

THE FEMALE SAILOR.

A Faithful History of the Romantic and Perilous Adventures of that Interesting Young Female

Anne Jane Thornton,

Who left her Father's Houfe, and, in the Drefs of a Sailor, entered as a Cabin Boy on Board of an American Veffel, in fearch of her Sweetheart. With an account of her Arrival at New York, where she learnt her Sweetheart was Dead,— of her travelling Seventy Miles on Foot alone, through the Woods of America,— of her entering as Cook and Steward on Board the Sarah, and after a Number of perilous adventures, of her safe arrival in the Port of London,— As related by Herfelf, before the Lord Mayor, at the Manfion Houfe, London, Tuesday, February 10. 1835.



THE narrative of the romantic adventures of the above interesting young creature, adds one more record of the unalterable Love, the dauntless Heroism, and the unflinching Constancy of Woman! How truly may we exclaim with the poet—

O Woman! thou wert born to temper man—
We had been brutes without you
There's in you all that we believe in Heaven!

But to return to our narrative! the Lord Mayor, having read in the Observer newspaper an account of our heroine, directed one of the City police officers to make enquiry into the circumstances, in order that if the girl required any assistance, it might be rendered to her without subjecting her to an annoyance, accordingly, the officer thought the best thing he could do, was to bring her to the Mansion-house, in order that his Lordship might hear the remarkable details of the case from the girl's own lips.

Capt. McIntire of the Sarah, from Belfast, stated that he met the girl at St. Andrew's, North America, he engaged her as cook and steward, and considered what she seemed to be, until a few days before the arrival of the vessel in the port of London, it appeared that some of the crew had suspected her sex before she was seen washing in her bath, from the circumstance of her having refused to drink grog. Capt. McIntire, said, she performed the duties of a sailor in the most admirable manner, she would run up to land the top-gallant sail in any sort of weather, during a severe passage. He said the poor girl had had a hard time of it, and she suffered greatly from the wet, but she bore it all excellently, and she was a capital scamm. Capt. McIntire said he had no doubt of the truth of her statement, she would not give up talking, and had much better use of her hands than her tongue; this description of the Female sailor seemed to be accurate. Her hands appeared as if they were covered with thick brown leather gloves, & it was by repeated questioning, the Lord Mayor got from her the facts, of which the following is the substance:

Anne Jane Thornton, stated, she was in the 17th year of her age, her father who is now a widower, took her and the rest of his family from Gloucestershire where she was born, to Donegal, when she was six years old. He was the owner of stores in that part of Ireland, and in good circumstances, and was always affectionate to her, she regretted that she quitted her home, for her departure of which she had given no previous notice to her father, must have caused him many a sorrowful hour. When she was only thirteen years old, she met Capt Alexander Burke, whose father resided in New York, and was the owner of vessels there, and before she was fifteen, they became strongly attached to

each other, soon afterwards Alexander Burke, was obliged to go to New York and she resolved to follow him. She quitted her father's house, accompanied by a maid servant and a boy: and having procured a cabin boy's dress, she exerted herself to obtain a passage to America, she succeeded in her object, the servant maid and boy took leave of her immediately upon her embarking, the latter being charged with a message to her father, informing him of her intention. By degrees she became reconciled to the labours of her new employment, and she beheld with joy the shores of New York, where she thought her labours would terminate; the moment she landed, she went off in her cabin boy's dress to the house of Captain Burke's father, and said that she had worked under the Captain's orders, and wished to be engaged by him again. It was by the father of the young man she was informed of the event which placed the eternal barrier between them, and she retired from the house disconsolate, America was, however, no place in which to look for sympathy. In the belief that the sea, which no doubt her feelings of affection for Burke recommended to her, was a more probable mode of existence than any she could adopt in the dress of her sex, she applied for and obtained a situation as cook and steward in the Adelaide, and subsequently in the Rover, in which latter vessel she sailed to St. Andrew's, where she fell in with Capt. McIntire, the captain of the Rover, had agreed to take her to Belfast, but he received an order from the owners to sail for the West Indies, and has she was resolved to return to her father as soon as possible, she refused to accompany him. For 2 months, she had been engaged in these remarkable adventures, and participated in the most severe toils on the crew of which she performed a part.

The Lord Mayor asked how she fancied to assume the sailor's dress? The Girl, I can not think of any other way, and I did the duties as well as I could, I underwent a good deal, I travelled from East Point, in North America, to St. Andrew's by myself, a distance of seventy miles, through the woods I walked all the way.

Captain McIntire said he bore testimony to the extraordinary propriety of the girl's conduct, who said she was bound in gratitude to acknowledge the kindness and humanity of the captain.

The Lord Mayor. I will give directions that you be taken care of, until I hear from your father, to whom I will write to night. After receiving some salutary advice from the Lord Mayor, she retired and was placed under the care of the worthy proprietor of the Cooper's Arms, lower Thames-street, she is of low stature, and her limbs are firmly knit, comely face, dark eyes, and teeth very white.

GOOD people give attention & listen to my song
I will unfold a circumstance that does to love
belong,
Concerning of a pretty maid who ventur'd we are told
Across the briny ocean as a Female Sailor bold,
Her name was Anne Jane Thornton as you presently
shall hear,
And as we are inform'd she was born in Gloucester
shire,
Her father lived in Ireland, respected as we are told
And never thought his daughter was a Female sailor
bold,

She was courted by a captain, when scarce fifteen
years of age,
And to be bound in wedlock this couple did engage,
but the captain had to leave the land as I will now
unfold, (bold,
And she ventur'd o'er the ocean like a Female sailor
she dress'd herself in sailor's clothes and overcome
with joy,
She with a Captain engag'd to serve as cabin boy
And when New York in America, that fair maid did
behold,

She ran to seek her lover & the Female sailor bold

To her true love's father she haatened with speed
And enquir'd for employment, but dreadful news
indeed,
Her lover had some time been dead this pretty maid
was told, (bold,
Then in agony and sorrow wept, the Female sailor
Some thousand miles she was from home, from
parents far away,
She travell'd seventy miles through woods in North
Forest of friend and kindred, no parent could behold
My true love's gone in anguish, cries the Female
sailor bold,

Then she went on board the Adelaide, to cross the
briny wave,
Through wind and hail, in storms and gale, she did
all dangers brave,
She serv'd as cook and steward, in the Adelaide we
are told, (sailor bold,
Then sail'd on board the Rover, did the Female
From St. Andrew's in America, this fair maid did
set sail, (and gale,
In a vessel call'd the Sarah, through tempest, storm
She don'd her duty like a man, did reef and steer we
are told, bold,
By the Captain was respect'd well the Female sailor

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With pitch and tar her hands were hard, tho' once
like velvet soft, (sailor,
She weigh'd anchor heav'd the lead, & holdly vent
Just one and thirty months she brav'd the tempest
we are told,
And always done her duty, did the Female sailor
In the month of February, Eight hundred & Thirty
Five, (America,
she to the port of London in the Sarah did arrive
Her sex was then discover'd & the secret did unfold
And the Captain gaz'd with wonder on the Female
bold,

The Female was examin'd, of course by the Lord
Mayor,
And in the public papers all reasons did appear,
Why she did leave her father and her native land
she solo,
To cross the briny ocean like a Female sailor bold,
It was to seek her lover, she sail'd across the main
Tho' love she did encounter storm, tempest and rain
It was love caus'd all her trouble, and hardships we
are told,
May she rest at home contented, now the Female
sailor bold,

