

*Albany Evening Journal* (Albany, New York),  
September 28, 1860, p. 2, column 7.

(1860)

**A HERO.** — John B. Gough, the celebrated temperance lecturer, who has returned to the United States, from a visit to his native England, and who is announced to speak at Cooper Institute on next Monday evening, related in one of his recent speeches, the following anecdote:

John Maynard was well known in the Lake district as a God-fearing, honest, intelligent pilot. He was a pilot on a steamer from Detroit to Buffalo one summer afternoon. At that time, those steamers seldom carried boats.

Smoke was seen ascending from below, and the captain called out,

“Simpson, go down and see what that smoke is.” Simpson came up with his face pale as ashes, and said—

*The British Workman* (London, England),  
November 1863, p. 426, column 1.

(1863)

**BRAVE JOHN MAYNARD!**

John Maynard was well-known as a sturdy, intelligent and God-fearing pilot, on lake Erie. He had charge of a steamer from Detroit to Buffalo, one summer afternoon. At that time, those steamers seldom carried boats.

Smoke was seen ascending from below, and the captain called out: —

“Simpson, go down and see what that smoke is.” Simpson came up with his face pale as ashes, and said: —

**THE ROYAL GALLERY OF POETRY AND ART:**

*THE ILLUSTRATED BOOK OF THE FAVORITE POETIC GEMS OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE, THE CHOICEST PRODUCTIONS OF AUTHORS, LIVING AND DEAD, FOR THE UNCROWNED KINGS AND QUEENS OF AMERICAN HOMES.* With an Introduction by **Rev. W. H. Milburn**, D.D., Chaplain National House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. (New York and St. Louis: Thompson Publishing Co., 1886), pp. 278-279.

(1886)

**THE PILOT.**

John Maynard was well known in the lake district as a God-fearing, honest and intelligent pilot. He was pilot on a steamboat from Detroit to Buffalo. One summer afternoon — at that time, those steamers seldom carried boats —

smoke was seen ascending from below, and the captain called out,

“Simpson, go below and see what the matter is down there.” Simpson came up with his face pale as ashes, and said,

<p>”Captain, the ship is on fire!”</p> <p>Then, “Fire! fire! fire! fire on shipboard!”</p> <p>All hands were called up. Buckets of water were dashed upon the fire but in vain. There were large quantities of rosin and tar on board, and it was useless to attempt to save the ship. The passengers rushed forward and inquired of the pilot, “How far are we from Buffalo?”</p> <p>“Seven miles.”</p> <p>“How long before we reach it?”</p> <p>“Three-quarters of an hour, at our present rate of steam.”</p> <p>“Is there any danger?”</p> <p>“Danger <i>here</i> — see the smoke bursting out! <i>go forward</i>, if you would save your lives!”</p> <p>Passengers and crew, men, women and children, crowded the forward part of the ship. John Maynard stood at the helm. The flames burst forth in a sheet of fire; clouds of smoke arose; the captain cried out through his trumpet — “John Maynard!”</p>	<p>”Captain, the ship is on fire!”</p> <p>Fire! fire! fire! fire! instantly resounded in all directions!</p> <p>All hands were called up. Buckets of water were dashed upon the flames, but in vain. There were large quantities of rosin and tar on board, and it was useless to attempt to try to save the ship. The passengers rushed forward, and inquired of the pilot, “How far are we from land?”</p> <p>“Seven miles.”</p> <p>“How long before we reach it?”</p> <p>“Three-quarters of an hour, at our present rate of steam.”</p> <p>“Is there any danger?”</p> <p>“Danger enough <i>here</i> — see the smoke bursting out! <i>go forward</i>, if you would save your lives!”</p> <p>Passengers and crew, men, women and children, crowded the forward part of the ship. John Maynard stood at his post. The flames burst forth in a sheet of fire; clouds of smoke arose; the captain cried out through his trumpet, “John Maynard.”</p>	<p>”Captain, the ship is on fire.”</p> <p>Then “Fire! fire! fire!” resounded on shipboard.</p> <p>All hands were called up. Buckets of water were dashed on the fire, but in vain. There were large quantities of resin and tar on board, and it was found useless to save the ship. The passengers rushed forward and inquired of the pilot, “How far are we from Buffalo?”</p> <p>[---deleted---</p> <p>[---deleted---</p> <p>“Three-quarters of an hour at our present rate of steam.”</p> <p>“Is there any danger?”</p> <p>“Danger here — see the smoke bursting out — go forward, if you would save your lives!”</p> <p>Passengers and crew — men, women and children— crowded the forward part of the ship. John Maynard stood at the helm. The flames burst forth in a sheet of fire; clouds of smoke arose. The captain cried out through his trumpet: “John Maynard!”</p>
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<p>“Aye, aye, sir!”</p> <p>“Are you at the helm?”</p> <p>“Aye, aye, sir!”</p> <p>“How does she head?”</p> <p>Southeast-by-east, sir.”</p> <p>“Head her southeast and run her on shore.”</p> <p>Nearer, nearer, yet nearer she approached the shore.</p> <p>Again the captain cried out, “John Maynard!” The response came feebly, “Aye, aye, sir.”</p> <p>“Can you hold on five minutes longer, John?”</p> <p>“By God’s help, I will!”</p> <p>The old man’s hair was scorched from the scalp; one hand disabled, his knee upon the stanchion, and his teeth set, with his other hand upon the wheel, he stood firm as a rock. He</p>	<p>“Ay, aye, sir!” responded the brave tar.</p> <p>[---deleted---</p> <p>[---deleted---</p> <p>“How does she head?”</p> <p>“South-east by east, sir.”</p> <p>“Head her south-east, and run her on shore.”</p> <p>Nearer, nearer, yet nearer, she approached the shore.</p> <p>Again the captain cried out “John Maynard!” The response came feebly, “Ay, aye, sir!”</p> <p>“Can you hold on five minutes longer, John?”</p> <p>“By God’s help I will!”</p> <p>The old man’s hair was scorched from the scalp; one hand was disabled, [--deleted--] and his teeth were set, yet he stood firm as a rock. He beached the ship, — every man, woman, and</p>	<p>“Aye, aye, sir!”</p> <p>“Are you at the helm?”</p> <p>“Aye, aye, sir!”</p> <p>“How does she head?”</p> <p>Southeast by east, sir.”</p> <p>“Head her southeast and run her on shore,” said the captain.</p> <p>Nearer, nearer, yet nearer, she approached the shore.</p> <p>Again the captain cried out: “John Maynard!” The response came feebly this time, “Aye, aye, sir!”</p> <p>“Can you hold on five minutes longer, John?” he said.</p> <p>“By God’s help, I will!”</p> <p>The old man’s hair was scorched from the scalp, one hand disabled, his knee upon the stanchion, and his teeth set; with his other hand upon the wheel, he stood firm as a rock. He</p>
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<p>beached the ship — every man, woman and child was saved, as John Maynard dropped, and his spirit took its flight to his God. [Sensation.]</p> <p>He sacrificed his life to save the lives of others. It is worth a greater effort to save a man from moral ruin — to save a child from drunkenness than from fire.</p>	<p>child was saved, as John Maynard dropped overboard, and his spirit took its flight to his God.</p> <p>He sacrificed his life to save the lives of others. Noble John Maynard! It is worth a greater effort to save a man from <i>moral ruin</i>.</p> <p>J. B. GOUGH</p>	<p>beached the ship; every man, woman and child was saved, as John Maynard dropped, and his spirit took its flight to its God.</p> <p>JOHN B. GOUGH.</p>
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