

**THE BEAR KING:  
NARRATIVE CONFIDED  
TO THE MARINES**

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The Bear King: Narrative Confided to the Marines by James Greenwood

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THE BEAR KING



SHIP A-HOY *Page 45*

# THE BEAR KING

NARRATIVE CONFIDED TO THE MARINES

BY

JAMES GREENWOOD

AUTHOR OF 'THE HATCHET THROWERS,' 'CURIOSITIES OF SAVAGE LIFE,' ETC.

*WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY ERNEST GRISSET.*



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## THE BEAR KING.

A NARRATIVE CONFIDED TO THE MARINES.

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### THE FIRST PART.

‘**T**HE story which, by your kind invitation, I am about to relate, gentlemen,’ remarked Tom Lynes, who ranked as bo’sun on board His Majesty’s war frigate “Spiteful,” addressing a select audience of marines, ‘is by no means a common story; and that, you must understand, is the reason why, although the realities of it happened seventeen years ago come Christmas, I have never before ventured to make mention of it to anybody but the very few who know me too well to suppose that I would for a moment be guilty of the meanness of throwing the hatchet.’

‘Then if you will pardon my saying as much,’ observed the corporal of marines, a serious-minded man, and a teetotaller, ‘I think that in so doing you have betrayed a weakness scarcely to be expected in such a man as you are. The truth *is* the truth,