mother say? asked the literal creature above mentioned, who had just finished his share of the ox.

Not of these parts! how so? said I, resuming the subject with my down–easter's friend.

Eatin' brawth fust! when there's duck an' green peas at three dollars a peck right under your nose might lays in most enough to pay your passage. I say mister halves there! halves, I say!

The man he called to, was dividing another large pie fore and aft with a single sweep of his cleaver.

Flimsiest cloth ever I did see wonder what he gin for this lifting up a corner of the table–cloth with one hand, and looking through it up the companion–way, while he fed himself diligently with the other; wonder how much that stood him in guess if I had him at 'Derry, he'd find it come a good deal cheaper put it to him leetle more'n half price for cash, or approved endorsed notes.

Here, you nigger! gimme you yit! *mamma! mamma!* screamed a child from the far cabin. To which the mother screamed in reply Hold yer yop, George Federick Smith, if I have to come to you I'll *boo–hoo–hoo–hoo!* will yer! Hush there, Matildy Charlotty Smith! I'll take an' whip ye both if ye dont shet up I will so! Why dont you carry the poor little dears about in your arms Dinah? and the female voice went off by another passage to the deck.

Pose you tink poor ole dinah nebber had notin' else ado, an' tote you all about a ship, hey, said the girl, as soon as the mother was out of hearing up stars an' down? Pa, pa! ma, ma! I want my pa! I want my ma! *boo–hoo!* *boo–hoo!* *boo–hoo!* Hush you noise, ye liddle debbil you!

When I was a little boy, my mother told me,  
If I didn't lie still, she'd come an' hold me, Whistled the midshipman between his shut teeth.

What's that door shot for oh, I see innocent Abigail! fastened her chamber–door with a boiled carrot .

Heered that story another way, said his companion she tied herself up with her garters, and left a knife in the winder.

## The Down–Easters, Volume 1

I say Sambo take and care that away; care it up on deck and empt it overboard, abaft the main–chains, dye hear? to the wind'ard o' that are weather–gage ye see there, pointing to the Yankee's nose. Whew ew ew ! d d etarnal hot here, hey? Hot as blue blazes my buttons are droppin' off by spoon–fulls. That's your conceit another conspiracy I swan! two o' the stubbedest fellers ever I did see, and always at it!

More green peas! more green peas! Halloo, mister! what are ye at now? Beg your pardon sir. Blast an' set fire to your nonsense, you've stuck that are fork into me half way up to the handle! Hope not sir; very sorry sir thank ye for another spoonful or two o' them air green peas. Consarn it all neighbor, if I think them are green peas 'll continner long at this rate better have a dip now (in a whisper to me.) No I thank ye Had'nt ye better? All gone sir, all gone! cried the waiter. All gone! heaven and earth! ye dont say so! all gone! why how ye talk! Have'nt had a single mouthful yit! cried two or three voices on the right and left of me, in accents of dismay.

Jess so! cried another *jess so!* And never shall I forget the sound to my dying day; you'd have thought his wife had fallen over–board or his pocket–book.

Cap'n Thrip, cap'n Thrip! cried a little gentleman what lithped, coming forward and speaking as it were with a mouthful of cotton–wool it aint potheble! Gentlemen! gentlemen! cried Nicodemus Trip from the further part of the table the ladies, the ladies! gentlemen, the ladies!

The ladies had long been trying to escape from the back–seats each waiting for all the others to begin the move; and now their husband's, lover's and father's beginning to perceive a certain paleness overspread the faces of some who had been very cheerful on deck, started up and made way for them to escape as well as they could. All were imprisoned, not a few sea–sick, and others far too sleepy or too lazy to move, while the boat went pitching and rolling with prodigious swiftness, and the trampling on deck was absolutely deafening. For my own part, as I could neither escape, unless I crawled over the table or under it, nor get a nap where I was, I determined to see the dinner through and make the most of it. N. B. I am keeping my promise now.

Cap'n Thrip, I say! Wal sir? Be you deaf? No, sir, I believe not, what'll you please to have? Why that are plaguy boy o' yourn hath 'ad my plate thith half hour an' more too, an' I aint git a mouthful yit; Jess so! added the down–easter, We are all a sufferin' here in jess exactly the same way.

Very sorry, gentlemen, very sorry indeed what can I help you to, this way? Thum duck an' green peath, if you pleath.

Lord help the man! whispered Gage, as the other continued in a broken–hearted whisper, thatth my only chanth here, I thee plainly! Why stranger! they've all ben gone this half hour, said the Kentuckian bones an' all; Avast there! ben bin bean I wonder which is accordin' to Gunter? demanded a weather beaten sea–captain, who was passing at the moment. None o' your the speaker happened to lift his eye before he finished; whereupon he made a full stop and let the sea–captain off and then followed by a different passage–way, adding I don't believe that are chap 'll ever set the north–river afire!

Nor I but I should'nt wonder if he was to *try*, added the swapper on my left. And then turning to me did'nt you never hear tell Mr. Potti Pottipher; speaking to me with his mouth full, his plate full, both hands full, and a heap of odds and ends piled up along side of his plate, consisting of apples, and cheese, cake, pie, two or three kinds of tart, which he had tasted and rejected I thought, for he made a wry–face over each as he laid it aside. But when every thing else had been disposed of, he began to nibble at these fragments, which disappeared one after another, to my infinite amazement, before he took down his elbows, upon which he was leaning in profound thought his head resting by the ears upon his clenched hands, till he had gobbled up (or down?) every fragment, crumb and chip of the whole; and then he lifted his head and looked about him *so* innocently! as if he could have done as much by half a peck more, without knowing it. Judge of my surprise therefore, when I heard him say, in a low querulous tone, just before he left the table, that had been sick ever since last fall; never was very rugged, an'

## The Down–Easters, Volume 1

about this time every year, always felt wuss than ever by a darned sight rather pokerish too when he was on the water no kind o' sprawl. It aint often I eat any thing, said he; an' when I do eat, I dont eat much but the leetle I do eat, dooze me good somehow!

I say! didn't you never hear tell continued he, with his two eyes starting out of his head, and every button of his coat upon the full stretch here you nigger! I'll have my brawth now Bad 'nuff to be poor nigger massa, widout hab his shin kick, said the boy, and I thought so too. Come, come, beauty! lets have the brawth.

What! cried Gage after eating fish, meat, and peas; pudding, fruit, roast–beef and pie to say nothing of chickens, ducks and the five baskets you left you're not going to begin again with soup!

Free country neighbor feller may eat brawth I hope, whenever he likes, if he is able to pay for it or (winking at his confederate) or able to make another pay for it, an' don't eat more 'n his 'lowance; an' more'n all that, a feller can eat brawth when he can't eat nothin' else to speak of.

Indeed! *To* be sure! brawth 'll go where hearty vittels wunt, I ruther guess. Nothin' better'n brawth to fill up the chinks with; and what's more yit, I'm of opinion that a dinner's a dinner no matter who pays for't. Now mister, you don't have to pay no more for me, than that are little cock–sparrer's dad there dooze for him; an' he aint eat more'n half a dozen pinches o' dough since he com aboard which if you aint observed him yourself, you may ask the cap'n I say tho' mister I want you should give me that air letter o' recommend to Feledelphy, afore we split as I think its like as not I may go that way, some time or other; cost you nothin' but the paper and that I'm willin' to pay for. And then turning to the other, he added was them your weddin' spurs 't I see, when your chist gut jounced open frind?

Wal! I swan if I dont think you're the very feller 't had a box made for his wife 't opened like an eight–day clock–case, the very mornin' arter he was tied up an' allaws cared the key with him.

How ye talk! right away from down–east aint ye, where a cow an' a caff an' a calico gown is a gals portion.

An' you're from the place ant ye? where a potater–patch, with cracks int so wide, that the grass–hoppers are picked up at the bottom by handfuls all their necks broke trying to jump over is a portion for the oldest son? And then turning to me, he said, his father was once riding by one of the great farms he referred to, when observing the wretchedness of the land, he side the fellow that owns this must be plaguy poor. Not so poor as you think for! answered a voice from the blackberry–bushes for I dont own but a third on't my father gin away one third to git a man take tother.

Turrible sight o' rain lately when'd you come *down*?

Dreadful sight o' weather lately when'd you come *up*?

You aint acquainted with a man by the name of

Turney–General! said the other interrupting him with a loud laugh or the chief–justice o' the soopreme Judicial court hey?

I say frind turning to me with perfect self–possession I'm some tired o' that fellers gab; wish he'd make himself *skerce* all jaw like a sheeps head only ben tryin' out the stuff, an' you see all its good for: and now, if you say so, I'll tell you how I found you out.

Found me out sir !

## The Down-Easters, Volume 1

Found ye out I'll tell ye slick *as* a whistle! fetching me a slap on the thigh; dont be fractious. No fault o' your'n people has to be born putty much where other folks say, barrin' accidents; dare say theres some honest folks enough to be heard of that side o' the water cant be helped now make the best on't: bear it like a man Mr. Potipher git naite—ralized right away, and let 'em lump it if they dont like it, an' squirm their hides off; that's none o' your look out is it? All fair when you're made a natyve.

Or a representatyve, and sent to the legisslatoore, added Gage.

Jess so!

But sir, said I mr a a what may I call *your* name?

Fairfield sir. Obadiah G. Fairfield, seventh son of Bigah S. T. Fairfield an' Marcey his wife, both o' Groton, old Massatusetts can *you* spell Massatusetts?

No but please to tell me how you *found me out*, as you term it?

Aint tired any, air ye? Maybe you'd better lay down, had'nt ye. No I thank ye. Had'nt ye better? Not berths enough I'm afeard, whispered somebody else. That may depend upon the length of the passage added another, very innocently, glancing at the ladies cabin, where a tremendous pow wow had just broken out, Such a screaming of mothers! and such a squalling of babies the dear creatures you never heard ashore in all your life, no matter what your profession may be, nor what your experience. No two of the whole were quiet for five minutes together, till the end of the passage.

Why, continued the swapper, in reply to my question: Before we'd ben together long, you says, says you, to that air tother chap there a friend o' you'r'n I spose aint he? but *you* dont care much about knowin', arter all, I see.

You are mistakin I should like to know.

Should ye! would'nt give a trifle to know, would ye?

A trifle yes: not much though

O ye would, would ye? dont know what you'd consider a trifle would'nt mind a drop o' somethin to set fire to the cobwebs, would ye? Aint very stingey, air ye?

Not very.

Thought so! look to me a right down ginerous feller; but some folks when they're travellin' for pleasure; plaguy close—fisted.

Indeed.

*Oh* yes that they air closer 'an button—wood—bark; an' whatever you git out o' them, you git by the skin o' their teeth. Wouldn't mind tellin' you the whool honor bright now right off the reel, as quick's a flash, if you'd do the thing that's hansum.

And what do you call the thing that's hansum?

Why, shell out for three two besides yourself I allays bate for three, so that I may take in a friend, now and then



## The Down–Easters, Volume 1

You never lose a chance to take in a friend, I dare say?

Not I! love to be neighborly do as you are done by that's my way; an' a drop or two o' real ginoyne what say ye to whiskey for three? with a slap on my shoulder that I can feel to this day, whenever I think of my unpreparedness and of the echo that followed the blow. What say ye to whiskey for three!

I assented, and my man was just going to *clench* the bargain with a shake of the hand, when hearing a slight rustle and turning my head quickly, I caught a glimpse of a little scrap of paper passing under a plate towards the fellow I was chaffing with, who, as he pretended to look another way, though I continued to watch him all the time, read it instantly, with a glance at the decanter of whiskey then actually on the table and furnished *gratis* to the company. And then he blushed upon my soul he did! blushed to the very heart I dare say adding in a different voice, would'nt say *wine* for three, would ye?

Yes but I would though to the emount of a bottle or two.

Wal then! fact is frind Potipher stopping to draw a long breath if we should happen to be snapped up, that was the very word *snapped–up* or fired into by one o' the innimy, twould be no more 'n what we all desarve might a gone by the stage jess so! And with that says I but have yer made up your mind, hey?

My mind for what pray

Never to part with her.

I stared.

There now! that's right down ugly o' you: know what I mean as well as any body.

Upon my word I do not though; I have no idea of what you mean.

Why Lord you! (squeaking) I mean that everlastin' time–piece o' yourn, that you concait is goold now *have* you made up your mind never to part with her yes or no?

No.

Uglier an' uglier, by Moses! I dont often swear, an' when I do, I dont swear much, but the little I do swear *dooze me good!* (with a still higher and sharper squeak). But when a feller's in airnest, why the *dickens!* cant you tell us, hey? Hav'nt made up yer mind though, have ye?

*No.* But answer my question and we'll talk about the watch afterwards.

Will yer tho'! thats a good feller! Fact is then, talking about the British, ye said says you, they aint any more to blame for havin' a king than we air for havin' a president jess so! jess as people's brought up, says you; some folks likes a king, an' some doozent poor critters! And then ye koted some varses, pair o' varses we call 'em about fools an adminstations, so't I could see plain enough which side you was on, without goin skonickin' round arter you much further.

I remember it

For *forms* of government, let fools contest,  
That which is best *administered*, is best hey?

## The Down–Easters, Volume 1

Jess so! an' then arter that, ye kind o' made believe 't you'd never hearn tell how nigh we come to takin' the biggest half o' the old country in one scrape two more privateers an' we might 'a took tother half, as Paul Jones an' commodore Tucker told the king to his teeth.

Nor did I ever hear of the circumstance before. How did it happen where when?

There now! thats jess the way with all. To look at ye, a body would think you'd never hearn tell o' the revolutionary war nor general Gage nor old Put likely story for a man o' your years. Ah, is that you, master Purinton? haint seed you afore where ye from? how long ben aboard? where ye gwyin' to? what are ye doin' of South? how'd ye leave the family hope the whole on 'em's well, hey? &c. &c.

Cleverly I thank ye! And with this one reply to the others five–and–forty question, he moved on.

Jess the way with ye all, continued Fairfield aint a copper to choose; never see an ole countryman yit twould'nt face a feller down about that are story where General Washinton (which he was only a youngster at the time) went ashore with Paul Jones an' come pretty plaguy near carin' off the whole royal family, crown, jewels, prince o' Wales an' all proper sight on 'em there was too, by all accounts and tippin' the ole tower into the sea. Chock full o' prejudyce yit; any body can see that.

Prejudice! how so in what way?

Haint forgot the ole war. May be you've never hearn tell o' that nyther hey?

Yes but I have though.

O, ye have, have ye? Wal thats somethin' for *you* to give up any how.

For *me* to give up. Why what the devil do you take me for?

Take ye for! Why for one o' the innimy.

One of the enemy!

*To* be sure! an Englishman.

But I am not an Englishman.

*What* not Irish I hope? moving off with visible trepidation.

No.

Nor Scotch?

No!

Why what on the face o' the universal airth, air ye then?

An American sir a native American.

*You!* moving still further off, and hastily gathering up his duds from the bench you a *natyve* American!

Yes! a native New-Englander a through-bred Yankee.

This was altogether too much for my conspirators. *Amos!* cried one, with a look of dismay. *Obadi ah!* groaned the other; and then they interchanged a look of such piteable amazement and perplexity, that I could not help thinking they were more than half sorry for having preyed upon their own kith and kin for the Yankees of old the Hebrew Yankees were forbidden to do this; while they were encouraged to profit by the stranger. It may be however that they had only some secret misgivings, that they were afraid of being outwitted after all, when they discovered the truth. At this moment there was a faint cry on deck, followed instantly *instantly* by another in a different voice, louder and nearer and uttered with a most appalling intonation. What my own thoughts were I do not know; but this I *do* know, that all the faces about me grew suddenly and frightfully pale, as if death-struck, and that we all started up and stood holding our breath and looking at one another as if Gracious God! I never shall forget the unspeakable horror of that one moment never never though I should live a thousand years!

