

## DIED LIKE HEROES.

### STORY OF THE FOUNDERING OF A GERMAN GUNBOAT.

They Went Down Cheering Their Flag, and Singing the German National Anthem—One of the Most Remarkable Events of Naval Life.



THE crew of the German gunboat Illis have given the world a lesson in how to die well. With their ship on the brink of inevitable destruction, they joined hands and sang the national military hymn, "The Flag-gallied." Singing that song they went to their death cheerfully. The Illis began her last voyage on July 23 last, when she left Chefoo, in China, for Nagasaki, in Japan. She was a gunboat of 2500 tons, a small vessel of the class which is maintained by European powers in Asiatic waters for the purpose of punishing natives, protecting citizens, and so forth. It does not appear that she had any one particular defect, but she was too weak to face the terrible storm which overtook her. Before nightfall the ship was overtaken by one of those terrible storms which rage with such fury on the eastern coast of Asia. When darkness came the storm was still increasing in fury. The crew were helpless and crouched under the bulwarks holding on to ropes and rails for their lives. Great seas broke over the deck, drowning and injuring many men. The ship was beyond control of helm or engines and incapable of making a course in the direction in which safety lay. Until nearly midnight the storm flung the helpless ship about. Then, having been lifted on the crest of an enormous wave, she fell with a crash which shook her from stem to stern. She had struck on a reef, which proved to be one off the southeast promontory on the Chinese coast. The boats were washed away, the men were powerless to save the ship, and their only chance of life lay in clinging to a ship that was fast breaking up. After nearly twelve hours of battle with the storm it only remained for them to die. Captain Braun, who had never for a moment relaxed his efforts to save the ship, saw that his work was over. His stalwart form and his calm, but strong German face will live in the memory of the few survivors until their last hour. He called all the officers and men around him on deck, and, taking each one by the hand, bade him farewell. Then he told the whole crew that they had done their duty like men, and would do well to end by giving three cheers for the Kaiser and for Germany. These were given with a strength that struggled with the roar of the wind and waves. The ship was then fast breaking up. A chasm had opened abaft the foremast, and the waves breaking over the deck threatened every moment to tear away the greater part of the ship and sink in under the boiling sea. Then Gunner Raehm yelled to the men to sing the national military hymn, the "Flaggenlied." By that time a sort of intoxication born of contempt for death had come over them. Joining hands for good fellowship and also to save one another for a few moments more from the catches of the waves, officers and men danced on the deck of the Illis as they sang the hymn, the refrain of which is: "The Kaiser and our standard, Hoch! The flag, black, white and red." They had barely concluded the hymn when the ship broke up and the after part of her was engulfed in the sea. A very few managed to reach the small part fast on the reef—not one officer among them. Of the thirteen men who succeeded in clinging to the wreck, eleven were eventually saved. They spent a terrible night, during which several of them were washed off and two drowned. The whole of the next day the storm continued with considerable violence, and they remained in their miserable position. At the end of thirty-six hours the lighthouse

keeper at Southeast Promontory was able to reach them in a boat and then taken off. Moslohner, boatswain of the wrecked ship, has written a letter to a friend describing that terrible night. In the course of his letter, the boatswain says: "It almost made my heart sick, though, when, as the Illis lay pounding on the rocks, almost on her beam end, Capt. Braun came down from the bridge and shook each of us by the hand. I could have cried like an infant, but he waved his hand toward the flag, and before we knew it we were singing at the top of our voices our dear old national hymn. Our voices sounded weird and strange above the storm. I can't describe the scene—it was so unlike anything you can imagine. There we were dancing around the deck like school boys, while every one of us knew our time had come. It is said that one conjures up everything that has passed when death comes, but I thought of nothing but the grand words of that song and the cheers we gave the flag. In fact, before I had much time to think of anything else, she went to pieces, and I found myself guzzling the briny water. Phew, but it was rough! I was caught in the crest of a wave and carried toward it, and by good fortune managed to clutch a rope that was dangling from the bowsprit. I scrambled up on the top of the wreck, and in a few minutes others as fortunate as I joined me."

#### Curious Berlin Custom.

A curious custom is made known by a correspondent in Berlin. The butchers of that town are in the habit of informing their customers of the days on which fresh sausages are made by placing a chair, covered with a large, clean apron, at the side of the shop door.

