

ANGERS OF THE DEEP.

RELICTS WHICH DRIFT AT THE WILL OF WIND AND CURRENT.

Remains of an Abandoned Vessel—Danger of Striking a Water-Logged Wreck—The Great Raft—A Whistling Buoy Adrift—The Superstitious Sailor.

A derelict is anything that has been forsaken or abandoned, and, as applied to the sea, it is a vessel that has been abandoned by her crew and left floating on the ocean. Derelicts are much more plentiful than a casual observer would imagine. Besides vessels sunk near the coast in sufficiently shallow water to make their protruding masts dangerous to passing ships, there were, in the North Atlantic reported to the hydrographic office for each month of the year 1886. A larger number of them was sighted in the late fall, winter and early spring than during the other seasons of the year, no doubt because there were then more dangerous storms on the ocean. Some of these derelicts drift around month after month, at the will of the wind and current, and are reported time after time by passing vessels.

The most interesting wreck that has been reported for some years is doubtless that of the derelict schooner Twenty-one Friends. She was abandoned on March 24, 1885 about one hundred and seventy-five miles east of Cape Henry. Being lumber laden, she continued to float. Her masts were carried away close to the deck, so that there was but little surface exposed to the wind, and her progress was almost entirely due to the current of the Gulf Stream. Her track across the Atlantic was directly in the route of the European steamers, by whom she was sighted many times, and whose captains doubtless grew to regard her as worse than twenty-one enemies! The last report received placed her about seventy miles north of Cape Ortegal, Spain, on Dec. 4, 1885. She was probably towed into some port by the Bay of Biscay fishermen, who must have regarded her as a rich find. During her long cruise she covered some 3,300 miles, which made an average of about 425 miles of progress each month. A number of similar cases could be given where derelicts have been reported month after month in the highways of commerce.

Pogs and icebergs are encountered only at a particular period of the year, and within certain limits of the ocean, but derelicts are liable to be met anywhere and at any time. A ship striking one of these water-logged wrecks would be apt to sustain about as much damage as if she ran upon a rock. An inhospitable coast is known at night by its lights, the presence of icebergs by the chill of the water in the vicinity; but during darkness or fog there is nothing to indicate the presence of a derelict.

Sometimes, when it is found necessary to abandon a vessel, the captain is thoughtful enough to set her on fire. Sometimes, if the sea be smooth and the weather favorable, a captain, on meeting one of these derelicts, will lower a boat and send some of his crew to fire her, but this is also a rare occurrence. Reports are occasionally received of ships being injured by striking wrecks, and no doubt some of those that have left port, and never been heard from afterward, have been lost in just this way.

Perhaps the most novel derelict on record was that of the great raft which it was attempted to tow round from the Canadian Coast to New York some months ago. The attempt failed, the towing steamer broke away from the raft, and the great mass of logs was left to float about directly in the path of vessels coming into New York. Fortunately, the raft was speedily broken up and the logs were scattered, and no serious collisions with them.

A word on the subject of buoys which have gone adrift may not be amiss. While most buoys are small and insignificant, a few are large and heavy, and might do considerable damage to a ship if a small number fall speedily, whistling buoys at important points on our coast. These are of mammoth size, and act as beacons, and, at the same time, they give warning by the noise they make. The whistle is automatic, and is sounded twenty or thirty times a minute by action of the sea. There is a chamber into which gas is forced, and it is lighted by means of a lens lantern at the top of the buoy. Of course the gas must be replenished at regular intervals.

One of these enormous buoys was driven from its moorings off Cape Hatteras, in December, 1885, and, after taking an involuntary journey of about twelve hundred miles, it was, on the 25th of the following May, captured and towed into Bermuda by an English steamer. It was in good condition, but evidences of its long trip were found in the large barnacles adhering to it. When it started on this cruise the gas was soon exhausted, causing the light to become extinguished, but doubtless the whistle continued to pipe lustily with every rise and fall of the sea.

Imagine the dismay of some superstitious mariner whose ears should be greeted by a half dozen violent whoops in the small hours of the night, when he comfortably believed that no object was within miles of the ship. —Lieut. E. B. Underwood, U. S. N.

A Bank Clerk's Punishment.

A new method of punishing dishonest bank clerks is now being tried in a certain institution of that kind in New York. Some time ago a clerk's accounts were investigated and he was found to be several thousand dollars short. To remove and prosecute the man would have been troublesome and apt to hurt the reputation of the bank, so they have made him stay, and if nothing had happened, but have placed him in such a position that he can take no more, and informed his fellow clerks of the defalcation. He is avoided by the insiders, and his position is about as disagreeable as can well be imagined. Constantly under surveillance, he will work out in time the amount he has taken, and will then be discharged. —Philadelphia Times.

A Subject for a Museum.

A news item states that "an umbrella has been made in Glasgow for a king in East Africa measuring twenty-one feet in diameter." The dimensions of the umbrella are not given, but we should think it would have to be pretty bulky to cover a king twenty-one feet in diameter. A king so capricious could make more money by traveling in this country with a 10-cent show than to remain on a throne at home. —Norristown Herald.

It Takes Brains to Win.

Sporting Goods Dealer—Yes, my advertised reductions are in good faith. I'm selling standard baseballs to boys at five cents each. Friend (in the same line)—Great Scott! You'll be bankrupt. "No I won't! I'm getting rich. You see I'm a silent partner in the firm of Painter & Glazier, dealers in window glass, etc." —Lincoln Journal.