## CHAPTER VIII.

A moment of death-like stillness followed, and then there was another faint sobbing cry afar off, a shriek at my very elbow that thrilled through and through me a great rush overhead a loud trampling on deck two or three heavy rolls, and a lurch, accompanied by a trembling of the timbers that frightened me half out of my senses, and a screaming from every part of the ship, growing louder and louder at every roll. In the belief that we were going down, and that I had not a moment to lose, I sprang for the companion-way, overturning every body in the passage, and arrived on deck just in time to see a large powerful man go headfirst over the side of the vessel, as she recovered from the last roll and swung round with a heavy lurch to the leeward, jarring and shivering through all her timbers at every dip of the wheels the women clinging to whatever they happened to be near, their white veils and dishevelled hair streaming away from their grasp, and their clothes rattling fiercely in the wind the frightened passengers trying to assist the crew, and running about hither and thither at every cry of the captain Gage struggling with somebody whom I afterwards found to be Gerard Middleton, the handsome young Southerner, and calling for assistance, within a few feet of the opening gangway the sea roaring and flashing directly under their feet, with the swift brightness of a torrent a portion of the lee-bulwarks carried away and the heavy gate hanging by the top hinge, and swinging to and fro with a violence that nothing could resist.

Save her! save her! screamed another and another female voice. Heavenly Father! save her! shouted Middleton, disengaging his right-arm and grasping the shattered bulwark, against which his powerful adversary had planted his foot, and was bearing with all the strength of his body the huge gate shrieking and clapping at brief intervals, with a noise that overpowered every thing else the deck slippery with spoon-drift and the sea roaring for its prey.

Stop the engine! cried Gage, with a voice like a trumpet. Heave her about captain Trip, and I will answer for her safety Gerard Middleton!

They were now within a few inches of the very brink the sea almost on a level with their feet wrestling together as with all their strength

Gerard Middleton! I swear to you by the Everlasting God that if you go we go together!

Be it so! cried Middleton stooping for a last effort as he spoke and the next moment he was pitched head-long into the midst of a coil of rigging that lay aft. Courage! courage! cried his antagonist, following him and standing over him, ready to renew the attack if he stirred with an evil purpose. Courage! down with your boat my boys! over with all your split-wood. Ay, ay, shouted the captain, securing the heavy gate as he spoke, and lashing it home with the strength of a giant away with ye, my lads!

And away with the women too! cried Gage they have no business here away with you to the cabin ladies! we'll answer for your safety, if you'll betake yourselves to prayer in a quiet way and leave off screaming

Cant hear yourself speak now, cried a sailor and away flew the split wood from both sides of the deck, and away scampered the women.

Over with it my lads! over with it! chairs, tables and all! continued captain Trip and instantly the waters on both sides of our path were covered with every thing buoyant that lay within reach you'd have thought our deck had been swept by a West India hurricane and as I ran aft, where Middleton was lying apparently insensible, with Gage standing over him like a roused lion over a refractory cub, I saw a man pull down a large box from a pile of luggage empty it on deck with one blow of his foot secure the lid stop the key–hole with a wad of oakum run as far aft as he could go and wait there till another who had just kicked off his boots laid aside his coat and hat as deliberately as if he were going to an afternoon's nap and who, calling upon captain Trip to take notice, that they were left in his charge, and that he must be answerable for them if any thing happened, got ready for a plunge. It was all the work of a minute or two hardly more and it was only after the struggle was over and the terror no more, that I had time to arrange the circumstances in my memory as they occurred. The two then heaved the box overboard the brave boat wore round at the same instant and over went the lastmentioned man, just as I staggered to the lee–railing, and caught a glimpse of a strong swimmer afar off, and right in our wake, where our pathway was all white and luminous with the irrisistable thundering of our wheels in their backward revolution. As I looked, I saw something more yet further off and in a different direction a mass of white drapery buoyed up and whirling and eddying with the swift waters. I stretched out my arms involuntarily and might have gone overboard too, but for Gage for my heart died within me and I felt sure ay, strange as it may seem perfectly *sure* that she, in whom I had felt so much interest, *she* and no other, was now beyond the reach of him and of help. I could even persuade myself, as I stood clinging to the rails, and gasping for breath, and watching what I saw in the distance, that I could see her arms uplifted in her agony, and her dark lustrous hair washing over her beautiful face

And there we stood, I know not how long, they and I to the number of twenty or thirty altogether, helpless and speechless, gazing as if fascinated with terror upon the white halo, as it appeared to be slowly and gradually sinking into the depth of waters. And yet there was hope some hope for every blow of the engine, every revolution of the wheel brought us nearer, and the boats were already cast off, and the oars were bending to the resolute fellows that manned them; while the roar of the sea and the noise of the wheels aboard were not enough to overpower the encouraging cries of pull away! pull away! thats your sort my lads pull away!

One of the two persons who had jumped over–board was now found to be on the wrong side of our path, while the other had entirely disappeared, and we were looking about and enquiring with our eyes, for most of us were afraid or unable to speak, who he was and where he was, with a feeling of the deepest anxiety. A breathless silence had succeeded to the overwhelming uproar. Captain Trip, who was below when the accident happened, had now got command of his vessel, and you might have heard a pin drop fore and aft her whole length, but for the noise of the machinery and the ringing of the loud waters when struck by the paddles, or thundering across our pathway.

One circumstance I never shall forget here stood the old man the aged grandfather I could have sworn to the relationship at a glance unutterable terror and hope and faith, and more than a grand–father's love, all struggling together for mastery in his agitated countenance and each prevailing by turns. As he stood holding on by the rail, with his hat off, his hair blowing about his venerable face, and his dim eyes fixed upon the disappearing brightness the white robe of his dear child fast vanishing, forever and ever into the depths of the terrible sea forever and ever! I saw him glance at poor Middleton, who was lying on a bench near, as if utterly overcome by the struggle and I thought I could perceive a look of self–reproach, on the one part and a look of pity on the other.

## The Down–Easters, Volume 1

How it happened that I did nothing but stare first at one object and then at another, all this time, I do not know I never knew it is not my way in seasons of danger I never lost my self–command before; and though but a poor swimmer and of course utterly incapable of helping a fellow–creature in such an extremity by jumping over–board, still I might have been of some use in some other way, I think now, if I had not been stupified by the suddenness and singularity of the adventure; and my heart has reproached me a thousand and a thousand times since for my boyish helplessness at the time babyish I might say as I and some thirty more able–bodied men stood there, motionless and speechless, waiting the issue of life and death to one of that most beautiful of God's creatures, without one cry and I am afraid without one prayer; though, as I hope for mercy hereafter, I would have risked my life any where at any time for almost any body in almost any other way; and but for the latter part of our acquaintance, might have done it for her. Let others expound the riddle that have the courage I have not.

Another and another faint cry reached us, and then, just as the leading boat was rounding to, and one of the oars was lifted as if to touch the object, the drapery shivered and shook, and the boat lurched and drifted away and appeared to be unmanageable. We shut our eyes. And when we looked that way again, we were very near, and lo! there was nothing to be seen but a large spot near the top of the water, somewhat lighter–colored than the rest over the smooth dark level of the sea Ah! the shriek! the loud unearthly, overwhelming shriek that followed! Every heart burst forth at once on every side of me above and below as with a cry of horror. We altered our course and were shooting by, swifter and more swiftly at every revolution of the wheels, when we heard voices from the sea right under our bows; and again we were breathless and anxious, though not so much in terror now, as in hope. A moment more, and cries of keep her away! keep her away! you'll run us down! back the engine! were heard from the sea and from the deck, followed by there she is! hurrah! all safe, hurrah! Amos 'll bring her up, as sure as a die didnt I tell yer so! fish up oysters fore to day. I say you mister! it was the yankee who had thrown the chest over, speaking to somebody whom I was unable to see, as he appeared to be just under our bows Here, take my hat! mind though you must pay for it, case and all, if you're ever wuth enough arter ye git ashore there tis! cost foursixty–nine cash, Boston money one thirty–one allowed for the odds o' Philadelphy an' no dicker turn the mouth down, and keep it under water with a good grip an' hold it there stiddy, stiddy! and you might as well try to drown a bladder; there! you've gut the knack now, and you may float this half hour; and if you git tired a few, sing out to me, and I'll spell ye!

The moment he began to speak, I ran forward, and saw a large powerful man it proved to be the Tennessee–youth, apparently quite exhausted, and fast dropping a–stern; yet holding on by the hat, with its mouth under water and floating as if buoyed up with a cork–jacket.

Thats you stranger! never mind me; you look out for the wimmen–folks and I'll take care o' myself ride–and–tie if I cant do better; haint swum the 'Hio for nothin' I warrant ye, six months upon the stretch, five knot and a half agin the stream with a buffalo under each arm, and a catamount on my back putty severe boatin' tho' where I am. Something more he added in a cheerful voice, but we were already out of reach, and the next moment, another loud, joyful and long reiterated cry announced that the object of our search had re–appeared once more. I looked and saw both boats, which were now a long way off, pulling together toward a spot where something appeared like another very small boat. While I was yet looking, somebody rose up from it, and plunged into the sea. A moment more, and a slight glimmering broke through the water, and the blue chest emerged in full sight before our path, and lay rocking upon the surface. Hourray! hourray! cried a voice at my elbow, didnt I tell ye so! He'll have her now! if he dont, there's no sneks. When he div the last time I knew what he was arter *hourray!* There now! capering about the deck and rubbing his hands for joy there now! see as well under water as you can see here. Brung up to divin' at Pawtucket Falls ever there any on ye? seen 'em jump off the rich pole o' the Factory there, five stories high? swim like a fish feared o' nothin' dead or alive dont be in sich a tarnal feeze neighbor (to the grand–father, whose countenance I never shall forget as he stood there hardly venturing to let go his hold or to look toward the sea). Bate ye what ye like ye'll see her agin. There now! see there! didnt I tell ye so, as the old woman said, when the hog eet the grinstone, hurray!

## The Down–Easters, Volume 1

As he spoke, a strong arm appeared pushed forth from the dread level of the deep, and clutching a mass of white drapery. A short brief struggle ensued one end of the blue chest tilted in the air and a voice came up with more than mortal energy, as out of the very jaws of Death, saying Obadiah! Obadiah! *I've gut her, by jingo!*

Hourray for you! you old rascal you; thats our Amos! if taint I'm a chowderhead; jess like him hourray!

I shall not hourray! I never hourray till I'm out of the woods, answered the other.

*Jess so!* cried the first, fetching the old man a slap on the back, and cutting another caper with both feet in the air. Ever see sich a feller?

By this time both boats were along side of the sufferer, and by the help of the blue chest and a rope or two, and a spare bench, they were all safe.

Now my lads! now pull away for that fine fellow astern! cried Gage.

Ay, ay sir! And away they sprung.

Could'nt ye spell a feller, hey? shouted the man with the box, evidently exhausted with the fatigue of supporting his burthen, which was now in full sight her eyes closed, and her beautiful hair all about over his broad shoulders.

Over went one of the crew and a passenger, head–first in reply.

And over went Gage after them, not head–first like the others, but steadily and safely by a rope; and over went the youthful Georgian after him, though he could'nt swim his length, and had only been prevented by Gage from throwing himself overboard where certain death awaited him.

Ah my brave fellow! cried Gage to the yankee, as he dropped into the water, holding only the rope with one hand What ails you? are you hurt?

Jess you mind your own business an' take care o' the gal. When she's safe, you may give me a boost if you like hulloo, hey, what! there's another fellow over there cant swim a mouthful, you take care o' him, will ye; I'm too tired for that pocky tarnal tired, I ruther guess.

Gracious God Middleton is that you! cried Gage, leaving the poor girl and her exhausted preserver, to take care of themselves, and pulling after the adventurous madman like a giant.

I had it now in my power to be of some use a little not much; and intending to share in the glory of the achievement, I grasped at the poor girl, stooping over the bulwarks to do so, and with the help of two or three more, succeeded in lifting her, speechless and to all appearance lifeless, into the arms of the women who had gathered about us; and was turning away to assist the poor old grandfather, when I heard the voice of the yankee below crying out hang on! hang on! by gosh I'll treat! Whereupon I looked over and beheld Obadiah the swapper, dragging Amos out of the great deep, literally, by the hair of the head.

Mind the kew Diah! mind the kew I tell you; its apt to stretch! there't goes!

The words were hardly out of his mouth, when the quieu parted near the middle, the upper part slipping off like the skin of a squirrel's tail, and letting poor Amos into the sea again, over head and ears. It was half a minute before he came up, and when he did, the first words he spoke after getting his breath were Did'nt I tell ye so?

Did'nt I tell ye so! retorted the other looking at the end of the quieu which he held in his hand, as if he himself were drowning. Who'd a thought o' *your* wearin' a false kew! Darn me if I dont believe the story Eunice Blair told me about ye teeth now I 'member seein' a sojer scalped once 'twore a wig, and the Indian was most frightened o' the two aint ye ashamed o' yourself, our Amos?

## CHAPTER IX.

But enough. All were rescued, all in safety, and we were then at leisure to enquire into the cause of the accident. It appeared that poor Elizabeth was leaning against the rail of the lee–gang–way, which had worked loose or been left unfastened, and that, as half a score of the little romps, who had taken advantage of a clear deck while their mamas and the he–creatures were at dinner below, to have a little noise, were engaged in a race, one of them ran against her and she was precipitated backwards ay, backwards into the foaming unfathomable deep.

All eyes were now turned upon her deliverer. The poor girl once in charge of the women, he was by far the most interesting personage aboard I can see him this moment! there he stands! the great long rawboned, half–Scotch, half methodist–looking fellow, with his arms dangling to his knees, the water running in a puddle from the legs of his trowsers, and his coalblack hair streaming over his shoulders like the mane of a cart–horse. While we were standing about him, the grandfather appeared on deck, and passing by all the rest of us, went straightway up to him, and, without paying any attention whatever to our numberless enquiries, took him by both hands then stopped before him, and struggled with himself for half a minute or more, trying to speak and then turning away, began to sob like a child. I do not know that I was ever so much affected in my life. Again he made the attempt, and again he was obliged to turn away, with his heart too full for speech, faltering out a word or two about the Preserver of Men.

Jess so! cried Obadiah G. Fairfield, rubbing his forepaws together, capering about the deck, and hourraving at intervals. Beats all nater! Allys the way with our Amos and testifying his joy by a thous and uncouth extravagancies, which I now began to see through. They were brothers our Amos had betrayed their relationship.

At last I heard the old grandfather say I do not know how to thank thee; I am getting very childish; but if thee will go with us to Philadelphia and see her mother and the rest of our family, they will satisfy thee perhaps, that though we are a people of few words, we are not o' the unthankful or the forgetful.

No, I thank ye, no occasion said Amos, beginning to haul on his coat over his dripping clothes no proud flesh here nyther frind what may I call yer name?

Abraham Leach.

Well then, if its all the same to you Abraham, as I aint much used to your ways, nor you to mine and then he stopped, grew very pale, and asked for a bandage and something warm to take the chill off; and then, before we could put forth a hand to help him, though twenty of us were standing about, he staggered away with outstretched arms, and fell his whole length upon the wet slippery deck, within three feet of the open gangway the passage–way to another world. Then it was, and not till then, that we saw the whole strength of his character. On lifting him up, we found his breast severely cut, and his left arm disabled.

Gracious God! he is bleeding to death, cried one of the bystanders.

Not by two chawks! muttered Amos; wan't brung up in the medders to be kicked to death by grasshoppers; howsomever frinds, if its all the same to you, I *should* like a bandage to sling my arm, with a sheet or two o' brown paper for my head, a handful o' wormwood bruised with a wine glass o' New–England rayal ginwyne, (smacking his white lips,) and a mug half an' half two mugs I should say; for I owe that are chap there a

## The Down-Easters, Volume 1

handsome treat, (nodding to Obadiah, who held up the fag end of the quieu in reply,) and Amos O. P. Fairfield aint one of them air 't play sherk, I ruther guess, when it comes to a treat; if it hadn't a ben for 'Diah I might 'a gone to the bugs arter all.