## NATURAL HISTORY.

#### A Scientific Dragon-Fly.

Most of the inventions of man have their counterpart in nature. The swan is the model of the stately ship, deep sea fish are found to carry with them incandescent lamps to light them on their way, and instances may be multiplied indefinitely. And now comes a species of dragon fly which used the twin screw as a propeller long before Fulton thought of the steamship. This is not an imaginary creature, as some might suppose. It is, however, one of the most extraordinary creatures in the world, and the only one of its kind. Its owner, a former governor of Portland prison, was a keen collector of all sorts of beetles and winged insects. Once during his wanderings in Brazil he chanced upon what seemed to him a dragon fly of unusual shape. Catching it in his net he found to his astonishment that in addition to its wings it had twin archimedean screws, one on each side of its long body, which revolved in the same manner as a ship's screw. On his return to England he was offered \$1,500 for it by the authorities of the British museum. Being a man of wealth he declined the offer and made it the center ornament of a beautiful collection of tropical insects. Unfortunately, in capturing it two of the blades were broken off one of the screws; otherwise it was in perfect preservation.

#### The Flying Frog.

Invertebrate creatures able to fly without wings are extremely rare. Vertebrates which can fly are, on the other hand, numerous. They may be divided into five classes: Fish, batrachians, reptiles, birds and mammals. Among the batrachians the flyers are represented by the Reinwardts' rhacophorus. It is a strange looking frog, or rather green frog, for the feet are immense. Spread out they cover a larger area than the whole of the rest of the body. Thanks to this parachute-like attachment the rhacophorus can flit from branch to branch and pounce without difficulty on the small insects which form his food. It is a pretty little beast, bright green on the back and orange colored underneath, dotted with black or blue spots. There is something curious in watching the dif-

ferent ways nature takes with various creatures to achieve a similar end. To enable crustaceans, fish and frogs to support themselves in the air she has simply extended each one's mode of locomotion. With reptiles she proceeds differently in taking them from the flanks and extending by means of false ribs umbrellawise. An example of this kind is the flying dragon of the Malayan archipelago. In repose the dragon sits quietly on a branch, but as soon as he sees an insect he flings himself at it and rarely misses his mark. Thanks to the spreading flanks of his skin the air upholds him, he alights gently on a lower branch and is ready to renew the chase indefinitely. In prehistoric days flying reptiles were very numerous. It is only necessary to mention the dragon and the Psychozoic Iomaccephalum, and in geological times the gigantic flying Onorthosaurus, which has completely disappeared off the face of the earth.

#### Remarkable Pigs.

When the pig is not only a domestic animal, but a family friend, as he appears to be in the Marquesas islands, he develops unsuspected cleverness. "In the South Seas," one of Robert Louis Stevenson's last books, gives many instances by way of proof. "Many islanders live with their pigs as we do with our dogs," Mr. Stevenson observed; "both crowd around the hearth with equal freedom, and the island pig is a fellow of activity, enterprise and sense. He husks his own coconuts and—I am told—rolls them into the sun to burst; he is the terror of the shepherd. Mrs. Stevenson, senior, has seen a pig fleeing to the woods with a lamb in his mouth; and I saw another come rapidly—and erroneously—to the conclusion that the Casco was going down, and swim through the flush water to the rail in search of an escape. It was told us in childhood that pigs cannot swim; I have known one to leap overboard, swim five hundred yards to shore, and return to the house of his original owner. I was once, at Tautira, a pigmaster on a considerable scale. At first, in my pen, the utmost good feeling prevailed. A little sow with a bellyache came and appealed to us for help in the manner of a child; and there was one shapely black boar, whom we called Catholicus, for he was a particular present from the Catholics of the village, and who early displayed the marks of courage and friendliness. No other animal, whether dog or pig, was suffered to approach him at his food, and for human beings he showed a full measure of that toadying fondness, so common in the lower animals, and possibly their chief title to the name. One day, on visiting my piggery, I was amazed to see Catholicus draw back from my approach with cries of terror; and if I was amazed at the change, I was truly embarrassed when I learned its reason. One of the pigs had that morning been killed; Catholicus had seen the murder, he had discovered he was dwelling in the shambles, and from that time his confidence and his delight in life were ended. We still reserved him a long while, but he could not endure the sight of any two-legged creature, nor could we, under the circumstances, encounter his eye without confusion."

