

"Yes, sir, a schooner." "By George," said the officers in the ward room, "old Brown is right, after all!" After awhile the strange sail was reached, and proved to be a merchant schooner bound to Pensacola. The commodore, in a great rage, sent for Brown and said: "Did you not say the schooner *Bonita* bore S. S. E. fifteen miles off?" "Well, sir," said Brown, "the reckoning called for a schooner; but it did not say it was the *Bonita*!"

Now the moral of this is that *this reckoning* calls for a schooner, but no *particular schooner*: so if any fellow expects *his schooner* to be mentioned he may find himself mistaken.

I wish to say here, with Captain Kincaid of the rifle battalion: "That this is *my* book; and if any man wishes his name or services to be specially mentioned, let him write a book for himself."

43 YORK ST.,  
Norfolk, Va.

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RECOLLECTIONS  
OF A  
NAVAL OFFICER.

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WE are told that when Mr. Toots attempted to write an acrostic to Florence Dombey he carefully prepared the first letters of the lines, and then never got farther than "For when I gaze"; and I must confess that in commencing these recollections I feel somewhat in the same predicament; so I think it best to plunge at once *in medias res* and say that I entered the U. S. navy as a midshipman on the 19th day of October, 1841, being then fourteen years of age. I was almost immediately ordered to the U. S. ship *North Carolina*, and on the 27th day of the same month reported for duty to Commodore M. C. Perry, then commanding the station at New York.

I well recollect my extreme surprise at being addressed as *Mr.* by the commodore, and being recalled to my senses by the sharp *William* of my father, who accompanied me to the Navy Yard.