To the fishes, more like, said Obadiah; might a laid in a stock o' kew-leather 'mong the eels, haw, haw!

That air plaguy split-wood's none o' the softest, I tell ye, for a feller to dive inter, both gwyin' different ways, and both in a dreadful hurry.

Here a pocket-book was put into his hand, as it lay over his brother's knee.

Hullo! what's this 'ere? turning it over, and shifting it three or four times from one hand to the other.

It is thine, whispered a voice at my elbow; it belongs to thee.

B'longs to me! no sich a thing; wunt own it nor touch to; never seed it afore who are you makin' mouths at?

A person here stepped forward, who had been making signs for a long time at Amos, and whispered something in his ear, at which his countenance brightened up, and rolling over and supporting himself on his elbows, he opened the pocket-book, and pulling forth a quantity of bank-notes, which lay smoothly spread out between two-folds of worn parchment; and puckering up his mouth and clenching his teeth as if to avoid betraying his inward joy, he proceeded to count the money, dollar by dollar, in a voice loud enough to be heard by all the bystanders, while Obadiah stood watching him, with a look of perplexity, which gradually gave way to another, more resembling anxiety, and then to another of downright shame. His lip quivered his cheek changed color and if I was not greatly deceived, there was a drop of scalding water in his eye.

But Amos heeded him not, and having finished the count, he lifted himself up, announced the sum total to be two hundred and sixty odd dollars, Filadelphy and Baltimore money, adding not worth so much as Boston money, by twenty-five per cent though; and then, after wiping his hands, he proceeded to lay it all back again into the parchment wrapper, smoothing it down with extraordinary care, drew forth a piece of red tape from his pocket, along with a handful of *sarled* twine, leather-straps, waxed-ends, a gimlet and spare screws measured it snipped off a piece of the proper length with a single snap of his large glistening teeth tied up the parcel with great sobriety and deliberation, and then to our amazement, reached it back to the person who had been whispering to him, without saying a word more.

Whereupon Obadiah pressed forward and clenching him by the hand, without speaking, though he blushed more than ever, and his handsome eyes looked handsomer than ever, burst forth into an uncontrollable fit of laughter; and then stopped suddenly looked silly and went away, as if ashamed of being so happy, or of betraying so much of his real nature even to a brother.

And why not keep it friend Amos? whispered the old quaker, who had stolen up to us unperceived, and was trying to expostulate with him, so as not to be heard by others.

No, no; thank ye as much as if I did no 'casion.

*Do* take it *do*; thee'll oblige me greatly, and her mother also. It is but a trifle from her abundance.

May be so, but between you an' me an' the post, neighbor, that aint the way I git my livin'.

I dare say not, continued the old man, his eyes filling with tears of joy and thankfulness; but thee has 'most spoiled thy clothes, and hurt theeself grievously, an' I have a right, as thee says, to indemnify thee according to law.



Not by a jug-full; cant obleege me at law, frind.

The old man shook his head.

Well, then, if its all the same to you frind Leach, or frind Abraham I dont know what your Pheladelphia fashion is, but we say frind so and so, in our parts I aint dreadful particular ye see about my clothes; never was good for much, all I had on wasn't worth a five-dollar bill; and as for my hurts, why man alive, we dont mind sich sort o' things where I com from, two jumps of a rattle-snek ben through a row o' griss-mills afore now, arter an' ole hat I dropped a fishin'; so yer see I shan't take yer money nor touch to; but I say *you* mister, (turning to me as he finished) brother 'Diah'll finish the trade with you for that air watch o' yourn, about the slickest, if you'll give him another chance, while my clothes are a dryin'.

The good old man smiled how could he help it? at the perfect seriousness of the proposal, and patting him on the shoulder, invited him to go below and have a trade with him for *his* watch, pulling out a heavy old-fashioned affair of his own, as he spoke.

That will I; cried Amos and then stopping and struggling with himself, he added; no no thank ye taint in my line to make-believe swap; I can see through you (good naturedly) you mean to be too much for Amos O. P. Fairfield.

But Obadiah was not willing to let slip so fine a chance, and when I next saw him, he was seated at one of the side-benches below, for a regular swap, without caring a fig for the evident displeasure of his brother, or thinking of any thing else on earth, I am sure; the old quaker trying to give boot for the bulleyed warming-pan with a pewter-face, and the other trying to swap it into him fairly in the way of business.

It was dark now, and we were making our way toward Baltimore smoothly enough I thought; nor did I observe, till we had come together about the tables below, that Gage and Middleton were no longer on the same terms they had been at first; each appearing to to hold himself apart and aloof from the other; and from the Tennessee youth, who appeared to believe that Gage could not have prevented Middleton from going overboard, if the latter had been as much in earnest as he pretended, I began to fear that mischief was brewing, and resolved in my own mind to to watch the parties and prevent them at all hazards. For myself, I was satisfied that Gage had saved Middleton's life by his violence, and that nothing but a fair opportunity for explanation was needed, to satisfy both of the fact. So, instead of going to sleep as most of the passengers did, I kept my position at the table, where two strangers were engaged in a game of checkers Middleton sitting afar off, with his hat pulled over his eyes, and his arms folded on his chest. I longed to speak to him, but was afraid. On casting round my eyes for Gage, I found him asleep on a settee, his countenance turned away from the light, and breathing as freely as heart could desire. Of course there would be no difficulty in dealing with him. Your true Yankee is always reasonable always even at the moment of unsheathing the sword, or pulling a hair-trigger.

Near me, with their ponderous legs outstretched over the superb furniture, half-asleep and half-awake, were Amos and Obadiah, and five or six down-easters, dozing by fits and snoring by turns. Many attempts were made at conversation, such as you may hear aboard a stage-coach in the grey of the morning, after a night, voyage over a rough road in miserable weather lazy questions, lazily put, and more lazily answered one would gape to see them in a newspaper people talking to themselves, and then waiting for a reply, or yawning and stretching all around, one after another.

Yaw aw aw, wonder where we are now? says one; how far be we says a second; begins to be rather cold here, mutters a third. *Very!* adds a fourth, muffling himself up to the eyes. The next moment they are all growling together, and all in the same key. My watch has stopped; if it taint I'm a bigger fool than you are. Only half-past nine! 'taint posserble. You dont say so gettin' to be rather warm here. *Very!* I say steward! how far is it to where we put up to night? Dont know 'azaclly sir, I'll ax the cap'n. See 't ye do aw, aw, aw! hot as blazes! *Very!* Man

## The Down-Easters, Volume 1

re-appears, saying tis *better* than two hours sail. *Better!* I should call it wuss by a darnation-sight. Yaw, aw, aw! everlastin' cold weather we have for the season. Very! At last the party got waked up, and the following conversation took place.

But we have *two* Universities, my dear sir, said the fat stranger who had been taking notes. Have ye tho'? Well, I *should* like to know what they're good for. So should I, muttered Gage, lifting himself up on one elbow and preparing to take his part in this, or any other discussion that offered a fair opportunity for playing with both sides of a question for every body knows that our University at Harvard is the first in the world is'nt it gentlemen? To be sure it is; whoever denied it? answered two or three voices together. Nobody in America. Talk of libraries and professorships, and oriental literature and all that, pho, pho! as a body may say

Precisely! added a little dapper Bostonian. You are a true patriot sir, and I honor you for your impartiality. *That*, (snapping his fingers with a revolutionary flourish) *that!* for your German Universities, and your Cambridge and Oxford Universities! what do they know about the improved system established at old Harvard?

Very true sir; give me your hand, cried Gage, Very true sir. In orthography, arithmetic and English grammar, to say nothing of the higher branches of mathematics, we have a

Precisely sir! Here bows were interchanged all around, followed by sundry compliments to one another's love of country, and freedom from prejudice, when my attention was called to another quarter.

What a strange foreign look he has! said somebody at another table; for my part, I believe he was just as much in earnest when he tried to jump over at last cant be a native American surely.

He is a southerner raised in the north.

You dont say so! answered a third voice.

Of the best blood in the country too, I can tell you that.

Wal if ever! Why judgin' by his looks, I'd wager a trifle that he had a cross o' the nigger in him.

Hush, for God's sake, whispered the other, turning with a look of alarm toward the subject of their conversation, whose breathing grew very audible a minute or two afterwards, though we thought him asleep. Such a remark as that sir, continued the speaker, would cost you or any other man alive more than you would like to pay.

Wal, if there aint a drop or nigger, there is o' Ingunn blood in him, or I miss my guess no harm in that I hope?

Sir! I entreat you.

Why what's the matter now!

If you wish to leave this boat alive, take my advice and avoid such remarks before the Men of the South.

You aint serious tho', air ye?

But I *am* serious. I look upon it as a matter of life and death.

Fiddle de dee! That for ye men o' the south, I say!

## The Down-Easters, Volume 1

And are the men of the south ashamed of being thought to have descended from the original proprietors of the new world? said Gage, speaking in a loud clear natural voice the chiefs, the princes, and the kings of North-America! Shame on them if they are!

A suppressed breathing made me look up, and there stood Middleton directly in front of Gage, his under-lip quivering, and his large luminous eyes all afire with inward commotion.

But Gage continued with the same steady look and firm voice, leaning back in his chair as he finished; and after some few remarks of a general nature respecting the men of the south, wound up with an eloquent apostrophe to the Indians cutting, as with a two-edged sword into the very joints and marrow of that unholy and ungrateful pride, which in the North as well as in the South (for in the north it is highly penal for whites to intermarry with Indians) has prohibited all companionship, other than that of master and slave, the oppressor and the oppressed, between them.

Middleton was evidently disturbed, and the Tennessee youth drew near, hoping I dare say, and believing I am sure, that something serious would grow out of the conversation before they finished.

And now Middleton, said Gage my dear Middleton, a word with you before all these witnesses. You want a quarrel with me I see it plainly.

Middleton grew paler and paler every moment, and he shook all over; but the wrath of his black eye was not so deadly as before.

Now, continued Gage, the plain truth is that you are in the wrong; and therefore I have determined not to allow you to quarrel with me. Nevertheless, for treating you like a madman (as you were) I beg your pardon for saving your life in spite of your determination to throw it away, I

Here a most unlucky laugh, badly-suppressed from the Tennessee youth, had well nigh set us altogether by the ears again; but Gage favored him with a look of reproof, and the savage was turning away, with a sort of good-natured growl, when, happening to catch the eye of Middleton, his countenance instantly changed and he drew himself up to his full stature, and stood facing him and waiting for Gage to finish.

Yes sir, continued Gage, yet more deliberately For saving your life in spite of your determination to throw it away, Gerard Middleton, I am ready, if you require it, and before all these witnesses, to beg your pardon heartily and humbly.

That's what I call showin' the white-feather, by Gawd! cried the Tennessee boy, turning on his heel as he spoke.

Middleton's eyes flashed fire; but Gage merely looked up, and begging him not to interfere, turned quietly to the other and asked him what he meant by the remark, and whether it was intended for him.

What do I mean, stranger? I mean jess what I say You are showin' the white feather; an' you know well enough what that means, if you have ever been in the woods an' seen the whippoor-will *run away* with her tail-feathers draggin' after her, one each side o' the bunch, as white as the driven snow that's what I mean, take it as ye like.

By all which I am to understand that you believe me wanting in courage to resent insult, or to punish insolence in plain English, that I am what bullies and swaggerers would call a coward?

What do you mean by that sir! who d'ye call a swaggerer.

## The Down-Easters, Volume 1

You shall know in a moment, said Gage, slowly rising from the chair, and measuring his tall handsome antagonist with an eye that neither shifted nor quailed, and a countenance that never altered, till he had finished. You believe me to be a coward then?

I do.

And you would insult me, nevertheless?

I would.

What think you of your own courage then? Is it not the courage of a swaggerer, to insult a coward?

For a moment the high-spirited fellow was abashed; but the next, observing a smile or a sneer about the mouth of Middleton, he uttered something something, I know not what, nor could I ever learn that any body there had fully understood it; and instantly, but for Gage, who grappled with the Tennessean and threatened to call captain Trip, they would have sprung at each other's throats across the table. As it was, they were instantly separated, and withdrew in a portentous silence to their respective berths.

We were now approaching Baltimore. The outline of the city was already visible upon the clear blue sky, in a mass of huge broken shadow, with the cathedral crowning the whole, and the Washingtonmonument upheaving itself into the unclouded vault, like the wonders you see on your approach to Rome, while yet afar off; and I had begun to hope that we should have no further trouble, when happening to turn away from the light, I had a view of Gage in a mirror as he sat with his back toward me, and for the first time in my life I felt as if nothing could save one fellow-creature from the wrath of another nothing. And yet he had only grown a little more serious; and so long as he sat with his back toward me, talking pleasantly with the other passengers, I should not have suspected from his voice that any thing was the matter. But from the moment I saw his face there, I felt alarmed I know not why the reader must have seen such a face to understand me alarmed for the safety of the Tennessean.

Yet as I have said before, the conversation was cheerful enough, and nobody else, not even captain Trip himself, appeared to think seriously of the trifling dispute which had occurred.

Again I found myself at my old employment of studying character and hoarding up phraseology. He'll do it any day o' the week, said a man at my elbow, let alone Saturdays of course the speaker was a Marylander of Irish parentage. What a heap a folks there was to be sure, said another a Virginian of course a mighty little man of his age, said a third a Carolinian. I shot the door, an' went an' sot down, said a fourth. I'm tired *some*; I aint tired *any*, added a fifth and sixth. Care that up, an' empt it; I expect he was eenjest tired to death all Yankees. No marm I have not wal I want yer to, ditto, ditto. Resky, jumpy, skerse, a dark-complected man; I should admire to see you do it: He said how he could handle me, and told him he might have a chance to try; use your thinkers: I vum if I would ditto, ditto, ditto. Good deal o' land about here: nice putty stars, but lord you, as the gal said to her feller, if you could only see the bunch thats right over our front door. There now! its all gut to be strained over agin! as the old woman said, when the dog p d in her milk-pan. Thats right down ugly o' you. I'm rather porely now. See any thing partiklar in that feller there? makes poetry himself sabbadays, made more poetry an' you could shake a stick at; never thought o' trying his hand at it nyther, till arter he failed in the timber-trade. You belong to Poland? No, to Minot you aint acquainted with a man by the name o' Dodge, Joel Dodge, air ye? all Yankees of one sort or another.

Thus far had I proceeded, taking down every remarkable phrase that met my ear, upon the blank leaf of a new novel, which lay before me a page that I preserved for many years, and have now most faithfully copied, when a passenger who came below for his umbrella and great coat, informed us we should reach the wharf in a few minutes. I ran up on deck and getting my luggage together, was standing over it and listening to the noise of the steam, as it bellowed and roared through the huge cylinder, when the boat reached the wharf, and the next

moment, dark as it was, two mortal enemies found each other out, as by the instinct of unappeasable hate, and before a soul could interfere, a splash was heard in the deep still water, accompanied by a loud half-smothered cry, which made us all rush to the spot whence it proceeded. A man was over-board. We drew him in. He was pale, and speechless, and bloody.

Gracious God sir, cried I, going up to Middleton, who stood near the edge of the water, with the light of a dozen lamps streaming upon his face his foot planted his hat off his collar open, his black hair flying loose in the wind, and his eye fixed with a dreadful expression of unrelenting wrath upon the rescued man, who lay stretched out like a dead body upon the wharf, with a cloak thrown over him and a portmanteau under his head Gracious God sir, what have you done!

*I have dirked him*, was the reply.

I shuddered; for the spoke with a cheerful voice, and I could have sworn that he smiled; for his black joyful eyes were shining with a newer and more savage lustre.

We parted before I knew the whole truth; but not before I saw him in custody, and heard him say with a light cheerful air pho, pho, my dear Gage, we are even now. What are you afraid of? the poor fellow may thank his stars that he had me to deal with, instead of you there's a chance for him now.

