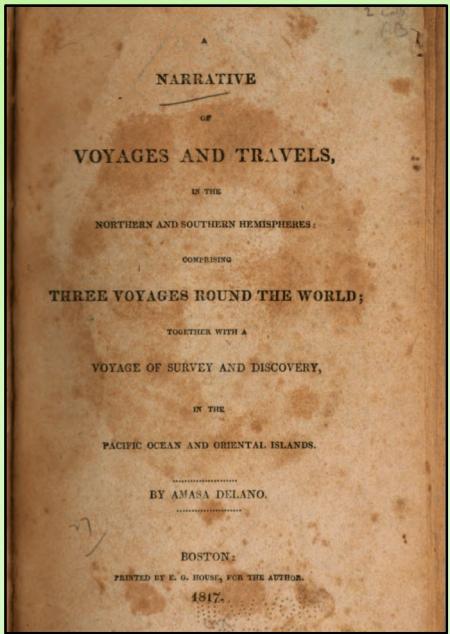


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CHAPTER XVIII.

Particulars of the Capture of the Spanish Ship Tryal, at the island of St. Maria; with the Documents relating to that affair.

COMPRISING
THREE VOYAGES ROUND THE WORLD;

TOGETHER WITH A
VOYAGE OF SURVEY AND DISCOVERY,

IN THE

PACIFIC OCEAN AND ORIENTAL ISLANDS.

BY AMASA DELANO.

.....

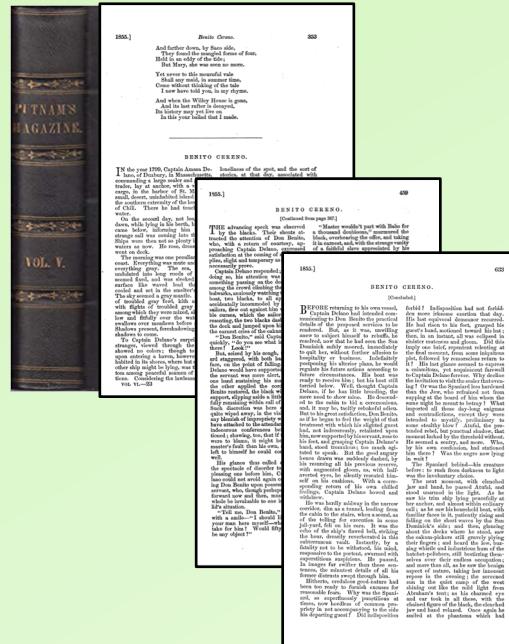
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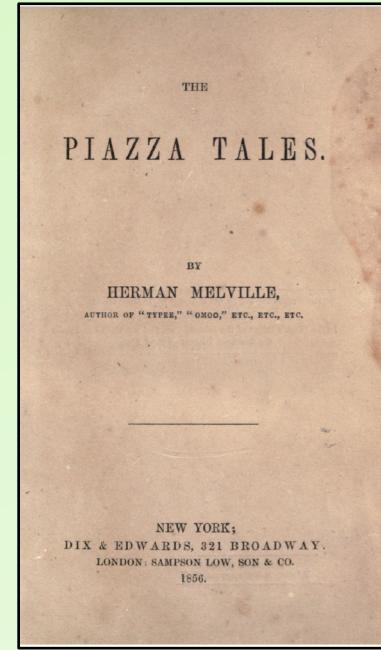
PRINTED BY E. G. HOUSE, FOR THE AUTHOR.

1817

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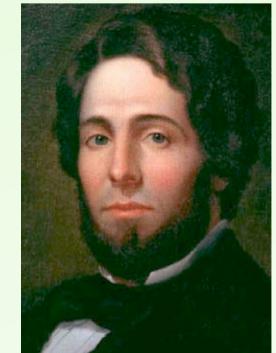


BENITO CERENO.

In the year 1799, Captain Amasa Delano, of Duxbury, in Massachusetts, commanding a large sealer and general trader, lay at anchor with a valuable cargo, in the harbor of St. Maria—a small, desert, uninhabited island toward the southern extremity of the long coast of Chili. There he had touched for water.

On the second day, not long after dawn, while lying in his berth, his mate came below, informing him that a strange sail was coming into the bay. Ships were then not so plenty in those waters as now. He rose, dressed, and went on deck.

The morning was one peculiar to that coast. Everything was mute and calm; everything gray. The sea, though undulated into long rods of swells, seemed fixed, and was sleeked at the surface like waved lead that had cooled and set in the smelter's mould. The sky seemed a gray surtous. Flights of troubled gray fowl,



1. **Source.** Amasa Delano, *Narrative of Voyages and Travels* (1817), Ch. 18.
 2. **Magazine.** *Putnam's Monthly*, Oct/Nov/Dec, 1855. [MEL's base version for "Benito Cereno."]
 3. **Book.** *The Piazza Tales*, 1856.

1. Versions of “Benito Cereno”: Original Materials