

said previously that he could not read, and that in contradiction of that assertion he did read in court, this circumstance would be one of the strongest proofs that he had testified truly. It would prove that however bad he was in other respects, whatever falsehoods he might have stated elsewhere, he had come into court upon the present occasion with a full knowledge of his precarious situation; with the conviction that his life depended upon his veracity; and with a determination to tell the truth, even should he contradict any thing he might have previously stated. How easy would it have been for him, when asked by the counsel for the defense "if he could read," to have replied in the negative.

To proceed to the consideration of the question "whether the whole of the prisoners were implicated, supposing the captain and officers to be guilty." In relation to this question, there is one circumstance which removes all doubts that the whole crew were copartners in the crime; which extinguished at once in my bosom, the hope I had so fondly cherished in favor of Ferrer, the cook, and Costa, the cabin boy. This damning circumstance is the fact that not a single individual of the crew had ever mentioned the robbery to the Portuguese, who were so many months their companions. This unnatural silence proved that they were all equally implicated in the crime and all felt the necessity of keeping the secret; that they had cast in their lot with their officers, and were bound together as a band of brothers, by a common sense of guilt and danger, the captain being like Byron's Conrad, the master-spirit of the whole—"one formed to lead the guilty, guilt's worst instrument."

The nautical gentlemen, who were brought forward by the counsel for the defense in numerous instances, although called in behalf of the prisoners, corroborated the evidence of the government witnesses. Almost all piracies are now committed by slavers, slavery being the only pretence on which a piratical vessel could now-a-days be fitted out. *Mr. Dunlap* concluded by passing an eloquent eulogium upon *Capt. Trotter*, and the English navy generally for the gal-