Gerard Middleton.

Pho, pho, I know what you mean to say.

If that man should not recover

Why then he'll be cured of gouging, that's all, putting his hand to his forehead as he spoke, and showing how narrow had been his own escape from the loss of an eye the hair was literally torn from his temples and there was the mark of a thumb-nail.

Man! man! cried Gage, I wonder at you.

I told him what I would do, if he did'nt release me instantly and I did it and there he lies!

God forgive you, said I; farewell!

Farewell sir.

And here we parted He for a prison or a scaffold, and I for the south.

## CHAPTER X.

After this, my curiosity led me far to the south, where I was a long while detained. On my return through Baltimore, I made some enquiries about Middleton, the result of which was very satisfactory to me, for I had begun to feel a deep solicitude concerning him. It appeared on trial that his huge adversary drew a knife, as he stepped upon the wharf where the blow was given, that he sprung at Middleton and seized him by the throat, apparently for the purposes of throwing him into the river, that he twisted his right hand into his hair, and that something was said by one or both about gouging, the very instant before the cry, which was followed by the plunge overboard. Middleton was therefore set free, though the man had not recovered, and it was probable never would recover. I had the further satisfaction of hearing that he forgave Middleton, and that he spoke of the affair

to the judges of the court in such a way as to excite the admiration of all who heard him. The public sympathy when I arrived at Baltimore was divided between the two; every body spoke well of the Tennessean, of his fortitude, courage and magnanimity; and every body spoke well of Middleton, who might have escaped a trial if he would; but he gave himself up after an accidental rescue, and was only discharged in due course of law.

The more I knew of this man the more I heard of his behavior from the day that I saw him arrested, in a matter of life and death, up to the hour of his acquittal by a jury, the more anxious I grew about him. He appeared to me to be made for superior things for great things and to have need of such advice and such help as a man a few years older than himself might give, were he invested with the authority of an elder brother. I would have done much for him, for he appeared capable of doing much for the world. But whither had he gone? where should I seek him, or that strange fellow that was with him, Gage? Nobody could tell me, though I pursued the enquiry for a long while.

At last however, just when I had given up all idea of ever seeing either of the two again, chance threw us together in a very odd way. I was at New York waiting the arrival of a ship, in which I intended to go on a voyage to the South–Sea. She was hourly expected, and I was therefore obliged to hold myself in readiness, night and day; and not knowing what else to do in such a state, I contrived to waste as much of my time as I could in the society of beautiful women, who make up a fifth part of the population of New–York, and among others, in that of a widow a magnificent creature a *lady* too, if there was ever a thing so delightful or so artificial on that side of the sea, with a set–off in the shape of two great sprawling daughters. It may be that I was in love with her; and it may be I would not swear that I was not in love with all three at the same time, for I missed the ship after all, and had two or three narrow escapes of one sort and another.

She was youthful at the avowed age of thirty–one or two, in a part of the country where women at the age of two score generally contrive to look as if they had never been less than fifty. She was a sort of epicure an epicure in every thing I dare not say voluptuary, that being a dis–logistic word. She breathed an atmosphere that was always ready to kindle about her; and she passed her life in touching and tasting for experiment sake, whatever it was not very safe either to touch *or* taste. I never saw a woman so followed in America, though she was not over wealthy; but then she was beautiful, the leader of New–York fashion, rather witty and sufficiently pious for the period I speak of. She appeared to me to have made up her mind God forgive her to enjoy life as much as it is possible for a woman to enjoy it, where men are legislators for every body. She knew that spies were set on every side of her path; she knew that there is no out–living nor escaping reproach, whether it be deserved or not, if a woman step over the invisible boundary that we have made for her; and yet, she was eternally trespassing where no other female would have the courage to look trespassing with one foot, while the other was anchored in safety; peeping into prohibited places; or standing a–tiptoe and looking over the barrier, and trembling and thrilling afar off.

She delighted in what are called innocent pleasantries, in pretty little misunderstandings, in half whispered, half–acted inuendoes, though she would look all the time as if she had no mischief in her heart, and speak as if butter wouldn't melt in her mouth; and she had a way it would be impossible for me to describe it a way that no young woman ever had, a way that few married women ever had (while they were married) of entrapping hearts with a snare that every body could see; now by flirting with a ribbon that shivered with every breath she drew, or lay as if it were alive upon her superb shoulder; now by gathering up her exuberant hair; now by permitting a bird to play with her shut lips, or to plunge his beak into a mouth like a wet rose–bud; now by coquetting with a child or a guitar; now by toying with a watch in her bosom set with jewels, or a miniature, a chain, or a necklace, the sparkle of which would be sure to attract the eye; now by pulling up her slipper halfsitting, half–lounging the while, upon a deep couch covered with loose drapery.

I had seen her in my youth, I knew her when the war of 1812 broke out, and I knew her at the close of that war, when it began to be considered a very proper thing for people to go to church twice a day rain or shine provided they were not able to keep a carriage. I knew her at a period when fire and earth–quake had made it rather

fashionable to pray and when very respectable and very genteel people, were known to pray and when the most beautiful women of New-York were to be seen at church, though Broadway, the Battery, and both rivers were open at the time; and she appeared to me to grow younger and younger every year.

At the period I speak of, she had become rather devout; every body spoke of her piety, and I had observed that there was a *stir* among the British officers, who happened to be there on parole at the same time hardly one of them ever missing the church she frequented, when it was understood that she was to be there, and very few the day or the hour, as they paraded up and down before their favorite places of worship, if they saw her carriage roll by; many of them showing the most exemplary moderation, forbearance and self-denial, when the weather would not allow them to break out in their holiday-uniforms, by going to church, nevertheless, with any thing to cover them till they were fairly housed, when the loudness and solemnity of their responses and the clangor of their kneeling, were enough to do your heart good. Take it altogether, it was a very refreshing season as we say there; and I was repeatedly assured by Mrs. Amory the fair widow, that she had seen a young naval officer, who sat behind her pew, so wrought upon by the eloquence of Dr. Mason, that he was obliged to cover his face with his hands very pretty hands they were too, and remain with his head in a corner till the Congregation were set free; and that she saw another, a military man (with a new coat covered with new bullion, a new hat, and no umbrella) betray a very becoming sense of his awful situation, one day when it suddenly clouded overhead, as they come out of church together, now by turning up his eyes to heaven, with a look almost of despair, and now by muttering a few broken sentences, which appeared to be heaved up from the very bottom of his heart. I was futhermore assured by a clergyman that he had never known such a revival at New-York as that which took place while the British were thundering at her gates; but then he acknowledged that soon after the war broke out, there was a fearful awakening at the north; and I heard from another quarter that the land shook, that armies were seen parading over the sky, and great ships riding at anchor in the hollow of the mountains, where the fog was like a sea, and the noise of the wind like the roar of the sea.

It is a time of war, said another, and if a time of war will not make people serious and regular in their attendance at church provided they have new clothes, no other place to go to, and nothing else to do, why the devil *is* in it. Oh! for shame! cried the beautiful widow, adjusting a magnificent shawl, and stepping away so as to show the whole sweep of her person you are too severe. Am I?

Yes. You would not be at church this very day, but for the shawl you received last night from India.

She was already on her way up the broad aisle, with every eye upon her; and every pulse fluttering at the sight of her cashmere.

In spite of all we say in America about the patricians of Europe, and their foolish pride of birth, we are not without our patricians here people of yesterday or the day before, who having had grandfathers of their own, are not to be confounded with the people of to-day. When I first knew the fair widow, she was manoeuvring for a place among the former; when we parted she was manoeuvring still, but I fear with little or no prospect of success, for some how or other, it had come to be known that her father was nobody neither a lawyer nor a merchant, not even a retail-merchant nothing but a tailor. Of course the widow, but for the carriage and pair that she still continued to keep, her beauty, and her supposed wealth, which gave her the lead for a time in the little world of high fashion at New-York, would never have been situated in what is called *good-society* there meaning the society of the few that live without work, or by a profession, or by merchandize imported by the cargo, to say nothing of the *best* society there, the ancient nobility of America, whose fathers happen to have died where, if history be true, *their* fathers happened to live.

It cannot be denied however that so long as the widow was able to sport her cashmeres and her carriage, not a few of the second class of republican nobility, were vastly condescending to her at church, where it is understood that a whisper, a bow, or a shake of the hand, is to go for nothing if it be not authenticated elsewhere.

## The Down-Easters, Volume 1

Why do you live such a life? said I to her one day, as we sat together in the deep couch I spoke of, she with her eyes fixed upon the fire, and I studying the changes that I saw in her face Why give people such power over you?

Why! her lip quivered, a shadow that I had never seen there before, played about her mouth, and her forehead shook in the fire light. Because I am a mother

Well, and what if you are

A mother; and every body knows that the first duty of a mother is to be, when her daughters are old enough to appear in the world what I never shall be heigho!

And what is that?

An old woman my dear Mr. Fox.

I was very much struck by the tone of voice, in which these few words were uttered. They appeared to issue from the very bottom of her heart.

She continued I am a widow.

Your own fault, if you are a widow long, said I.

A widow, and past the age, when, whatever we do is looked upon with charity; a mother and and

Her eyes filled

With two grown-up daughters; a widow, with a feeling which, whatever other people may say, she knows to be the feeling that agitated her in youth, always at work in her heart heigho! I wish I was in my grave heigho!

I tried to sooth her. You in your grave! said I *You!* why what would you do there pray?

I might sleep Mr. Fox.

Query

Heigho!

Nonsense. You have it in your power to be happy, and to make others happy; and yet you are wicked enough to wish yourself where between ourselves now, my dear madam I doubt if you would have the same power that you enjoy here.

If I had never been married at all, I I beg your pardon I I do wish you would go for Kate.

Certainly, said I, she's a dear good girl.

She looked at me Well, why dont you go?

Lord bless you, said I, without moving a step, aint I going as fast as I can?

Very well turning away her head, as if she did not hear me, and looking into the fire with a faint smile And everybody knows that the chief duty of a mother is to maintain her daughters, from the day they are old enough,



or large enough Kate is very tall of her age dont you think so? at every sacrifice and both much younger than you would suppose hey?

I bowed.

Keep them she must, at every sacrifice and at every humiliation to herself, in just exactly that rank of society, where they have no clear, indisputable right to be.

Very true; what else *can* she be good for?

What else?

After a certain age, I mean.

Of course with a smile heigho!

Whether she be married or a widow, old or young, beautiful as the day or or

She drew a long breath.

Or ugly as the witch of Endor.

Very true, my dear friend where they must live in a state of warfare with everybody that comes in their way.

In bad humor with everybody

And with themselves into the bargain; for nobody knows how to behave to them in society, whether as equals, or humble companions, or as people having as good a right as their neighbours, to make themselves uncomfortable and ridiculous in a certain way.

And where everybody who, crosses their path will be sure to wonder at them said I.

True, true.

For that proves that they are in a rank of society, where, but for intrigue, electioneering, and sheer impudence, they never would be.

Very true.

In this comfortable situation, they grow up, their hearts brimful of bitterness and fear, and sickly hope; forever slipping back in their up–hill ascent, and forever leaning forward.

Very true and elbowing the less happy or the less ambitious at every step, under pretence of keeping their places

Bowing their way up, till they get a head or a toe into the group just above them, shouldering them aside at the next breath, and then turning their backs upon them, through every successive stage of society; all whom they have out–stripped rejoicing in every humiliation they meet with, and all whom they approach wondering aloud at their audacity; but all every where above, below, and about their path, uniting together against them, forever on the watch to discover their faults, and forever disposed to magnify their failures, and rejoice over their humiliations.

## The Down–Easters, Volume 1

Ah my dear sir, I feel the truth of what you say every word is true.

Then why persevere in that path? Believe me madam it is not the way to respectability, whatever you may suppose. Your children are made unhappy to no purpose; they will not be suffered to remain where you have tried to place them.

I believe you; but what am I to do?

Give up the society of people you do not care for.

Ah! you know not how much you ask!

And the society of those who do not care for you.

Oh Lord! what would become of me?

You would be happier than ever

Query, as you say; I cannot bear solitude heigho!

Solitude!

Yes; your plan would leave me I very much fear in a deplorable state.

How so?

Altogether alone. Here she heaved a sigh that went to my heart, and her eyes fell, and her little snowy hand slipped away from the place on which it rested, and fell upon the crimson drapery of the couch, like a live bird escaped from a snare.

I wish you could be prevailed upon to see this matter as I do, said I, slipping my hand after hers in such a way as to alarm neither You might be very happy.

She shook her head with a faint smile.

And why not, pray?

How can you ask! am I not the mother of two grown–up girls?

And what if you are?

And am I not younger at the heart, this very day, than either of the two, my dear friend?

Upon my word, I believe you are.

Still young, without the privileges of youth?

I could have wept a tear or two here, at the very sound of her voice.

A mother of women, without a share of that insensibility which I regard as their highest prerogative.

I understand you I pity you.

Excuse me, I cannot bear to be pitied heigho.

Pho, pho that is the talk of your every–day novelreader.

But I am very serious.

Pho, pho; cannot bear to be pitied! you! why what are you made of? There is not a creature alive in the shape of woman, ay, or of man either, who in saying that, would say the truth. It were easier to live without hope, than without pity.

To say all in a word *I am a widow*.

That's true

If I were to withdraw from society at my age, what would people say?

Say! That you were a thousand times wiser than they ever thought you.

It would be ascribed to the jealousy of a mother; it would be said every where that I withdrew to escape the mortification of being rivaled, or it may be eclipsed by my own daughters. Ah my dear Mr. Fox do you know I have taken a great fancy to your name christian–name I mean but proceed.

In which case, they would be thought older than they are, and you, therefore, older than you are; and you might be obliged to go into your grave a widow.

I mean to go into my grave a widow.

Really!

Yes heigho!

I know better.

She snatched away her hand, which some how or other I never knew how I had contrived to clasp, and withdrew her foot which had strayed into the middle of the hearth–rug, where it loitered with an expression (feet have a deal of expression, love) that well might give me the heart–ache, as I sat by her side.

## CHAPTER XI.

We continued our conversation.

You go to church twice a day now.

*Now!* I have done so for a whole year.

Ever since your pulpit was furnished with a tall, handsome, unmarried man, of high family.

Absurd!

## The Down–Easters, Volume 1

So pious too so severe of speech and so very devout, always in the way of a prayer–meeting, or a lecture, now.

Why to tell you the truth, I have no great aversion to these matters now; we see very good society at church

The truth will out! You have no dislike to the church, nor to the pious, nor to praying a little yourself in a private way when there are no cards out, nor much risk of your being caught by the ungodly; nor would you refuse to appear at a public conference, or at a chapel I dare say if you were supported in the measure by the presence of good–society. You are perfectly satisfied with yourself, you care not whither you go, nor what you do so long as you are in good–society. You have two daughters to bring up, and being yourself neither very old nor very ugly, you would endure any thing to preserve their place and yours in good–society

You are very severe

Then what I say must be very true. Would you not I ask you as I would have you ask me wo wo u you not wear a mob–cap, or say thee and thou, if it were the fashion?

To be sure I would why not? I see no harm in a mob–cap, nor in saying thee and thou, if other people do.

Other people of high fashion. You would undergo a sociable private awakening I dare say, or a snug revival at your own house, if it were required of you?

To be sure I would

Ay, or sing through the nose

"I'll take my staff and travel on

"The way that Zion's pilgrim's gone, with every other tune of the conventicle, to the guitar, the harp, or the piano, if you were kept in countenance by what you call good–society? You go to the house of the Lord every sabbath–day, as you call it, Mrs. Amory, not because you care a fig for what is done there, but because, now that the British are nigh, you are pretty sure of meeting with good–society there; and you go to the table of your Saviour (provided there be no other engagement,) because there, even there, good–society may sometimes be met with

Heigho.

