

# Washington Independent.

VOL. 3.

HILLSBORO, WASHINGTON COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 1876.

NO. 50.

**The First Gray Lock of Hair.**  
Among the gleaming locks of yellow  
Brushed back by some one's silver snow,  
There has come to dwell a stranger,  
Total stranger until now:  
'Tis a thread of silver clear,  
With its glimmer there and here,  
There and here.

Mid the waves of golden glory  
Which thy noble head adorns,  
This pale stranger seems intruding,  
Is intruding, sad, forlorn;  
Fringing thy locks of hair,  
With its glimmer there and here,  
Here and there.

For thy hairs are not yet many,  
And thy life is still too young  
For a silver strand to venture,  
Venture shining gold among.  
Yet the strand, without a fear,  
Casts its glimmer there and here,  
There and here.

But the year will sometime reach thee  
When the gray will crown thy brow,  
And the gold will be a stranger,  
Stranger than the silver now.  
Fellow traveler of thy days,  
Glimmer here and glimmer there,  
Here and there.

—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

### A Sailor's Story.

Ay, ay, sir; we that travel about much  
have rough times of it, there's no denyin';  
and I think folks ashore are rather hard  
on us sailors, that's a fact. Seems to me,  
I've known that if you're married, you're  
troubled out of your wits by every night,  
and made to climb up a church steeple,  
with the wind a-cuttin' him in two, and  
the rain a-peltin' his eyes out;—and then  
to stick there for two or three hours on  
end pullin' and haulin' with his hands  
frost-bitten, and every-sinner strained like  
a weather-backstay;—and then, when he  
cum down, wet through and tired out,  
and just hopin' for a little rest, to have to  
go up again, mayhap, and do it all  
twiced over—well, I believe that  
'ere chap 'ud offer pretty nigh all he had  
to be let off. And all that, mark ye, is  
nothing to what we have to do some-  
times.

Well, sir, I was a-goin' to tell you, it's  
just five years ago last March (no fear o'  
my forgettin' that date, anyhow) sin' I  
was on a voyage to Halifax, as quar-  
termaster aboard a big cargo-steamer, name  
o' *Santora*.

On the voyage out, I made great chums  
with one o' the other quartermasters, a  
young fellow just married, name o' Bob  
Barton. It cum out some way, the first  
time as ever I got talkin' to him, that he  
was from my part o' the country, and  
I knowed a lot o' the people as I knowed;  
and that draws men together wonderfully  
aboard ship. For, you see, when you're  
shut up with a lot o' strange faces for  
months together, in the middle of the sea,  
away from your sweethearts, and your  
father and mother, and all your chums,  
it's somethin' to have anybody that you  
can talk to about 'em all; and if he's  
known 'em himself, why, it makes it just  
as good as home.

Poor old Bob! Sitch a jolly fellow as  
he was, with his merry face, and his stories,  
and his bright merry face, as nothin' ever  
seemed to damp or cloud for a moment!  
How I remember one evening as we  
was a sittin' under the weather-lamp, look-  
in' at the fo'c'stle, watching the sunset—  
and he pulls out a little waterproof case  
from his breast, and shows me the por-  
trait of a young girl (the sweetest face as  
ever I laid eyes on), and says, "That's my lass  
at home, and we're married, and she  
wants a little of you, sitch a bonnie  
un'!" And arter that, whenever we  
had a talk together, he'd out with the  
picture and show it to me, and talk to me  
about how he first fell in with her,  
and all the things that happened to him  
when he cum back from this voyage. Ah,  
dear me!

Till we war just about 'all way across,  
the weather was as fine as heart could  
wish—just as if it was all a-keepin' for us  
till toward the end; and I don't think  
as the Merrick come, the wind  
chopped round and got right on the star-  
board bow, and knocked up a nasty sea,  
and as if that warn't enough, the weather  
began to get thick, and we didn't get  
a sight of the shore, and we drew together.  
But twas all one to Bob Barton. Fair  
or foul, wet or dry, nothin' ever troubled  
him. When we was a-rollin' as my gunnel  
under, he'd just laugh, and shake the spray  
out o' his eyes, and say, "I can't afford to  
have a little voyage this time, for it's  
my last. My lass has made me promise  
to give it up arter this cruise, and stay  
ashore with her; and you'll always be  
welcome to a seat by my fire, old chap!"  
Tell you, sir, was I ever think o' them words,  
and all that comed arter, I can't a-  
bear to think on't, I can't!

