

**CAPTAIN FANNY.
IN THREE
VOLUMES. VOL. II**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649412624

Captain Fanny. In Three Volumes. Vol. II by William Clark Russell

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WILLIAM CLARK RUSSELL

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BY THE AUTHOR OF
"JOHN HOLDSWORTH, CHIEF MATE,"
ETC.

IN THREE VOLUMES.
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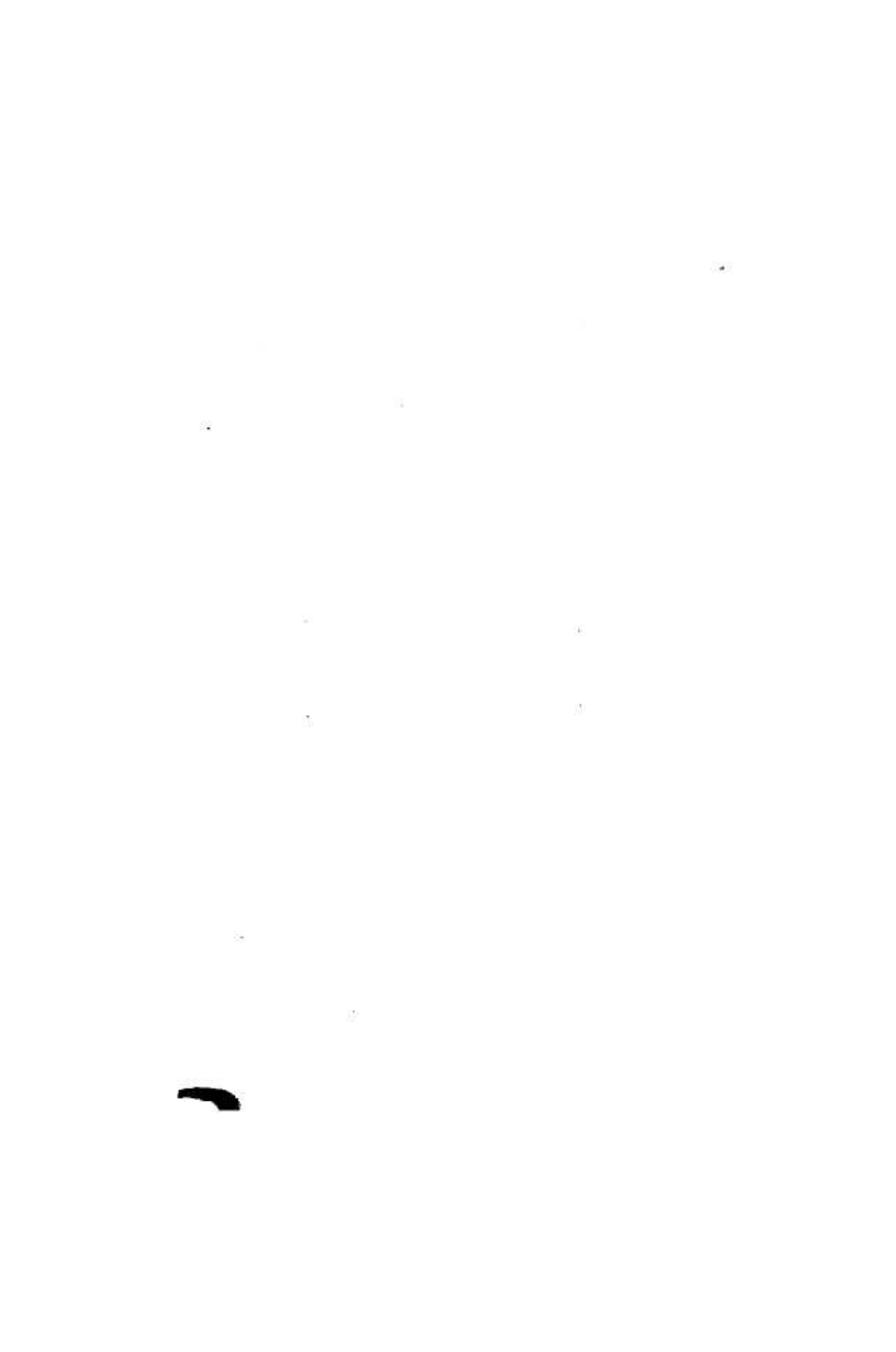
LONDON:
RICHARD BENTLEY AND SON,
Publishers in Ordinary to Her Majesty the Queen.
1876.

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251. d. 375.

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CAPTAIN FANNY.

CHAPTER I.

THE PICNIC.

WILL it be wet on Tuesday? It has been blowing, on and off, half a gale of wind from the north during the week, and they say that the Downs are crowded with ships; and there is quite enough sea on to keep a bigger vessel than the "Egeria" in port. How will the weather serve on Tuesday? The yachting trip seems hopeless; and now will the north wind blow up rain and stop the picnic?

Ethel has been almost low-spirited. She

has scarcely the heart to buy some things she wants to wear at the picnic. She has rapped the old clock-faced barometer in the passage until the hand fell crazy, and dropped into thunder-storm, and there stuck.

However, the yachting dresses came home on Saturday, and kept her pretty cheerful all Sunday. The truth is, hers fitted her to perfection: she looked lovely in it, and in the cockish straw hat, with the broad band around it, gold-lettered "Defiance," and went to show herself to Fanny, who admired the fit very much, but betrayed no eagerness to try her own on, and see how the dressmaker had treated her.

Tuesday comes, and turns out very much like the five or six days which had preceded it. The wind is fresh, the clouds large and white, the sky an Italian blue.

"At all events," says Ethel, at breakfast, "it doesn't look like rain. So you see, Captain, your Colonel was right when he told us yesterday it would be fine."

"What swells we shall be, with the two sailors to wait on us!" exclaims Fan, who is in good spirits.

"Yes; and how did you repay his kindness?" says Ethel, reproachfully. "He asked you to step to the bottom of the street to look at your flag, and you said you hadn't time."

"I told you that was rude, Fanny," remarks Mrs. Rogers. "It's always worth while to accept a compliment kindly."

"I want to make him dislike me that he may fall in love with Ethel," answers Fan. "Ethel is fond of money; he likes pretty women. So it's a match; and, mammy, you must help me to get them married."

"Be careful that I don't take you at your word, dear," warbles Ethel, with an arch smile.

"I don't think when it came to the point you would like to see your flag pulled down, Fanny," says Mrs. Rogers. "It's not every girl who gets such a compliment from a man of the Colonel's position and fortune."