At this very time, that no part of your superfluous piety may run to waste, you are a member of two or three little evangelical associations, got up for the encouragement of the poor and the base, for the promotion of tittle–tattle and the scriptures; and you are secretary to a sort of club, where, at so many coppers a week (filched out of your servants or your milkwoman) every member is entitled to a cup of tea and a vote in the election of her favorites to power in this world and the next; where you intermeddle with mysteries and work–bags at the same time; where you rummage among the stars and the cherubim with as familiar an air, as other bonnetted things do among paste jewelry, Brazil diamonds, or changeable silk in a retail shop; where you prattle about heaven and *the other place*, very much as you do about your puddings and pies; and select places for good–society, in the sky, and for unbelievers *not* in the sky; as if each of you had a map of our Father's house that house with many mansions with a plan of the pit and boxes.

Well

You are a member, to my knowledge, of a tract society, and a part of your pastime is a sort of wholesale piracy; you learn to make books, not by combining letters and syllables, but paragraphs and periods; by pasting together bits of newspapers, of little greasy story books, of superannuated almanacks, of worn–out ballads; producing therefrom, by slight changes of titles, names, dates and facts, or by transposing an occasional period, the most

## The Down–Easters, Volume 1

affecting and well–authenticated narratives, either of surprising conversions to your creed, or of terrible judgments on the misbeliever, with certificates in blank for all who are pious enough to vouch for their truth

You are in a sweet humor, to be sure; we lay no claim to the authorship of the works we put forth we merely abridge them for the poor.

So! abridgement with you, means the tearing a book to pieces and putting a few of the leaves together again?

She made no reply.

It is further lawful I hear, when you have no *tracts* before the board, for the members to sigh in rotation over the particular depravity of such or such a person, who, to prove your impartiality, or your superiority to the prejudices of the world, is either a relation, a friend, or a neighbor.

But we always give our authority for what we say.

So as to prevent the possibility of its being attributed to envy, or malice, or tea–gossip.

Why, what would you have!

I hear too, that she who has the readiest tongue, the shrillest voice, and the greatest variety of anecdotes not generally known, of domestic infidelities and squabbles in our city, is made chair–woman over sea they would call her a char–woman.

Lady president if you please.

Well, who is your lady president now, pray?

The lady of Mr. B

The *lady!* pshaw

Of Mr. B the rich banker.

The rich banker! fiddle de dee, Mrs. A we have no bankers here.

And a very pious lady she is too, and very charitable.

How dare you say so! She is a woman of no true piety, of no fixed religious faith, and you know it; a mere gossip and the worst of all gossips, a gossip in creeds, without knowledge, and without a spark of true charity, if you mean the charity that seeth no evil hopeth no evil.

Thinketh, if you please

A woman who believes that they who are not of her church must be I will not say what now; and that your good–for–nothing moral people, who do their duty on earth for the sake of what may be had on earth, and belong to no church at all, are hardly worth praying for; a woman of no worth, of no character

Of no character!

## The Down–Easters, Volume 1

Of no principle; very like the majority of women though, educated as they now are, not so positively bad, as negatively good. She charitable! God forgive you! Her charity is confined to those who go to her church, or visit where she visits, or to people whom she knows, loves, or shares in the reputation of, whatever it may be; or it is that kind of give–and take–charity which induces her to excuse every thing in every body, partly that she may appear amiable, and partly in the hope that one day or other, we may be ready to excuse every thing in her. It is not the charity that engirdles the earth, embracing every creature alive, our enemies the whole human family, pressing them together on every side as with a sort of moral atmosphere, by which, and through which the pulsation of a heart here may sound through all the hearts of Europe, and the throb of a heart there, sound through every other quarter of the globe.

Ah, but how humble she is, and how meek!

Very! humble enough to go in the attire of a princess to beg for the poor; humble enough to wash the clean feet of the youthful and the healthy, if she had a crown upon her head, or if a whole nation were looking at her; humble enough I dare say, when the sea roars, when the sky thunders, or the earth shakes to hide herself in holes and corners with abject humility.

Lord, how you talk!

She is not of them that are able to stand upright in the earth–quake, yet fear to blaspheme their Maker, by calling any work of his hands, least of all that which he has made in his own image, utterly vile and worthless.

If you go on so, I *must* leave you!

Thus much to give the reader an idea of Mrs. A's character, and that of her conversation. It may be that he has heard a beautiful widow reason before if not, he will be gratified with what I affirm to be a true report of the discourse that she indulged me with: let me add here that Mrs. Amory was precisely of that age, whatever that may be, when a woman is most to be feared by a full grown man. Young women, and beautiful children of that age that all women wish to be, "Sweet sixteen," seldom or never succeed in snaring a full–grown man; or if they do, they are never able to keep him. The proud, the wise, and the mature of the male sex are not much given (whatever the poets may say, and whatever the fair may suppose) to doating upon women while *they* doat upon green–apples and confectionary, chalk or charcoal, or bread–and–butter, and skip the rope, hour after hour, with what is called a sincere and innocent joy; they cannot abide the unfledged nestling they seek a braver appetite, a heavier plumage and a louder note in the bird that is to sing them to sleep in the pride of their strength birds that are met with only in the far–quiet and shadowey places of our earth, or along the sea–shore the solitary spirits of the solitude.

You are to be with us on Friday week, I hope, said Mrs. Amory, laying her hand with a sweet careless air upon my shoulder, in the midst of my reverie.

On Friday week! I hope not.

Very civil, to be sure

If the ship does not arrive soon Good God! it is impossible for me to stay here; I am wasting my life away, fretting myself to death.

Poor man perhaps you are in love.

God forbid ah; a knock I must be off.

## The Down-Easters, Volume 1

Off now! off in such a hurry! no, no, my dear sir, that will never do. If you must leave me, wait till you see who it is Ah I know that step! dont escape now the moment the door is opened, I beseech you Ah, my dear Mr. G. how d'ye do; where's your Georgia friend?

Here to-morrow, said the new comer. It was Atherton Gage himself, but so altered, so pale and so haggard, I scarcely knew him.

Will he indeed!

I thought you were determined never to admit the handsome profligate, as I have heard you call him, into your house again, said Gage.

Ah, but he is not so bad now, I hope?

Worse than ever.

What can I do?

Do! pshaw

I beg your pardon! Mr. G. Mr. F.; Mr. F. Mr. G. Ha, ha, ha!

Happy to see you, Mr. F.

How d'ye do, Mr. G? And we both laughed at the oddity of the introduction.

Well, said Mrs. A.; hereafter you shall be Mr. F. and you Mr. G. You shall go by no other names.

It was indeed the very Gage I saw on board the steam-boat; we recognized each other immediately, and having laughed heartily together at our absurd introduction by Mrs. Amory, we were on a very familiar footing before we parted.

Ah, you appear to know each other! cried she.

We have met before, said I.

Under very peculiar circumstances, added Mr. G.; this gentleman saw the whole of that unhappy affair, which led to the overthrow of our plans for the South.

Indeed! How wonderful that I should never have heard either of you speak of the other! Pray, Mr. Fox turning to me.

We did not know each other madam; said I.

But you shall know each other now the two best friends I have on earth.

Gage smiled, I bowed, the widow returned my bow, and I was the happiest man alive.

We passed the evening together, and a part of the next day, and the whole of the next, and before the week was over, we were on the best terms in the world, with the widow, with ourselves, and with each other. But one thing puzzled me I was anxious to hear about Elizabeth Hale, the fair Quakeress but whenever I alluded to her, he

would contrive to change the subject, so that up to the last hour of my being with him, I was never able to learn whether she was dead or alive; and yet some how or other, I had a suspicion that he *knew*, and was determined not to gratify me.

On Friday you are to go with me to Mrs. A's great annual party we shall take no excuse; I want you to see Middleton, said Gage, one evening as we sat lounging together at the play; I want you to see that fellow in his glory surrounded by all the finest women of New-York, though they know and everybody else knows here, that he is a very sad fellow among the women a-sheer profligate.

Are you serious?

Quite. You will hear him declared to be so by all the mothers, and all the daughters of the city.

Who avoid him of course.

Avoid him! pho if he should be there on Friday evening, I would have you watch their behaviour toward him; it will show you the true character of many of our beautiful widow among the rest.

Of *our* beautiful widow I began to feel a misgiving.

Why sir, you must know that from my boyhood up, I have been reckoned a very exemplary sort of a somebody having the reputation of great wealth (undeservedly I confess) yet being no way remarkable for the vices of the age. Mr. Amory gave one of her large parties a month or two ago perhaps you were there?

No; I had gone up the North-River.

Well, I was invited, was unfashionable enough to go before day-break, and received, so long as there was no other young man in the room of more wealth or of a worse character, a deal of attention To say all in a word, Atherton, dear Atherton was particularly distinguished by every body. So then, said I, interrupting him, your name is Atherton Gage after all, and not Nehemiah?

Yes But let me finish. Now I know of nothing so awful, as being formally introduced to a jury of mothers, who have heard a deal of you, who have been expecting you for a whole hour, and who have, God knows how many daughters on their hands undisposed of such daughters being seated in a row, all about the room, every two flanking a mother, all with their eyes fixed on the floor, and all, you would suppose holding their breath, as you enter the room. To see the looks that are interchanged as you draw near! Round you go round the whole room after the man of the house, repeating the names that you hear, but always repeating them so that nobody knows what you say; bowing always to the wrong person, to *Miss Amory*, when you are introduced to the mother of ten boys, whom you are desirous of complimenting on her family, or to the mother of ten boys when you are presented to Miss Emily Bibb Tucker.

A real name, I'd swear

A real name, you *may* swear, and then the triumph of the daughters, when the virtuous monster appears, about whom they have heard so much, and the sheepish look of the mothers, who begin to see they have a little overshot the mark, the compassionate drowsy expression of their virtuous eyes, the solemn elevation of their virtuous noses; for my own part sir, I do not wonder at all that modest men grow desperate, after having been once in company with libertines before modest women. Why sir, on the night I speak of, Middleton did not appear till it was time for the better sort of people to go; but from the instant he did appear bless you *We* modest well-behaved young fellows, might as well have been at the bottom of the red-sea. Nobody saw us nobody heard us nobody cared for us. We were not treated with common decency by the virtuous women; we might have



## The Down-Easters, Volume 1

starved, but for the humanity of the waiters, or commissaries rather, whose instinct seems to lead them on such occasions to those who are particularly virtuous or particularly modest; to all who, if they were to pop off on the spot with an apoplexy, would never be missed by the people about them, before they saw the name in the next morning's paper; to every body male or female who never speaks a loud word in company, nor ever at all, but when spoken to, nor ever then, without laying just three fingers of the left hand flat upon the mouth and fetching a sort of a-hem! thus a a-hem! You smile sir, but what I say is very true; Mrs. Amory had just put a question to me for the fifth time, which question I had answered four times, and was about to answer a fifth time in precisely the same words, when Gerard Middleton entered the room the most notorious profligate of New-York Mrs. Amory never heard a syllable of my fifth answer.

I laughed heartily at the air with which this was said it was so natural, so true.

I did not much like this, you may be sure, continued Gage; for I knew that I was generally spoken of as amiable, sweet tempered and wholesome; so very sensible for my age, that it was quite a comfort sometimes to hear me talk, and fitted of course to make any woman happy. But will Gerard Middleton, now, luddy tuddy! it was directly the reverse. But while everybody said so of me, nobody seemed to believe it, even among the fair who said so to my teeth every one appeared disposed to except herself so much for my virtue I might make any woman happy and welcome if she would let me; all appeared to believe this, and there the matter ended for any advantage my virtuous character was to me. To be sure, they stuffed me with cake till I could not speak so as to be understood, and scalded me with hot-water till I could hardly see out of my eyes; and then if I made up to a fine woman, however remarkable she might be, I found that she only lifted her head for a moment and after seeing who it was, went back to her sweetmeats, or cake or ice-cream, as if she had done all that could reasonably be expected of a virtuous woman toward a virtuous man. Flesh and blood! I have seen such things! Why sir, the women go before such as me in their dishabille, without a touch of remorse, or a throb of self reproach the dishabille of their minds I mean. But I am all out of breath after a short pause, he returned to the subject.

I felt rather curious to see how they would bear with Middleton, on the night I alluded to; and the more, as I myself had heard our dear delightful widow say that he was a young fellow, without either religion or manners, or piety or good-breeding; I preserve her climax, for I remember it well; she was puffing me to my face, her dear friend Atherton, for being so superior to most people of my age. But you dont appear to relish what I am saying of the widow.

Not much to be sure, but still I I should like to know the truth.

Should you? Well, I admire your courage.

Go on, if you please

Well, I have heard her wonder what other women could find in him so attractive a mere boy

Ah, but boys are the devil with women of a certain age.

For her own part, he was the last person in the world whom she would permit a child of hers to associate with, and so and so she associated with him herself.

Of me, Mrs. Amory had always spoken in the highest terms, praising me to the skies before Kate and Phoebe, (the first of whom I was dead in love with); and yet when I came to see her and them together, I was received with only that kind of attention which everybody pays to the feeble and inoffensive, to the helpless and the contemptible. Once, to be sure, when there were to be only a few maiden ladies of no particular age with her, some of the Bible-Society, who wanted a secretary, and a few teachers of the Sunday-school who were on the look out for help, I had a regular invite for the season, with the run of the parlor and as much cake and tea as I

could manage; but then, whether we met once a week, or once a month, I always had to work hard for my tea, was regarded as the least unfashionable of the set, and generally passed my time at the board, jammed in between two pair of bony hips that never stirred without stirring me. But then to give the glorious widow her due, if she accidentally ran her head against me at church, I was pretty sure to be seen by her; and some times would be favored with a question or two on the way home, if she walked, while I was trotting at her elbow and carrying my umbrella so as to protect her and expose myself; but then she never heard my reply never I *will* say that for the widow never in all her life, or else, if she did, she certainly had the most unlucky memory; for at the very next breath, if she spoke at all, it would be to repeat the very same question, probably in the very same words, looking at her tidy feet, or dallying with her own pretty fingers the while

Ah, what a long breath you drew just then!

Did I! sorry for it.

Well, everybody spoke of me in the same way, and treated me in the same way; everybody praised my virtues, and everybody neglected me. I passed for a young man, God forgive them, wholly superior to the vanities of the day, the world, the flesh and the devil; wherefore the ladies of a certain age were in the habit of speaking and acting before me, very much as if I were a lady of a certain age myself; and the girls, dear creatures, why, they were as careless and slovenly (I can't bear the word sluttish) in my presence heigho as if I were a wooden youth, or a great lubberly younger brother of their own. After a while, however, a sad story got abroad concerning myself and one of my mother's chamber-maids there was not a word of truth in it, I confess, but so long as it was believed, I did not lack for invitations of that you may be sure; and if I appeared in company the girls either opened their eyes at me, or made mouths, or pulled up their slippers, or hid their feet, or would not see me till after they had washed their faces and combed their hair.

## CHAPTER XII.

Friday evening arrived, and Gage and I were together at the very place where I had determined never to be again. My ship was ready to sail, but I cared no longer for the ship; the South-sea voyage lay before me, but I could not bear to think of the south-sea; I had but one hope in the world but one desire. I had not been able to sleep for three nights ever since our conversation at the play; I had put off the hour of going to bed as long as I possibly could; knowing that the night would be a sleepless one, a night of sorrow and fever, and fear and bitter self-reproach, and every night the same till I should be weary and sick of life; and I had risen morning after morning at a very early hour, because I had found it so, morning after morning; though every night when I laid my aching head upon the pillow, it was with a determination to be very late on the following day for what else could I do? Hour after hour, would I lie with my eyes shut, striving to wear away the time, to count myself asleep, to remember the very words that she spoke to me, as we sat side by side on that couch hang that couch the very day before I encountered her dear friend Gage hang her dear friend Gage endeavouring to persuade myself, though I dared not look at my watch, that I had wasted a goodly portion of the day, while yet it lacked seven or eight hours of noon; that she *did* care for me after all, though I had no courage to think of her behaviour when the arrival of Middleton was mentioned, or of the color that flashed up over her pale face when she heard Gage say that we were acquainted. Perhaps, thought I, perhaps Gage may be a rival of mine; perhaps he may not like her manner toward me, and if so by heaven! I will see them together! I wish I could see her alone with Gage or Middleton no matter which it would be easy for me to behave like a man if I know the truth, much as I love her love her! yes I do love her! I love her as I never loved any other woman; but so long as I am in doubt, I must behave like a boy I must and will!