Well, sir, on the fourteenth day o' the  
voyage, we made sure o' all we couldn't  
get the sun to show himself; that we  
weren't far off the land; and I don't think  
as any land in the 'varest world was ever  
less welcome. For there's nothin' we  
sailors fears like a lee-shore, specially in  
winter weather; and I knowed well enough  
that if we got on a lee-shore now, we  
sich a sea on, and sitch a wind to back it,  
it was all dead men!

I don't think I was off the deck once  
the whole o' that blessed day; and if we  
had twice as many hands, we'd  
wanted 'em all to help us together.  
The sea kep' breakin' over us every  
minute like a waterfall; and the wind  
blew through us, wet as we were, just  
like the cut o' a knife. Oh, my eyes!  
warn't it cold that day! My hands and  
feet had no more sense in them nor if  
they'd been made o' lead; and when I  
got below, 'bout ten o'clock at night, I  
was so done up that I just tumbled into  
my bunk, wet things and all, and was  
asleep afore I could turn round. Bob  
pulled off all his, sayin' he meant to be  
arter all that—and advised me to do the  
same; but I says, "No—'tain't worth the  
trouble," says I. Little did I think, sir,  
when I said those words, that 'twas my  
life as hung upon 'em; but it was, though,  
as you'll see.

For heerd o' folks bein' too tired to  
sleep, but 'twas just t'other way about w'

me—even in my sleep the tiredness fol-  
lowed me. I dreamt we was away far  
up in the northern seas, scudlin' afore  
the winds like mad; and I was so spent  
and so up that I couldn't even muster  
strength to go below, but hung w' my  
arms over the bulwark, like a limage.  
And then, all at once, some huge and  
awful thing loomed up at'art our bows,  
w' a cold blue sheen all over it, like  
gleamin' steel; and I knowed it 'd be  
for a feelin', bigger and terribler than I'd  
ever seed when I was awake—and we  
runnin' right into it; I tried to screech  
out, or jump back from where I stood, or  
anything—but 'twarn't not a bit o' use;  
there I stuck, stowk-still and dumb, just  
as if I'd been froze; and every minute  
the terrible thing loomed up closer and  
closer, hunger and hunger, right ahead.  
Then cum a crash like the end o' the  
world, and everything flew every where—  
and I awoke.

I awoke not a minute too soon. The  
crash was still in my ears, and next mo-  
ment I felt the ship give a bit o' a lift up,  
and then down she cum again, hard and  
fast! There was no time to think on't. The  
whole place was fillin' with water, and  
in another minute or two we'd all ha'  
been drowned like rats in a hole. I  
flew up the ladder like lightning (havin'  
all my clothes on, by God's mercy), yell-  
in' for poor Bob as I passed; and heard  
him sing out, "All right! I'm jest gettin'  
my duds (clothes) on!" 'Twas the last  
words I ever heard him speak!

But as I scudded up the ladder there  
come rollin' up arter me a noise o' scudlin',  
and a smothered ramblin' o' terrible cries;  
and I knowed what it meant, only too  
well. When I got on deck, 'twas pitch dark,  
barren a shimmer o' moonlight now and  
again; and the great gusts o' drivin' spray  
seemed to put out the very stars. I made  
just make out as the forecast had gone  
by the board, 'bout ten foot 'bove deck;  
and all the fo'c'stle was one heap o' rig-  
gin' and flum'gum, lashin' and flappin'  
fit to knock a house down. I seed at  
once there was no stayin' there for me;  
for, w' sitch a sea breakin' over the bows,  
I'd ha' been drowned or washed o'board  
in two minutes. My only chance was to  
get into the main rigging, which was still  
standing, and cling on till daylight. But  
how to get there?

I watched for a chance atwixt two seas,  
and made a rush for the lee-bulwark; but  
'twarn't easy to dodge the broken riggin'  
as kep' throwin' and thumpin' all round,  
and a bit o' flyin' cordage caught my hand  
back'ards-way, and tore the nail o' my  
middle finger clear off. 'Jist as I got to  
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