#### Private Access.

What a blessing no man can hinder our private access to God. Every man can build a chapel in his breast, himself the priest, his heart the sacrifice and the earth he treads on the altar.—Jeremy Taylor.

#### Jackson's First Wheel.

The Jackson (Ky.) Hustler says: "The first bicycle ever in Jackson arrived by express last week. It is the property of one of the professors at the college. A big, strapping mountaineer from Leslie saw the wheel in the express office and said 'What's that air?' 'A bicycle,' answered a bystander, who went on to explain its uses. 'I low'd mebbe it was a newfangled contraption to measure saw logs with,' replied the citizen of Leslie. And just then Ben Wells fainted and fell over a pile of express matter."

Fifth publication Jan. 2.

#### SHERIFF SALE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT by virtue of an order of sale issued by the clerk of the district court of the third judicial district of Nebraska, within and for Lancaster county, in an action wherein Cora K. Pitcher is plaintiff and Jeremiah Mickel and Harriet S. Mickel defendants, I will at 2 o'clock p. m., on the 5th day of January, A. D., 1897, at the east door of the court house, in the city of Lincoln, Lancaster county, Nebraska, offer for sale at public auction the following described real estate, to-wit:

Lots one (1) and two (2), in block fourteen (14), in Pitcher and Baldwin's Second addition to University Place, Lancaster county, Nebraska.

Given under my hand this 2nd day of December, A. D., 1896.

John J. Trompen,  
Sheriff.

Fifth publication Jan. 2.

#### SHERIFF SALE.

Notice is hereby given that by virtue of an order of sale, issued by the clerk of the district court of the Third judicial district of Nebraska, within and for Lancaster county, in an action wherein Union Central Life Insurance Company is plaintiff, and Thomas Sewell et al. defendants, I will, at 2 o'clock p. m., on the 5th day of January, A. D. 1897, at the east door of the court house, in the city of Lincoln, Lancaster county, Nebraska, offer for sale at public auction the following described real estate to-wit: The southeast quarter of section thirty-five (35), the southwest quarter of section thirty-six (36), all in township eleven (11), north range five (5), east of the 6th P. M., in Lancaster county, Nebraska.

Given under my hand this 4th day of December, A. D. 1896.

JOHN J. TROMPEN,  
Sheriff.

Jan 2

Fourth pub. Jan. 2.

#### SHERIFF'S SALE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, THAT by virtue of an order of sale issued by the clerk of the district court of the third judicial district of Nebraska, within and for Lancaster county, in an action wherein August H. Edgren is plaintiff, and Lincoln lodge No. 35, Independent Order of Good Templars et al., defendants, I will, at 2 o'clock p. m., on the 12th day of January, A. D. 1897, at the east door of the court house, in the city of Lincoln, Lancaster county, Nebraska, offer for sale at public auction, the following described real estate, to-wit:

Lot thirteen (13), in block one hundred and one (101), in the City of Lincoln, Lancaster county, Nebraska.

Given under my hand this 9th day of December, A. D., 1896.

John J. Trompen,  
Sheriff.

Jan 9.

Fourth Pub. Jan. 2.

#### SHERIFF SALE.

Notice is hereby given, That by virtue of an order of sale issued by the clerk of the district court of the Third Judicial District of Nebraska, within and for Lancaster county, in an action wherein Sarah Waters is Plaintiff, and Fabien S. Potvin, et al., Defendant, I will, at 2 o'clock p. m., on the 12th day of January, A. D. 1897, at the East door of the Court House, in the City of Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, offer for sale at public auction the following described real estate to-wit:

The east half of the northeast quarter of section twenty-eight (28), in town ten (10), north of range six (6), east of the 6th P. M., in Lancaster county, Nebraska.

Given under my hand this 9th day of December, A. D. 1896.

John J. Trompen,  
Sheriff.

Jan. 9.

**WANTED SALESMEN.** We want one or two men in each county to take orders for Nursery stock, and are willing to pay well for good work. We agree to REPLACE FREE anything that dies from natural causes. We also have a choice line of SEED POTATOES. Give us a trial. THE HAWKS NURSERY COMPANY Milwaukee, Wis.