So, on Friday evening, though the ship was ready for sea, instead of going abroad, I went where I might see the woman I most loved on earth betray her love, not for me, but for another a mere boy.

She saw me the moment I entered the room, and came up to me, and gave me both her hands before all the company. How was it possible to doubt her after that? She had never looked so well. Her large clear eyes, of a color that no two persons were ever able to agree about, were full of expression, full of subdued beauty, and her black hair massive and black as foliage carved in ebony, was like that of a woman just hurried out of a bath to her own bridal, with hardly time enough to coil up the magnificent profusion of her wet shining tresses. To tell the truth however, the whole truth, I must own that although she gave me both hands with a show of cordiality, which at any other time would have made a fool of me, I was not altogether satisfied by her manner; it was too eager, too hurried, too anxious and her eyes were upon the door all the time she was talking to me; and though she flattered me to my face with a fine speech, and though I knew it was flattery, and though it is very flattering to know that you are worth flattering, still still my heart misgave me. I could not breathe as I now breathe, and I could see nothing but eyes all about me, hear nothing but a confused murmur, for the first minute or two after I entered.

She I do not like to say Mrs. Amory, or the widow, in this part of my story, she was at the head of those who were thought to have a peculiar knack at entertaining company. She had a word for everybody, a smile for everybody, and a hand for everybody. Sometimes, to be sure, I found that it was the very same word, and that while she was giving her hand to A, she was talking to B, smiling to C, and bowing to D.

It would not be too much to say that her tongue was never idle, from the first moment I saw her till the very last; hour after hour was consumed in repeating the same or similar things over and over again to every body she spoke to; and yet she appeared to me over-thoughtful and over-anxious all the first part of the evening. She was called witty, and smart, and showy, and clever (by an Englishman; pray observe this, for in this country, to be *clever* is to be good-natured, as to be a fine woman here is to be a woman of agreeable manners and pretty good sense, whatever may be her shape, while in England a *fine* woman is a large, dignified showy woman,) and I cannot deny that she gave out her oranges and repartees, cakes and conundrums, riddles and sweetmeats with a deal of propriety and grace.

And yet, (I will say *Mrs.* Amory now, for I just begin to remember how she treated me, and have worked myself up to the right humor for telling the truth of her,) Mrs. A. was not *very* witty, she was only rather so; her replies were quick, and therefore they passed for repartees; whatever she said, was said with an air of smartness and fire which took people by surprize, and therefore she appeared to be witty. Her wit however, was only the wit of the toy-shop, the retail-haberdashery of the drawing room, the every-day retorts, which are to be met with on every-day conversation cards they could not go wrong, they could easily be invited, and almost anybody might entrap another into saying that which would justify a cut-and-dried repartee; it was nothing of that high-bred sprightly playfulness of the tongue, that capricious, brilliant coquetry of a superior understanding, the dear delightful nonsense of a happy heart, which when it is natural, is *so* captivating. No, no, my dear widow it was the common, poor, conventional wit which people use after having associated long together and got all their good things in common a sort of genteel cant of their own, which enables any two of them, if they meet before a stranger, to play off, a certain quantity of rehearsed and prepared lively dialogue as if it were unpremeditated. Reader perhaps you may have seen two weather-beaten old-fellows, who had been at sea together some forty years before, sit and laugh at each others unintelligible joke's "turn about" as they say, for two or three hours together on a stretch; or perhaps you may have met with two broken-down bachelors, on a raw day at a windy corner, and heard them as they stood shivering in their light coats (with the tails blowing over their heads) and plethoric trowsers, holding on by their hats and complimenting each other on their good looks, till you wondered how they were able to keep their countenances? If so, you have an idea of what I mean by thorough-bred courtesy and conventional wit.

So so cried Gage, coming up to me as I stood in a far corner of the room, watching the people about me as if they and I were not of the same earth So, so! how d'ye do, glad to see you; I like your way, you mean to be of our side, I see.

Of your side how

## The Down–Easters, Volume 1

You mean to be virtuous and meek; well, well, it gives you many advantages. They permit us to linger after the rest are gone, to hear what every body has to say of every other body after every other body's back is turned.

Quere if that would be so agreeable?

You are getting serious!

No, no I hope not.

Yes you are so take hold of my arm, and come along with me, and will try to entertain you.

I took his arm, and we walked away together; for I knew not how to escape from the misery of my own thought; I longed to be away on board the ship, or any where at the very bottom of the South–Sea, and yet I had not the courage to move. The woman that held such power over me God knows how and for what purpose, if she did not love me stood a little way off, and my heart died within me, as I saw her color come and go, at every knock at the door, and at every step that approached us.

Why sir, continued Gage, as we drew near to a group of ladies all talking together I have seen our widow ah! there she is now I have seen her pull that very group to pieces one by one, after they had been prattling together as they are now, for a whole hour; I have seen her laugh at and mimic the fat mother, who to give the lady her due, is to be sure a terrible eater a a a (mimicking) can't sleep ma'm, can't upon my word after a late supper with you; very bad health just now, very thankee my dear; another leg o' the chicken, if you please very delicate indeed, I assure you; really now its quite distressing to see how some people gorge a jelly if you please, my dear; one would think they were never able to get enough upon my word that cream looks nice, I'll trouble you sir, or that they never got any goodies at home; with all my heart sir though I never drink wine, your very good health sir! a bit o' the breast my dear; thank you sir for one of the sweet–breads a a I have long had a desire to see how they are got up; by the by, love there's a cranberry–tart near you much obleeged to you I have known people, and very pretty–behaved people they were too, with *such* a stomach! a jelly my dear if you please, they would digest an ostrich thank you love.

By this time, we had got into the middle of a magnificent room which overlooked the North–River; and I stood there a while, studying the characters about me, as they passed and eddied and whirled hither and thither, like the shadows we see in a camera obscura. It appeared to be crowded with strangers, people from abroad, British officers and American officers, naval and military, here a judge and there a shop–keeper; on my left a general who walked with his toes in and his head forward, there a legislator unable to express himself in his mother–tongue. Here a fat wealthy West–Indian, with a shape and a complexion so like that of a huge overgrown toad, as to provoke every body that saw her to cry out at the resemblance, there a dear little mahogany daughter with hair blacker than the wing of a raven. The mother you see, is a little tipsy or so hiccup said Gage, and does nothing you see but laugh now and then very oddly and abruptly, at nobody knows what, pull forth a splendid watch with a deliberate flourish, set it, or wind it up, and put it back into her feather–bed, with another flourish, and a sparkle each time that never fails to produce a dead silence, you see, among the ladies about her who have neither watches nor diamonds it absolutely takes their breath away.

By her side was another large woman, who appeared very anxious I thought concerning five great gawky girls who sat in a row at her elbow; and I heard her whisper to one of the five that Mr. somebody–or–other, who was then helping them to a batch of cake, was not to be encouraged, being as she had reason to know, a young man of no property.

Ah, said I, they are very rich I suppose, and the mother would keep an eye on the cake–bearers.

Alarmingly so

How much?

Guess.

Why, fifty thousand dollars each.

No five thousand dollars or so, not more.

Indeed!

Among the whole five.

What airs!

Yes for heiresses.

Who is that pray? said a neighbor to Mr. Gage, pointing as he spoke, to a young fellow that stood near, of a noble aspect, with the wisdom and sincerity of a good man so conspicuous in his broad clear forehead, fine mouth, and composed carriage, that no one could have doubted his goodness, it appeared to me at least I could not, after I saw that nobody went near him, except once or twice, to see if he had enough bread-and-butter for the evening.

That, said Gage with a smile, which I understood, is a unitarian preacher, a moral man of the North; and a very good fellow he is too.

That I am sure of, said I.

You know the discipline of the college where they are bred perhaps.

Perhaps I do; but a look at his plate would be enough to satisfy me; you may estimate the moral character of every man here, by the degree of attention he receives.

Bitter enough you seem to have little or no use for your plate, I see, and if I were you ah!

He stopped in the middle of the sentence, left me, and hurried away to the most extraordinary looking young man I ever saw, with a bright olive complexion, a perfectly Greek face, and large black eyes. He appeared to be full six feet high, and he wore his hair parted upon his forehead and falling back over his shoulders with a slovenly savage air that reminded me of something I had seen before.

Pray said I, turning to a neighbour, can you tell me the name of that person

A long deep breath at my elbow made me turn the other way. It was my dear, dear Mrs. Amory there she stood! within a step of me without seeing me, her body bent forward, her hands half-locked in a superb shawl, and her eyes rivetted ay, *rivetted* on the stranger, who threw up his head with a look of surprize when he saw me. It was Gerard Middleton, but so altered, so grown, so superior to what he was when we parted on the wharf, that I should have passed him on the high-way without knowing him.

Oh Mrs. Amory! said I to myself, when I saw *her* look, and *his* carriage toward her. Oh, Mrs. Amory, Mrs. Amory, oh! High time for you to be off Mr. Fox, and the sooner you are off the better, Mr. Fox, and the sooner you are on your way to the bottom of the South-sea, the better Mr. Fox. Another man would not have waited for this but you are a what am I? you are a fool Mr. Fox. Very true, said I, Then why don't you go Mr. Fox. Because I am fool enough to desire nothing but her happiness and if I see that he is really dear to her; if it be in

my power to promote their union, I will do so, whatever be the sacrifice to me. You are a d d fool, to be sure Mr. Fox; and here my soliloquy ended much to my relief. Now Middleton was undoubtedly the handsomest man there; and though I felt a strong desire to cut his throat, I could not help liking the brave haughty negligence, the proud, happy freedom of his carriage and look, as he stood in the midst of us with every eye upon him, and my dear widow biting her underlip at his side.

What was to be done? Should I go or should I stay? Should I run off like a boy, and go a–board the ship, and behave like a fool for the rest of the voyage; or should I carry the matter through like a man; stay where I was, and outbrave the proud woman to her face?

Hey! what! in a brown study again? said Gage. Here Middleton! this way I wish you to be acquainted with Mr. Fox. We bowed to each other, or more properly *at* each other, and after some talk about, I never knew what, we were intruded upon by a lawyer with a light blue neck–cloth, rings and broaches, a tilter in his walk, and a pretty wife a fellow nevertheless of extraordinary black–letter erudition, said Gage, who saw me staring at him, with a good heart, a clear head, a genteel temper, and a huge library; quite a character, studies hard, works faithfully at his profession, takes the most comprehensive and profound views of the science

Of the *science* of law! said I, bitterly enough I hope.

Perhaps you may not call it a science.

No faith not I.

Ask any of these gentlemen here.

All of the bar, I suppose?

Pretty much.

Excuse me.

Well sir, as I was a saying.

He takes the most admirable and comprehensive views of the law.

In de *main* sair, said a Frenchman who stood near, but not in de *tail*.

And yet, ha, ha, ha! he wears rings, ruffles, breast pins, and a stock that half–strangles him, the queerest colored cloth in the world for his coat, and gets along the high–way with a sort of a tittopping hitch, as if he had the spring–halt. In a ball–room, he would pass for a man–milliner, or what is far more contemptible in a state where women are helpless or not allowed to maintain themselves, for a retail shop–keeper.

I bowed, and several of neighbours hurried away from our party, as he proceeded.

What say you Mr. Fox?

I say as you do Mr. Gage.

In a court of justice you would take him, if you were too far off to hear what he said, for a travelling jeweller, from the North, trying to put off some of his ware upon the judges. Look look! he is eternally at play with his watch–chain, or wiping the inside of his palms with a linen cambric handkerchief, or pulling his chin, or taking

off, wiping, and replacing his gold–mounted spectacles let us go nearer, and you shall hear what they have to say, that group of lawyers you see there, our legislators, our masters; our law–makers and our law–interpreters.

### CHAPTER XIII.

Yes sir, said one of the number as we drew near. But I maintain that the words A. and B. were married on such a day, are sufficiently precise to show that the said A. and B. were, on such a day, made husband and wife.

Excuse me Judge Blarney.

And excuse me brother Lyman.

In every such case, all that we require should be certainty to a common intent, a reasonable certainty.

Very true, Judge.

And Lord Coke says that, in pleading, which I regard as analogous, we shall not be required to state things with more certainty than they are capable of.

Does Lord Coke say that?

He dooze indeed

And, that where pleading tends to infiniteness.

Well, well Judge; but how does it appear by the words in question that A. and B. are *male* and *female*? And if they are not, Judge I put this to you, with great confidence if they are not! how can they be man and wife?

True brother true, said another lawyer by the name of Sewall.

What if you save the point? said a third.

And proceeded the speaker, and sir *and!* if that be the case, and if it be demurrable to for uncertainty sir, as I hold it to be sir and sir! *and!* as you cannot travel out of the record, sir it appears to me sir, that the words A. and B. sir, were married sir, are not enough to show that A. and B. are entitled to relief as parties to the Bill in question!

Well put brother Lyman! well argued brother Blarney! cried a little man who stood in the rear of the judge; nevertheless I submit (looking over the the arm of the judge, and vociferating as if he were on trial, in a matter of life and death,) I submit, I say, (The devil you do, cried Gage, who'd a thought it?) that in addition to the words A. and B. were married the said A. and the said B. I suppose'

To be sure

I assumed that, from my knowledge of the high legal character of our learned brother; in addition to those words I say, I submit with all due deference, that the word *together* might have been used, or may hereafter be used a hem! with propriety.

So as to read thus, brother Parsons A. and B. were married *together* hey? said Lyman.

Precisely, sir, That's the point I would make.

But how would that show what you are desirous to show; they may be both men, or both women, and yet both married *together*.

Well, to be sure! and so they might brother Lyman.

In which case, added another, what if we say that A. married B. or B. A.?

Well, and if we do, what then? said the learned brother in the blue cravat; A. may have been a clergyman, a minister, or a magistrate, (vide laws of the colony, Re-Co.)

Re-Co., said I, what does that mean?

Revised code

Or a notary (vide laws of France, code Napoleon etc. etc.) or a blacksmith, (vide laws of Scotland) in which case, though A. were to *marry* B. still B. would not be A's. wife.

True, true, cried several of the group, nodding to each other all round with a look of admiration.

Pray brother H. continued the Judge, how would it work to say, perhaps you have authorities already on the point

Brother H. made a very low bow.

To say, in such a bill, that A. and B. married *together*, in the active sense, you observe not in the passive, brother H.; not *were* married together.

Why, it appears to me, if the court please (a laugh) I beg pardon of the court, (another laugh) I mean to say, Judge Blarney, that we have disposed of that point already, because if people are married at the same time, they are married *together*, although as we have it in Sir Matthew Hale, and in the great case of Perrin and Blake, they are not married so as to become legally man and wife; which I take to be the point in issue. Our bill being intended to shew that A. & B. are in fact husband and wife, we say

Ah! ha! but I have you now, brother H! we shall adopt your idea, we shall say that A. and B. were *made* husband and wife.

Liable to the same objection brother B. for they may be *made* so, not to each other, but to some other individuals.

Good God, sir! cried Gage, is there to be no end of this no way of telling the story on paper.

What if you say that A. and B. were united on such a day *together*, said I, not knowing what else to say.

Just as bad: for two people may be united *together* to two different people, and at the same instant, you observe.

