



Nelsonian Reminiscences (Classic Reprint)

G. S. Parsons

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Excerpt from Nelsonian Reminiscences

Gentlemen, some of you are parents, and I appeal to your feelings; let each of you place yourselves in my situation, and say how you would have acted; but I think my destruction is predetermined, and this court anything but a court of justice. If I am right, my blood be upon your head, and on those of your children."

The veteran spread his hands abroad, and presented a fine picture of a brave man in extreme peril. The court was cleared, and a very short time elapsed before it was again opened to pronounce sentence on this devoted noble. Count Thurn covered his head, and addressed the wretched old man: -

"Admiral Prince Carraciolli, you have been unanimously found guilty of the charges brought against you; you have repaid the high rank and honors, conferred on you by a mild and confiding sovereign, with the blackest ingratitude. The sentence of the court is, that you shall be hanged by the neck at the yardarm of your own flag-ship in two hours from this time, and may God have mercy on your soul!"

The countenance of the veteran admiral betrayed no other emotion than a stern composure.

"Hereafter," said he, "when you shall be called to your great account, you will weep for this unjust sentence in tears of blood. I take shame to myself in asking any favor from such men; but, if possible, I wish to be shot as becomes my rank, and not hung up like a felon and a dog."

"It is inadmissible," said Count Thurn; "and the court is hereby dissolved."

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