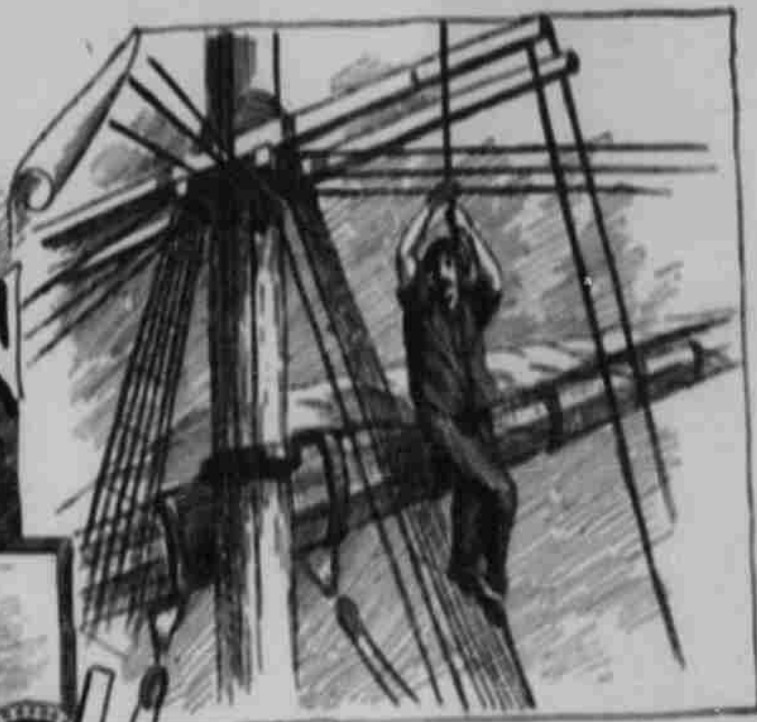


THE WAY SHE LET HIM DOWN



I walked on the pier in the early morn;
The wind blew strong from the sea;
A sailor was up in the yards of a ship—
But what was all that to me?

II.

"My dear," I whispered, and slipped my hand
Into her muff, growing bold;
"I've been thinking—" she removed her hand and said:
"Don't you think it is getting cold?"

III.

"Perhaps it is," I answered, chagrined,
And then, with a sudden emotion;
"My darling—" she interrupted me with
"How the wind blows in from the ocean!"

IV.

"The devil it does!" I thought to myself,
With an inward hankering to swear;
But aloud "My dearest—" "O, look, look!" she cried,
"Do look at that sailor up there!"

VII.

Then I got mad and I inwardly cursed,
While she seemed tickled immensely;
"I am sorry," she said, and she sighed, and she smiled,
"That some people see things so densely."

VIII.

"Now, that sailor was I was obtuse than are you."
O, the atmosphere seemed to get freer.
"Can't you guess the reason? What! Really? Well,
He knew when he was let down easy!"

ELLA HODGKINSON.

V.
"I see him," I grimly answered, convinced
That a lover must have lots of gall;
"But, love, I love you; is my love returned?"
She sighed: "Do you think he will fall?"

VI.

In death-like silence we watched him, then,
Himself to the deck lightly swinging
With the aid of the ropes, and heard his "yoo ho!"
Over the waters ringing.

The Northern Pacific discharges at Sprague, Washington, about \$30,000 a month. Its receipts at that place are about the same. Sprague is the largest shipping point on the line between Spokane Falls and Tacoma. More wool is shipped from there than from any other point in the state. It is also the greatest live stock shipping point in the state. The town is situated in a coulee, about fifty miles southwest of Spokane

Falls, is seven years old and has a population of 2,000 or more. It is in the heart of a rich farming country that is not yet all occupied, and important stock interests center there.

A contract has been closed with the Oregon Improvement Co. to build the Port Townsend Southern to Portland, seventy miles to be completed this year.