How *are* we to say it, I beseech you! said Middleton, who began to get interested, in common with every body else, carried away by the earnestness, perplexity, and subtlety of the disputants, who looked to be sure as if they were discussing a matter of life and death to each.

Why,... hesitating... why a a



## The Down–Easters, Volume 1

Tip him a fee Middleton, said Gage in a whisper.

You might say, continued the lawyer, that on such a day, (naming the day) at such a place, (naming the place,) A. and B. (the said A. and the said B.) were joined together in lawful wedlock viz. the said A. to the said B.

And why not say they were married to each other, or that they married *with* each other, or that the man took the woman to wife?

Why to be sure but you'll excuse me the law sir, the *law* requires great nicety in these matters; mere common sense might allow you to say that is that is in short sir, there is no authority on your side

No authority, sir!

None, sir, none in the world sir.

Why, sir, it is the very language of the classics.

The lawyer smiled, and the Judge drew a long breath, which to my ear, sounded like the monosyllable pooh!

Quere de hoc. Here we parted, I was thunder–struck. I had never seen the exceeding efficacy of words before, never seen the mystery of language so delicately obvious. Lord! how the study of the law, thought I, must enlarge and elevate and sharpen the proud faculties of man.

My reflections were interrupted by a voice near me Pooh, pooh, love pooh, pooh! said a large man to his little wife, who hung upon his arm, like a heap of millinery, pooh, pooh love, how you talk

Ah, but he's proper smart though...

Smart! a fellow with only one idea in his head.

*One eye*, dear!.. how can you say so! I'm sure he's got *two* eyes, dear!

Why, mother!... why, ma!... good lord, what a fool you are, love!

What for?... didn't you say he'd got but one eye, dear? (to the husband.)

Yes ma, but father meant what you call an idee.

There now!... that's always with you; talking about forchune and virtchue, and idee–ahs, how should I know what you mean, if you dont talk like other people?

I tell you what, brother Joe, said a sweet girl near me, as we moved away, he may pick and choose among the very women that make mouths at him, and you'll find it so: he may marry any woman here he pleases.

And who may not, Miss Peggy. The ugliest and the silliest may marry whom they *please*, may they not, my dear? added a joker by profession.

Sister Peggy. I do beseech you to make more use of the relatives, whispered her brother, a tall stiff young man, just away from Harvard for the holidays. You never hear me say that I would marry any body I please

No, indeed... you are not such a fool as that comes to, I hope.

## The Down–Easters, Volume 1

But any body *whom* I please, or that I please.

Do you mean, said the lawyer, in a blue stock, who had followed us to the spot; pray sir, allow me to ask you drawing out a rose–colored handkerchief, with a low bow and a flourish, and taking off his gold–mounted spectacles, and wiping them very deliberately before he went any further to ask you sir, if you hold a a

Permit me, interrupted a man whom I heard called master Gray, permit me to observe sir, that the idiom of our language will admit of a... of a sort of a

To be sure, that is the very thing sir, I assure you sir, that I intended to lay before the to offer that is for the consideration of the.....

You'll excuse *me!* added the grammarian he stood six feet four the idiom of our language raising his voice as the lawyer tried to raise his, but the tall man having got the start of him by at least eleven inches, the lawyer could never hope to overtake his altitude of our language I say sir, and I think I ought to know

Yes, you *ought* to know, said somebody near me; there is no doubt of that

The idiom of our language I say, will permit us to employ either mode indifferently.

Oh! very indifferently! cried the same voice; I knew by the very key the very pitch that it belonged to somebody who had a reputation for wit, so eager, and so sharp, and so decided, and so well–timed for effect was it.

Every body laughed, and then, after the laugh had continued for a minute or so, every body began to look about for the cause. O! but it grieved me to hear the laugh that followed every speech and almost every word that escaped from the mouth of this man. To see how eagerly he was followed, how he was waited for, and how they would laugh as if they were ready to die, if he but opened his mouth or pointed his finger.

I withdrew from the place, and I know not how long I should have kept away, though the woman of my heart was there and the southerner who appeared to have got possession of hers, but for a strange quiet which caused me to look up; when I beheld the latter standing near the centre of the room, and literally holding forth, in a low voice to be sure, but loud enough to fill the air with music, unabashed, unmoved by the stare of a hundred eyes.

He never talked so well, nor so fluently, nor so eloquently, nor so connectedly before, whispered Gage, who stood near me. And he is sure to talk best, where no other man would be able to talk at all. No matter where he is, nor how situated, he can bear the heavy, dead, insupportable silence of a large company, better than any other talker I ever heard.

He seems to me very sure of being heard with favor.

Pray, sir, how do *you* define it? said a middle–aged young lady, as if she had entered the course for a talk with him.

I should say, was the reply, though it would be no easy matter to give a definition, that enthusiasm is a sort of moral electricity

Pooh! said Gage his talking was for talk sake.

I knew it, I saw it in his air I saw it in every word he spoke, and yet he carried me away with him at last: he stood so bravely up to the encounter of all the eyes in the room, and poured his heart out with such unstudied, earnest, clear simplicity, in such a fine, free colloquial style, with such impassioned sincerity; using with wonderful

## The Down-Easters, Volume 1

aptitude the very words that seemed made for their places, and fitted for the expression of a thousand subtle and exquisite meanings, which became instantly perceptible to me, as he talked and reasoned.

But while we were gathered about him, his fine bold voice died away, and immediately a pair of large glass doors were thrown open, and all the company poured into the garden, which lay below us like a theatrical show of wood and water.

Follow me, said Mrs. Amory, tapping Middleton on the arm with a smile which went to my heart.

He obeyed with a careless lounge, and we followed them to the river side. Ah! cried Gage, one may look into the lighted water now, like the disembodied among the stars. Look! upon my word, I can see the fish darting hither and thither like so many flashes of light, through the dim shadowy depth; and you I hope will stick by us, he added glancing at the plate of the preacher who lingered in the rear; and as for you (in a whisper to the widow) my notion is that you had better have an eye on that serious-looking pale man. I have been at his elbow this half hour, and you may take my word it, he is not a fellow to be quieted with nuts and gingerbread

Hush, Atherton hush, he'll hear you

Nor to be bribed into insignificance by a stray smile, or a great piece of pound-cake.

We were now at the very edge of the water a large green spot of well-trodden turf on our right, and a group of old trees on our left.

Now, sir, said Gage, now if you desire to know the real character of the woman who rules you, and would rule every body if she could, with a sceptre of iron twisted about with full blown roses stick to my side. If he does not bring her out, I will what say you yes or no? will you pitch me into the river, knock me down, or give me the hug of a brother?

I could not reply my heart was too heavy and my breathing too thick.

You know, continued he, that your every-day women have a knack of be-praising each other, till they provoke you either to laugh at or to contradict them, which contradictions by the by, I never knew a woman lose her temper about, although the dearest of her "dear five hundred friends" were the sufferer. Now, if you will keep near me and watch the widow, you shall see her play a game as much superior to that, as that is superior to the bare-faced play of two fish-women, who hate each other and abuse each other by the hour.

The younger part of the females were now dancing away, every one with her heart in her eyes, much as we might expect from newly-born creatures, never permitted, save under the most jealous and vigilant guardianship, to feel the influence of shadow and greenness, or wind and moonlight, or sky and water. Among them was one, who excited a universal murmur of surprise wherever she went. Every eye was upon her every bound and every swing was followed by a leap of the heart among those who stood near me (if they were to be believed) and by correspondent inclinations of the part of those who were a little further off. They persuaded her to sing, and I should say from the little I heard, that somehow or other, it was not music, but something better than music the melody of wild birds in the sky it issued I dare say from her benign mouth, but it appeared to issue from her large dreaming eyes I borrow this idea from Gage, who filled me with poetry before I knew where I was. While we were looking after her, she emerged for a moment from the shade of a drooping willow near us, into the broad light of the moon.

Gracious God! breathed somebody at my elbow it was the cry of a heart overburthened with joy, brimful of prayer instantaneously delivered of some bright hope. Gracious God what a face!

The Down-Easters, Volume 1

Now for it, whispered Gage, now for the beautiful widow!

Look into the depth of her eyes! you may see her very soul in motion there!

That you may! said the widow

You may look down as it were into the deep of her heart

Precisely, said the widow.

But how is this you do not appear to like her so much who is she?

Not like her! bless your heart, how mistaken you are! why that is the very girl you have heard me speak so much of

Not Rosa Moore!

The same; but I see you like her, and I am so glad! for do you know, my friend, that there are people, who some how or other, don't appear to like that wild expression of the eye, which to me, and I dare say to you, is the chief charm of her face the pure poetry of the girl's nature.

I never saw so much poetry in a mortal's face before cried Middleton; nor so much purity.

Indeed *never!*

No, never!

Well, I am glad to hear you say so poor thing!

Poor thing, widow! is she so very much to be pitied?

Pitied O, no! what could put such an idea into your head; to tell you the truth, she is a prodigious favorite of mine heigho.

Indeed, as you say, *in deed!*

though for the last year or two I have not been able to see poor Rosa, quite so ah, we are overheard

Well, what if we are

Some other time if you please

Nay, nay, my dear widow, if *you* please; out with what you have to say, if you mean to impeach her character

Impeach her character! I! Heaven forbid!

But you might as well impeach it, as to say you have something to tell me about her, which you dare not tell me before a third person

How you talk! Hush, hush don't talk so loud all I meant to say was

## The Down-Easters, Volume 1

No, no, my dear Madam, no whispering here, *if* you please.

Well then the dear girl does look rather too much like her unfortunate mother; but a a how do you like her dancing?

Beautiful! beautiful!

You do think so, don't you? I knew you would; and you have no idea how delighted I am to have you

Rather late in life?

Considering her age, I mean; her poor mother, as I told you, being a sort of a having a but that's no fault of her's you know, and I would not have our dear sweet Rosa reminded of it, no not for the world

Tut tut

Ah! cried Gage, looking up to the sky, ah! upon my soul, widow, I can see the rest of the family.

Oh fye, Mr. Gage.

Don't stare, widow, I mean the creatures of the blue sky, the angels that keep watch over the pure and good Ah, widow, widow! the Being that made her must have been less terrible than you believe in your church.

Why, how you talk Atherton Gage! how dare you are you not afraid the sky will fall.

No indeed, not I.

All very true and very sublime, I dare say, continued Mrs. Amory, but, I'll leave it to Mr. Fox would'nt it have been as well for the dear, dear creature, to learn a figure with live partners, before she threw off with such people as you see there

Madam, said I.

Widow! said her companion, letting go her arm.

Sir.

A word more and I shall hate you continued the latter.

And so shall I; whispered Gage.

In-deed! why, you know she must have learnt with chairs, for you see that whenever the people change places the poor girl is all at sea

Fire and fury!

If she would turn her toes out however, I do say, and I do not care who hears me, that Rosa would be a most lovely dancer....

Whew! whew! whew! cried Fox, do the women up there, (pointing to the sky) do they turn their toes out, think ye?

## The Down-Easters, Volume 1

How do I know, said the widow such mysteries are above our knowledge; but

But *if* they dance, you will say

*If* they do dance, I humbly hope they do not dance parrot-toed.

Now as for me, said Middleton, I'd rather see all the cherubim at work on all-fours parrot-toed, than beautiful creatures of earth dancing after the fashion of our day.

Oh dreadful!

Why Mr. Middleton! said somebody else, you are enough to scare every body out o' the room.

Really, Mr. Middleton, added the fair widow, you make our blood run cold

I am sorry for *that*, my dear widow; but when I see people who ought to know better, praising a step in the dance of a pretty girl, not because it is beautiful or graceful, but because it is difficult, I am ah ready to ready for 'sdeath! it cannot be!

Well, sir, ready for what?

Heavens! how pale you are! cried the widow.

Pale! not I, indeed!

But you *are* pale Gerard, you are! whispered Gage and your lip quivers, and I see a fine sweat on your forehead, which my dear fellow! let us begone! you are ill very ill, I am sure.

No, no I am better now, that sweep of the fresh air, and the voice, I don't hear it now do you?

What voice?

What voice, my dear Atherton, look at me.

Gage turned and looked and then throwing up his hands with a remarkable change of countenance, he added in a low voice, madman! all eyes are upon you!

Atherton Gage! I did hear it, I tell you.

Hear what!

I heard a peculiar note in the uproar just now don't laugh at me I would swear to it on my death-bed.

Nay, may, Gerard recollect yourself you are deceived.

The widow grew very pale now, and her breathing changed, and her eyes wandered away into the shadow, with a look that made me wish myself on board the ship once more, and once for all.

How do you like her singing? continued a pretty girl near me, who had not opened her mouth for a whole hour, and she opened it now, in the hope that nobody would hear what she said just as I have seen a youthful orator, who had made up his heart for a speech, wait and wait and wait and stew and wriggle, and wriggle and stew,

## The Down–Easters, Volume 1

till the meeting was nearly over, when if a great uproar occurred, enough to encourage him, up he would jump and call on the Moderator Mr. Moderator! Mr. Moderator! Mr. Moderator! in a big bold voice, which if the Moderator saw him, or the mob grew still, in the hope of a speech, would end with I beg leave to say, uttered in a hurried far off squeak, that nobody, not even the Moderator could be able to trace.

Very much, said I.

I didn't speak to you, said she, putting up her lip at me, and looking at the hero of the night, as if we all three belonged to the nursery.

Ah, but if you had been so lucky as to hear the sweet girl sing before she took lessons, you would have liked her still better I am sure, said Mrs. Amory.

Why so

Ah, she was *so* natural then!

But what a fine figure though! said Gage, touching me with his elbow.

Very fine, said I very! Superb!

True, said Mrs. Amory that's precisely the word for her superb and yet, would you believe it? she has not come to her growth yet; she is only in her fifteenth year

In–deed!

Yes but her mother was very large; are you partial to large women, Gerard Mr. Middleton. I mean.

Large women! said Middleton no indeed, not I but who said any thing about *large* women or *fat* women? She is what Mr. Fox calls her, a superblooking girl

And so she is, and I quite agree with you; a superb woman for a ride on horse–back, for the head of a table, for a walk on the battery, or a walk in the ball–room, though not perhaps *petite* enough altogether, for a dance a tea–table, or a fire–side, or a nursery.

There, there! that'll do ah! what is that but a step, I should like to know! as pretty a rigadon as ever I saw in my life.

And so it is I declare! and see too how near she is to the music, now only a little too fast, a very little dear Rosa!

*She* a little fast, no my dear widow the music's a little too slow, whenever they do not move together.

There again! cried Gage, the sound appears to come up out of the earth where her foot falls, very much as if it waited for the step; and her voice too Lord, Lord! what a voice to be sure! Would you have such a voice whimpering a lullaby over a heap of blue and white yarn; with the toe of such a foot as you see there, on the tip–end of a cradle–rocker? Why, it sounds like a like a nest of canary–birds, in a hawthorn bush, pure Italian coming up by starlight from the deep sea where now Gerard?

Mr. Middleton! Mr. Middleton? what's the matter! what ails you! stop, I beseech you!

Madam

## The Down–Easters, Volume 1

Before you go that way, a word with you, and with our two friends here

With me! said the haughty southerner.

With *me*, said I, and my heart was in my throat.

Why, Middleton! how agitated you are! cried Gage.

Woman woman! are you playing tricks with me again!

Middleton Gerard Middleton, hear me recollect yourself, I beseech you.

Woman! repeated he, in a low voice, woman I feel a dread here my heart misgives me you know the story you know the whole of it, I never asked you *how*; but you have heard my oath, and I should hope look at me I hear a voice you know what I mean.

I do you have heard the voice of a broken–hearted girl; a girl that should have been your wife, Gerard Middleton, years, ago, though you are still a boy

Here's a to–do! thought I here's a blow up! hang me, if I don't believe I shall suffer the ship to go sea without me, after all!

My wife! she my wife! a half–breed of the Creeks.

And what are you, but a half–breed?

