

**THE TOILERS OF THE  
SEA. IN TWO  
VOLUMES. VOL. I**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649722327

The Toilers of the Sea. In Two Volumes. Vol. I by Victor Hugo

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**VICTOR HUGO**

**THE TOILERS OF THE  
SEA. IN TWO  
VOLUMES. VOL. I**



THE  
TOILERS OF THE SEA

BY

VICTOR HUGO

IN TWO VOLUMES

VOL. I

LONDON  
GEORGE ROUTLEDGE AND SONS, LIMITED  
BROADWAY, LUDGATE HILL

1896

41573.17.2 (13)



*I dedicate this book to the rock of hospitality and liberty,  
to that portion of old Norman ground inhabited by the  
noble little nation of the sea: to the island of Guernsey,  
austere yet kind, my present refuge, my probable tomb.*

V. H.

## PREFACE.

---

RELIGION, Society, and Nature,— these are the three struggles of man. These three struggles are his three needs. He has need of a faith, hence the temple; he must create, hence the city; he must live, hence the plough and the ship. But these three solutions comprise three conflicts. The mysterious difficulty of life results from all three. Man strives with obstacles under the form of superstition, under the form of prejudice, and under the form of the elements. A triple *ἀνάγκη* (fate) weighs upon us,— the *ἀνάγκη* of dogmas, the *ἀνάγκη* of laws, the *ἀνάγκη* of things. In "Notre-Dame de Paris" the author denounced the first; in "Les Misérables" he exemplified the second; in this book he indicates the third. With these three fatalities which environ man mingles that inward fatality, the supreme *ἀνάγκη*, the human heart.

HAUTEVILLE HOUSE, March, 1866.





# CONTENTS.

## VOL. I.

---

### PART I.—SIEUR CLUBIN.

#### BOOK I.—THE HISTORY OF A BAD REPUTATION.

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. A WORD WRITTEN ON THE SNOW . . . . .	1
II. THE BÔ DE LA RUE . . . . .	4
III. FOR YOUR WIFE: WHEN YOU MARRY . . . . .	10
IV. UNPOPULARITY . . . . .	14
V. MORE SUSPICIOUS FACTS ABOUT GILLIATT . . . . .	25
VI. THE DUTCH SLOOP . . . . .	29
VII. A FIT TENANT FOR A HAUNTED HOUSE . . . . .	35
VIII. THE GILD-HOLM-UR . . . . .	39

#### BOOK II.—MESS LETHIERRY.

I. A TROUBLED LIFE, BUT A QUIET CONSCIENCE . . . . .	42
II. ONE OF HIS WHIMS . . . . .	45
III. THE OLD SEA DIALECT . . . . .	48
IV. THE VULNERABLE PART IS WHERE WE LOVE . . . . .	51

#### BOOK III.—THE DURANDE AND DÉROUETTE.

I. PRATTLE AND SMOKS . . . . .	53
II. THE OLD STORY OF UTOPIA . . . . .	57
III. RANTAINÉ . . . . .	60
IV. CONTINUATION OF THE STORY OF UTOPIA . . . . .	65

CHAPTER	PAGE
V. THE DEVIL BOAT . . . . .	68
VI. LETHIERRY IN HIS GLORY . . . . .	73
VII. THE SAME GODFATHER AND THE SAME PATRON SAINT	76
VIII. BONNIE DUNDER . . . . .	79
IX. THE MAN WHO DISCOVERED RANTAINNE'S TRUE CHAR- ACTER . . . . .	83
X. LONG YARNS . . . . .	85
XI. A GLANCE AT FUTURE HUSBANDS . . . . .	89
XII. AN ANOMALY IN THE CHARACTER OF LETHIERRY . . . . .	91
XIII. THOUGHTLESSNESS ADDS ANOTHER CHARM . . . . .	97

## BOOK IV.—THE BAGPIPE.

I. GLEAMS OF DAWN OR OF A CONFLAGRATION . . . . .	99
II. THE UNKNOWN UNFOLDS ITSELF BY DEGREES . . . . .	102
III. THE AIR "BONNIE DUNDER" FINDS AN ECHO ON THE HILL . . . . .	105
IV. FOUR YEARS LATER . . . . .	107
V. A DESERVED SUCCESS HAS ALWAYS ITS DETRACTORS	110
VI. THE SLOOP CASHMERE SAVES A SHIPWRECKED CREW	112
VII. HOW AN IDLER HAD THE GOOD FORTUNE TO BE SEEN BY A FISHERMAN . . . . .	115

## BOOK V.—THE REVOLVER.

I. CONVERSATIONS AT THE JEAN TAVERN . . . . .	119
II. CLUBIN SEES SOME ONE . . . . .	128
III. CLUBIN CARRIES AWAY SOMETHING AND BRINGS BACK NOTHING . . . . .	131
IV. PLEINMONT . . . . .	135
V. THE BIRDS'-NESTERS . . . . .	144
VI. THE JACRESSARDE . . . . .	158
VII. NOCTURNAL BUYERS AND MYSTERIOUS SELLERS . . . . .	166
VIII. A "CAROM" OFF THE RED BALL AND THE BLACK . . . . .	171
IX. USEFUL INFORMATION FOR PERSONS WHO EXPECT OR FEAR THE ARRIVAL OF LETTERS FROM BEYOND SEA	183

BOOK VI.—THE DRUNKEN STEERSMAN AND THE SOBER  
CAPTAIN.

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. THE DOUVRES . . . . .	188
II. AN UNEXPECTED FLASK OF BRANDY . . . . .	193
III. CONVERSATIONS INTERRUPTED . . . . .	196
IV. CAPTAIN CLUBIN DISPLAYS ALL HIS GREAT REMARKABLE VIRTUES . . . . .	206
V. CLUBIN ATTAINS THE CROWNING-POINT OF HIS GLORY	212
VI. THE INTERIOR OF AN ABYSS SUDDENLY REVEALED .	218
VII. THE UNEXPECTED INTERVENES . . . . .	228

BOOK VII.—THE DANGER OF OPENING A BOOK AT  
RANDOM.

I. THE PEARL AT THE FOOT OF A PRECIPICE . . . .	233
II. GREAT ASTONISHMENT ON THE WESTERN COAST . .	243
III. A QUOTATION FROM THE BIBLE . . . . .	249