

with the principal newspapers; others were scientific gentlemen from New York, sent out to look after matters of science in the new State; consequently, as the ship got ready to sail, a variety of luggage began to come aboard, and from time to time amongst this were two or three rather unadvisable-looking packages. The captain, however, had always taken care to state in the most public manner that nothing valuable could be received till the last. This was a matter in which I felt equally concerned with any one else; as neither the crew nor the passengers were by any means got together, and delay was always occurring to put off the time, while Captain Simmerall continued my engagement by the week, with the advantage always in my favour if he sailed within it. His conduct was so liberal throughout, that I could not well refuse; moreover, it so happened that just at this time a movement had taken place in San Francisco which put me comparatively at ease as to any risk, taking the due care we did.

The old black waterman, 'Possum Sippy, as he was called, used still to come across me occasionally when I was in the boat, after taking the *Cornucopia* in charge; and if bent on any of his trapping excursions about Yerba Buena island, or up-bay, he generally passed our anchorage, whereupon he always gave the ship a look to see whether I was visible. In that case he would lie on his oars for a minute or so, and hail me, either saying something cheery or giving good advice, though seldom in a way to be ill taken. The accident of our each having a dog proved enough in itself to settle any further advances on his part; King seeming to get more furious every time he saw 'Dolphus, as Sippy called his hunting poodle, which really looked fitter to be hunted itself. I did not know till afterwards that the worthy old black was considered to be in such a good way, commercially speaking. The skin-trade paid well, and he was thought to be no way particular as to supplying the coloured boarding-houses and Chinese restaurants with game; besides which a waterman's fares were high. Along with this, however, Sippy had the benefit of the slop-store kept by his family behind the wharf where he put up, where, as it turned out, they did a little in the lending and pledging line. So far as could be seen, he never had much that was valuable in the boat, except a curious old gold snuff-box with his free-papers in the lid, and these he was fonder of showing than advisable. But on Sundays the whole family might be seen coming out in thorough nigger style, every-

one finer than another, bound for somewhere about the back of Kearney Street; Sippy himself limping along at the head, in a suit of black, with a white neckcloth, a silver chain, and at the end of it, according to report, his choice of various watches left in keeping. The understanding was that they went to a kind of meeting among the coloured people, where he did something in the way of preaching. At all events, he was never to be seen afloat on a Sunday, and the last time I met him he took occasion to put in a very fatherly reminder on that point. An indignation-meeting of the Vigilance Committee of San Francisco was to be held out of town next day at the Mission Dolores, when various startling facts were to be brought forward. The appointment was for a Sunday, and this being told me by an acquaintance in Sippy's hearing, it caused him to drop his remark before we parted.

Next day the ship's steward did not wish to go ashore till the afternoon; consequently I was able to go to the indignation-meeting. There was very little new information given, except that a notorious villain named Sam Whitaker had returned from the mines, and been seen openly about town. He had previously escaped more than once from the rotten old jail, yet no step was being taken on the part of the Government to bring him to account. No new charge was brought against him, however; and for all that was known, he might have "made his pile" at the diggings, and turned over a new leaf, as was often the case. People were, therefore, in no mood to commence a disturbance on such grounds, when the state of things was so decidedly improved; and the rest of the business consisted chiefly of stump speeches from a few discontented loafers, for the most part abusing men of position in town because they supported the authorities. But this sort of thing would not go down with the majority, and accordingly I left the place much relieved.

I got on board in good time, and after the steward had joined me, and we had made the usual arrangements, I went to sleep, more comfortable in my mind than ordinary. Late in the night I woke up, feeling the heat inside, and inclined to be restless. I at last rose, went out to a heap of sails at the door, where the dog had made himself snug, and, drawing a corner of them about me, began to drop over again. It was so quiet that every ripple told against the various craft at anchor; and away over on the *Contra Costa* you could hear the wild coyotés on the hunt; whilst any occasional noise in town could be made out, down to the very bumping of a