Madam! say what you have to say, and let me go? I have not come here to be insulted: my birth is pure my blood is pure, though I may be somewhat darker than your babies of the north.

You loved her, did you not?

I did.

You married her too, did you not, according to the laws of her tribe?

And what if I did?

Ah! you blush!

And what if I do?

It gives me hope, it gives me courage. That woman is now here. She is not so dark as I am will you see her I beseech you to see her!

And why should I see her! You do not hope surely, *surely*, you do not hope that I would marry a woman with a drop of indian–blood in her veins! I loved her, and I love her yet I love her too much to risk her with my kindred but you do not believe me

No sir, I do not



## The Down–Easters, Volume 1

Well, then, hear the truth. I would not put my hand into hers *now*, I would not kiss her forehead *now*, for all the wealth of America. Had you known me, you would never have dared to say what you have now said were she a white woman, I tell you, were she from among the proudest of our proud white women, I would not marry her now. You have an idea that because I love, because I have acknowledged to you that I never should cease to love her; because I would drain my heart here, before your face, to make her happy, you believe I would be wretch enough to marry her

No sir, not to marry her, but to acknowledge her. We know that she is your wife now, your lawful wife and a wife that you or any other man might be proud of

You do not know all.

I do, I do; I know that you deserted her, that after she knew our law, you refused to marry her by that law, and that you left her a prey to the white men

If you knew all all you would not speak as you now do to me.

I know enough to justify me in saying that she deserves you, and that she loves you so much that you will be the death of her, and that ah! where is your courage now!

God be merciful to you! I feel that she is near me! Speak to her! speak to her I conjure you! let her not see me!

Something approached here: and he folded his arms and waited for it with his eyes fixed upon the earth; and after a few moments two females drew near, one a little in advance of the other in a black satin dress that glittered and shivered as if her very soul were escaping from her body. She saw Middleton, and stopped short on her way, and held out both her hands but he would not see her, and I had only time to observe, by a side view of her face and the turn of her neck, that she was very beautiful and rather fair, with little or nothing to show that she had the impure drop in her blood.

Madam, said Middleton, to the widow, in a voice that I should not have known, so altered was it *I* do not shrink nor quail, you perceive. She does. Now is your time to save her go to her go to her if you have any mercy; tell her that I forgive her, she will know what you mean; but say that so help me God! I will never touch her hand again, while I breathe the breath of life! She has made a devil of me! and wo to her, and wo to you! if you do not check her now that she is about crossing my path!

Let us go! said a voice, which appeared father off, as if it came from her companion. There is no hope. I have made the trial, I have done my duty, and now, he is yours I have done with him forever. His fate is in your hands do with him what you will. I told you how it would be. Let us go.

I started with astonishment, and was satisfied that the speech issued, not from the lips of the girl I saw, but from the other. That is no Indian, said I to Gage, as we walked away.

You are mistaken she is a fourth breed.

How so?

Come this way Her grand–father was a Spaniard; her grand–mother a native Creek; she is a quadroon, therefore; she was brought up among the Creeks: and there he met with her full five years ago. They were married, and they were happy, for he did not know until they had been married a few weeks, that her blood was not pure

Not pure!

## The Down-Easters, Volume 1

No; and as they were married, not according to our law, he told her that she should never be his wife his real wife; and forsook her; and his father sent him to college to complete his education: There! you know the whole story now poor fellow, I pity him; he'll never marry another, and he cannot marry her by the laws of Georgia.

Down the laws of Georgia!

So I say; for she's a noble creature.

And he! what is he!

He! oh, he is of the blood—royal of the south.

By the Gods, if I knew her, I would offer myself to her

Would you really!

Yes, I would!

Are you aware of the consequences?

Perfectly: if it were known to the whites of our free and equal community, she and I both, and our children's children would be pointed at and scoffed at, for the marriage. And yet, were we to cross the sea, and take refuge in Europe, I should be greeted by princes for the sake of my wife, and she would be the equal of their proudest women.

### CHAPTER XIV.

Not a wink of sleep did I get for the whole night, after the scene I have described. I was too happy my heart was too full; but then, to be sure, I had no need of sleep, I could bear to be awake now, for my mouth was no longer parched by my breathing, nor my blood heavy with a heaviness which no mortal could bear, without feeling that if it continued, he would soon have no business on earth. Ah, thought I, as I lay hour after hour with my eyes shut and the window curtains drawn Ah! what a noble creature it is! How unjust I have been! how I have wronged her admirable heart! and how meekly she has borne the outrage! And what if she *is* a little given to coquetry, who cares? And what if she *is* a little absent in her speech? And what if she *does* a little overdo the character of a religious woman, that she may keep well with society, and get rid of her two daughters? Why should you blame her Mr. Fox? Isn't she a mother? Mr. Fox, and if she should ever become your gulp, Mr. Fox wouldn't that be so much the better for you Mr. Fox? Talk of her bad faith too, toward other women! Why, what a fool you are, Mr. Fox! and what a knave *you* are Mr. Fox, when, if either of you had half an eye, you would see that she takes a very sincere pleasure in the society of the young and beautiful of of of her own sex. And of our sex too, I should have added at any other time, but now I was too happy. And what if she ah, a knock who's there?

A boy from the ship, sir

Well what does he want, sir?

He wants to see you

Open the door; what do you want my lad?

Want you sir.

*Me!*

If you please; we're only waitin' for you; anchor's weighed sir; fair a wind as ever blowed

Give my compliments to captain Goff, and tell him I have had no sleep for a week, that I can't think of a trip to the south–sea, before I have had a nap, and that if the wind keeps fair, I shall try to be aboard in the course of the day.

May be you'll write as much to the cap'n that's rather a tough message for him, jess when the ship is ready for sea.

D the ship!

You'll excuse me sir, but we never hear nobody damn the ship, and it's my private opinion sir.

You rascal! if you dare to shake your head at me, I'll odds bobbs! I'll beat you to death

Ah, you're abed now, an' so I've only to say that if you don't go aboard the boat now, you'll never go aboard the ship for we're tired o' waitin' for you.

Be off, you dog you!

Very well sir

What are you laughing at?

Your things are aboard, you know?

D n the things!

Very well sir, good by'e sir a pleasant voyage to you sir; you'll find your things on the wharf.

On the wharf!

Ay sir; cap'n Goff told us to take them up with us in the jolly–boat, and if you did'nt see proper to be ready for this wind, to leave 'em on the wharf, and wish you a pleasant voyage in the wake o' the widdler Amory.

I could bear this no longer. To be jested with about the widow Amory by the captain of a ship the messenger a cabin boy, was a little too bad. Out I jumped, with a full determination to pitch the rascal through the window; but he slipped off, and I heard him laughing outside of the door, which he flung in my face, and all the way down stairs. I had half a mind to follow him in my shirt.

However I was now out of bed, Jupiter be praised, though but for him (the boy I mean) I should have whiled away another hour in that place of all places for a man half mad with love; and being up, I had the courage to stay up, though I was never addicted to air–baths, and to occupy a full hour in getting my clothes on. Before I was rigged for the day, another messenger arrived, with a note from the dear, *dear* widow, calling me her dear *dear* friend, and praying me to give her a call about five, and to bring with me some book, to justify me for calling at such an hour of the day.

Ah, ha! said I to myself, now we are coming to it; our widow is in the trap, the very trap she laid for us! now query, whether to give her a little trout play before we let her feel the hook or not? So much for perseverance faint heart never won fair lady d n the ship!

As the clock struck five, on that memorable day the happiest day of my life, the knocker sounded with a double rap (such as the postmen of England give) at No. Broadway; and the next moment I was on a sofa by the side of the beautiful widow. I have sent for you, said she, that I may explain to you the cause of what you saw here last evening. The truth is heigho and here she faltered, and some how or other, I got hold of her hand again it was like a live bird in my grasp and in short I was very happy, so happy I declare, that if she had proposed to pledge me in a glass of laudanum, I would have pledged her, and gone to sleep forever at her side. What I say will appear strange I know, but I cannot help it. I say nothing but the truth. Most men would not like to die at such a time, I dare say; but as for me I did not care half so much for life as for companionship everlasting companionship. My doubts were gone she loved me, even as I loved her, and though she did not actually promise marriage, I knew by the brilliant moisture in her eyes, and by the swelling of her heart, and by the changes of color, that I should prevail one day or other; and so, as I have said before, I was happy.

Well before we parted, she told me the story of the Indian girl. It wore another shape now; she had been so well educated as to be able to teach in a sort of missionary-school; her mother was only a half breed, her father a white man, so that she had little or no impure blood in her veins. Middleton had met with her first in the neighbourhood of a plantation that his father had on the very outskirts of Georgia. He fell in love with her and she with him, and so they were separated. His father sent him to college, and her mother took her into the wilderness, where she taught her to avoid the pale man. But the boy grew tired of the north, and after many years, they met again at a lodge in the creek territory, and there, the mother being dead and the father away, the boy and the girl were married he with no thought of treachery, for he loved her; she in the deep seriousness of Indian faith. After they had been married a few weeks, a missionary fell in the way of the poor bride while her young husband was out in search of his father, and persuaded her that she was living as the bad women of Scripture lived ages and ages ago, as the pure of heart and proud of soul should not live. The Indian wife grew sorrowful, and having satisfied herself that by the law of the young white man's tribe she was not a wife, she met him on his way back, and before she would suffer him to lay his mouth to her forehead, being so taught by the missionary at her elbow, she demanded of her boy-husband to be acknowledged by the law of his tribe, even as he had been acknowledged by the law of her tribe. At any other time, it may be, for the boy loved her so much that he grew serious it may be that he would have done all that she prayed for but now now, while the prompter stood at her elbow, and appeared to glory in the power of the church, the boy said *no*. A week passed over, and still he said no another week, and he and his wife were apart forever, he mad with jealousy, she stung to the heart, believing the boy to be even what the missionary told her he was, a betrayer. But she was a proud girl and her spirit awoke when the boy deserted her; and she prayed the missionary to tell her how she might be worthy, as worthy as the proud white women were, of such love as the proud white men bore toward such as they made their wives by the law. He told her how to be what the white women are, he educated her, and his wife trained her to the church, and they took her away to the sea shore such is her story.

But he deceived her, and deceived her at a time when she needed all the consolation of hope and faith and charity, for she was beathing the very air that her husband breathed, and hearing every day that he was leading a life which would separate them forever. She inquired of the church, and they told her with their hands on the bible and with tears in their eyes, that if she could not reclaim the boy to the path of truth, virtue, or in other words to the true faith, he would be miserable, and she happy, in their future life, that both would be apart, forever and ever. *I will save him!* said she *I will save him*, or and she stopped, and her voice died away, and she spoke not another word until the interview was arranged that I saw by the river side.

But who was that other female with her?

I do not know I never saw her face till she flung aside her veil and stood before him with outstretched arms.

What! was not she that came forward, that pale, slender creature, the Indian wife you are speaking of?

No, indeed she was a stranger to me; I never saw her before.

## The Down–Easters, Volume 1

Indeed! there is some mystery about this matter; I should like to have some talk with Mr. Middleton about her.

Not for for your life, my dear friend I am sure he did not see her, and even I, intimate as we are, would not mention the subject to him for the world.

After a little further conversation, I found that the interview was planned by the dear creature at my elbow, the very woman that we had so cruelly judged the night before. Upon my word, when I thought of the conversation that Gage and I held together about her, and of the dreadful misgiving I had when I saw her studying the eyes of Middleton, I was ready to go down on my knees before her, and bury my head in her lap and beg her pardon. However, to make all sure, I said to her as I got up to go

My dear Laura

Well Peter! said she.

Peter! Oh that unfortunate name of mine! I have kept it back as long as I could it has been the death of me.

I wish I knew exactly what your feelings are toward that young man

Gerard Middleton, you mean. Oh, I look upon him as a sort of child poor fellow! he has very few friends in this part of the world, very few, and he regards me in the light of a mother

Indeed!

Oh, yes! I often speak of my three children; the truth is, I love the poor boy very much.

And I love you the more! cried I, for having the courage to tell me so.

I cannot give him up. You'll not require that?

Give him up! No indeed poor fellow, I pity him as much as you do, and for *your* sake I will do any thing to serve him.

*Do you love me, Peter?*

God! how I *do* love you! said I, and then I kissed her mouth and her eyes, with a feeling of such pure and innocent joy, as I know it is not in the nature of a bad man to feel. Laura I added Laura! look at me, I beseech you, while I say that I have such confidence in you, that if you were my wife

Her head fell on my shoulder... heigho!

My wife, dear, and I had to go to the ends of the earth, I should leave you with such a fixed faith in your loyalty, that nothing would be able to raise a doubt or a fear in my mind, save the avowal of unworthiness from your own lips.

She wept; I could feel the tears trickle over my hand.

If it should be so, if you should ever be my wife, you shall not have to reproach *me* with a lack of confidence in you for if there be truth in the heart of man, love, I would trust you any where on earth

And well you might!

*With any body on earth...*

Here she kissed me, and my heart threw a somerset.

Ay, and strange as it may look to you, were you my wife now, *now* while I speak to you, I would give you up to another man, if I saw that I could not make you happy, and that that he could, or if I knew that you loved him better than you loved me.

Ah! smiling through her tears, and shaking her head ah my dear, *dear* Peter.

I *could* do so, Laura, for I have done so.

I believe you; and here she kissed me and clung to me, as if ah! as if we had loved each other, and each other alone, up from our very childhood.

But enough enough the catastrophe drew near, and I I could neither eat nor sleep for joy; I passed half my time with her. I saw her every day of my life and every day I loved her more and more; I forgot her age, I forgot her widowhood I forgot every thing but her love and her ready-made family, and the hour that was to make me, not a bridegroom for a day, but a bridegroom for life.

About a week before the consummation of our marriage that was to be, my dear Laura grew so affectionate that I was afraid to trust myself with her. And one morning as we sat on the deep couch together cooing and billing very much as I am afraid other people do, when they have a good opportunity, in spite of their mothers and the preachers, and the story-books, I played off the hero in such a way, that my dear, *dear* Laura, burst into tears, and called me a godlike man.

I tried to get away, but her overpowering love and gratitude held me, till we heard a knock at the door, when she darted out of the room, saying with a sweet smile a smile, that I am afraid, will haunt me to my death-bed, that she would be with me, after the visiter, whoever he might be, was chaired, and that I must not be alarmed again, as I had been once before if she spoke to me on entering the room, just as if I had not seen her before during the day. I agreed to this, for I love propriety in every possible shape though not very fond of trick. By the time she was out of one door, a stranger entered another. It was Middleton he turned very pale when he saw me, though I supposed he knew every thing: and more pale, after I told him in reply to a direct enquiry on his part, that I had seen the widow, and that she had hurried away but a few moments before I waited until she made her appearance, gave her my hand in a hurry, to show that I was not afraid to leave her in such company, bowed to Middleton, and left her.

The next day I received a letter from her, just as I was going out of the door toward her house. I do not give in the passages that follow, the very words of her letter word for word simply because it contained a request that I would return it, which I did, and the passages that follow are given from memory. They are few but they are enough to show the character of the woman.

"I have deceived you and every body else. I loved Gerard Middleton a year and a half before I knew you: I love him still, and I have given him every proof of love I ever gave you, and more yet I am not altogether bad.

I love him still better than any other man. I hope you will hate me I esteem and admire you I shall never see you again, if I can help it never alone certainly. He knows every thing, and regards me as he ought; I did intend to see you both together, to explain myself to both, and to hear from you both how you scorn and loathe me. Do not call I shall not see you, I have all confidence in you it is impossible to have more, but I cannot suffer you to keep this terrible letter, for fear of accidents. I hope you will write and say just what you think of my behaviour, you need not be afraid to say any thing to me. But oh! I do not speak for myself oh, my poor children! You

## The Down-Easters, Volume 1

need not fear that I will do any thing desperate I promise you I will not when you next hear of me, I shall be more worthy of your good opinion."

END OF FIRST VOLUME.