

**THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY AND
MEMORIALS OF CAPTAIN
OBADIAH CONGAR: FOR FIFTY
YEARS MARINER AND SHIPMASTER
FROM THE PORT OF NEW YORK**

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The Autobiography and Memorials of Captain Obadiah Congar: For Fifty Years Mariner and Shipmaster from the Port of New York by Henry T. Cheever

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HENRY T. CHEEVER

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THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY
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CAPTAIN OBADIAH CONGAR.

FOR

FIFTY YEARS MARINER AND SHIPMASTER FROM THE
PORT OF NEW YORK.

BY REV. HENRY T. CHEEVER,

AUTHOR OF

"THE ISLAND WORLD OF THE PACIFIC," AND "THE WHALE AND HIS
CAPTORS."

He is careful in observing the Lord's day. He hath a watch in his heart, though no bells in a steeple to proclaim that day by ringing to prayers. He daily sees and duly considers God's wonders in the deep.
—FULLER'S "Good Sea Captain."

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P R E F A C E.

To the mass of general readers, and to earnest minds especially, writings in the shape of self-memorial and autobiography are always attractive. Whether they be purely religious, like the Confessions of Augustine, or the Grace Abounding of the Immortal Dreamer, or the Experiences of Madame Guyon and of Cowper; or whether they be semi-religious, literary, and economical, like the Life of Franklin, by himself, the Confessions of Rousseau, the Autobiographies of Goëthe and Leigh Hunt, or the Confidences of Lamartine, all men love to read them. Personal reminiscences, perhaps it may be added, even egotism, we are generally eager to peruse when written, although we detest and can not bear them when spoken.

It is because I have thought there is something here of universal interest—because I have seemed to see that, in the workings and strug-

gles, the trials and triumphs of the SAILOR herein exhibited, there is matter for thought and instruction to the Man, certainly to the Christian every where—it is for this, among other reasons, that the Editor has undertaken the task (not an easy one) of correcting, reducing, fashioning, and putting them in order.

The labor expended in this process, if not always the same in kind, has been little less in amount than that of creating entire a similar book. But the work has been lightened by the hope that its result may now and then profitably occupy a captain's lonely hours at sea, or a sailor's dog-watch and Sunday, and that it may minister healthful stimulus and nutrition to a circle of minds on the shore also, earnestly longing after holiness.

In now giving this work to the world, the Editor remembers the charge of Carlyle: Cast forth thy act—thy word into the ever-living universe: it is a seed-grain that can not die; unnoticed to-day, it may be found flourishing as a banyan grove after a thousand years. If this book shall enter as aliment or as vital electrici-

ty into but one upright mind, so as to make it more resolved and holy, and its action more quick and powerful for good on other minds, a wave of benign influence will have been started by it, humble as it is, that shall roll through eternity.

In the hope that this volume may prove a useful gift to the Merchant Service and Marine of England and America, it is now dedicated to the Seamen's Friend Societies of the two great COMMERCIAL NATIONS, whose common boast it is

"That Chatham's language is their mother tongue."

HENRY T. CHEEVER.

New York, January, 1851.

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