

**ROMANCE OF THE
OCEAN: A NARRATIVE OF
THE VOYAGE OF THE
WILDFIRE TO CALIFORNIA**

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Romance of the Ocean: a Narrative of the Voyage of the Wildfire to California by Fanny Foley

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FANNY FOLEY

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ROMANCE OF THE OCEAN:

A NARRATIVE OF THE

VOYAGE OF THE WILDFIRE

TO CALIFORNIA.

Illustrated with Stories, Anecdotes, &c.

BY FANNY FOLEY,

ONE OF THE PASSENGERS, DAUGHTER OF AN OFFICER OF THE
MEDICAL STAFF.

"I, too, have been upon thy rolling breast,
Wildest of waters! I have seen thee lie
Calm, as an infant pillow'd in its rest
On a fond mother's bosom, when the sky,
Not smoother, gave the deep its azure dye,
Till a new heaven was arch'd and glass'd below."
J. G. PERCIVAL.

PHILADELPHIA:
LINDSAY AND BLAKISTON.

1850.

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Capt. B. Mercer.

TO THE READER.

THE following narrative was handed to us by a friend of the writer, to whose care the manuscript was forwarded. It would not, probably, have surprised her, had she met with it in the form of a serial, in one of our literary journals, under the modest heading of "A Trip to California;" but it will, perhaps, startle her not a little, to find that she has written a book bearing a title of some pretension.

It is but fair to state our opinion, that the real name of the writer has not been given. Fanny Foley sounds rather fictitious; and possibly all the names mentioned in the narrative are so, in order to avoid offence. Even that of the ship may not be genuine.

There has manifestly been no effort at display, in delineating ocean scenery; this having been often well done by others. In fact, Miss Foley seems to have left home with a romantic anticipation of thrilling adventure by

sea, such as shipwreck, capture by pirates, or some other catastrophe ; and being disappointed in these expectations, devoted herself to depicting what may be called domestic life on shipboard.

The work may be safely commended to all, and especially to ladies who are about to be associated with others in a long sea-voyage. They may learn from it to appreciate the great difference, in such circumstances, between a very amiable and a very annoying temper and deportment.

We have divided the work into chapters, for the convenience of perusal, and now commit it to the favour of the reader, with a strong persuasion, that they who shall read the first chapter, will continue to the end.

THE PUBLISHERS.

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THE ROMANCE OF THE OCEAN.

CHAPTER I.

Departure from New York—Notice of Officers and Passengers—
Lucy, the Gentle Governess—Mrs. Parker—A Character—
Harry Merton—An Exciting Incident—First Sabbath at Sea.

THE VOYAGE.

Monterey, California, Sept. 3d, 1849.

MY EARLY, MY BELOVED FRIEND, ELLEN:

TIME and change, it has been said, are fatal to school friendships. Experience, my own experience, does not accord with this opinion. Have not four weary moons waxed and waned since the evening when we exchanged our tearful adieus on the portico of Whitefield Seminary? and is my heart less thine own than when we wrote our vow of eternal friendship, and signed our names with our heart's blood? (Drawn with the point of a pin from our finger-ends.)