A Morbidly Sensitive Empress.

The empress of Austria spent a week at Bournemouth recently, exasperating almost to frenzy the antagonism between the two rival hotels, and finally selecting, not the aesthetic and more fashionable Bath, but the quieter Exeter. When, a few days before her arrival, she intimated her intention of taking up her abode in the last named house it was summarily cleared of all its guests, with the exception of one unoffending old maid, who had occupied a top bedroom for seven months, took all her meals in the privacy of her chamber, and was warranted not to show obtrusively on the stairs. The empress, her daughter Valerie, and a large suite filled thirty-six rooms for a week. The empress, spare, tall, erect, has retained much of the far famed beauty which made the Princess Elizabeth, of Thurn and Taxis, the most admirable woman of her time.

Her magnificent hair, as luxuriant as ever, is almost untouched by time, and she seems to disclaim every article of toilet and appearance. She dresses plainly, unbecomingly, almost shabbily, rose early, walked out alone with the lady like proprietress of the hotel at half past 6 o'clock p. m., took long walks on the sands, indifferent alike to wind, sunshine or rain, coming home sometimes drenched to the skin, visiting the pier only when all the inhabitants were safely housed for their meals, giving no trouble, and apparently satisfied with everything. She had been so cruelly mobbed at Cromer, on the east coast, that she had become morbidly sensitive about being stared at, and, to avoid observation, resorted imprudently to a device more likely to attract attention than to shun it. She sallied forth in the chilly inclement weather with a large fan, which she held up before her face whenever she suspected the passers-by of scanning her features. —The Argonaut.

A Change in the Buttons.

There is nothing more noticeable to me than the wonderful change in the buttons that women wear that has taken place in two years. Perhaps I notice it more on account of being in the business, but it is so radical that any one would perceive it if he had his attention called to it. Formerly the buttons were fancy and large; now they are small, plain and cheap. When merchants can sell manufactured buttons for three cents a dozen it reduces the profits of the manufacturer. Style has decided that buttons shall be small and plain. In consequence, it is very seldom that a woman pays more than twenty cents a dozen for the buttons she uses on her dress, and the majority use five cent and ten cent buttons.

But this style will not last long; it will get around to the old price where it was profitable to manufacture buttons. Two years ago the style was to wear buttons that were always used on dresses never cost less than fifty cents a dozen. The size of the buttons began to increase, and it was not uncommon to see buttons two inches square on cloaks. Many ladies paid as high as \$2 apiece for buttons. They were made in fancy shapes, and there are few ladies who have not pretty collections in their trunks. They will be used some day, for the fashion in buttons is always changing. Our trade fluctuates accordingly. With improved machinery it is now easy to make a cheap, plain button. Bone is the principal material for these buttons, and vegetable ivory is also used, as well as composition. —Globe-Democrat.

Wild Animals in Africa.

Of the wild animals, singularly enough only the leopards are dreaded, for they often attack man, which the lions never do, although they lurk in the bush by twos and threes. The negroes told Emin they were under the control of a chief named Lotter, a very simple, good natured man, who always kept two tame lions in his house (a fact, and as long as he receives occasional presents of corn and goats, prevents the wild lions from doing any mischief. It is curious to note that the lions here are good tempered (perhaps because they find abundance of food), and they are also much admired, as was shown by the following incident: "One day," he says, "we came upon a lion caught in a pitfall, whereupon Chief Lotter was fetched, and he pushed into the pit branches of trees to enable the lion to get out; this it did, and after giving us a roar of acknowledgment, walked off unharmed."

"Another chief is said to possess the power of keeping the game away from the pitfalls. One of our men told me that this chief was at one time detained under arrest at the station for a few hours, the consequence being that no game came near the station for about eight days, so that a present had to be sent to the chief to appease him. Chief Chulong's wife is also famous for her power over the numerous crocodiles which make their home in Khor Ghini. —Christian at Work.

Prizes of the Ocean.

Sperm whales, the monsters of deep water, are the richest prizes of the ocean, yielding spermacein from their brain cases, ivory from their lower jaws, rich, yellow oil from their sides, and (when diseased) the almost priceless ambergris from their entrails. Next in value comes the right whale, the inhabitant of the Arctic, in whose mouth whalebone is substituted for ivory. The upper jaw is furnished with this substance, a great pile of which lies high on the beach at Herring Cove. It is, perhaps, ten inches across where it joins the jaw, and remains one inch thick a great comb with tangled hair attached than anything else. The "teeth" are closely set, and are three feet and more long, tapering to a point and terminating in rope like filaments.

While the sperm whale feeds on squid at the bottom of the ocean, the right whale speeds along with open mouth, engulfing huge quantities of water and greater or less quantities of the animalcules and small fish on which it subsists. When his cavernous mouth is full he closes it, and with the aid of his tongue swallows the little creatures which have become immersed in the curious attachment of his upper jaw. —Cor. Baltimore American.

A Horrible Death Sentence.

We mentioned the terrible sanctions by which the Chinese secret societies enforce their laws, which, of themselves, make them dangerous subjects, and The Liverpool Post furnishes a remarkable illustration. According to a report from the American minister at Peking, a man belonging to an association of gold beaters at Tsochow recently took more apprentices than one. This is forbidden, so the local trades union took up the matter and condemned the man to be bitten to death, and the sentence was literally carried out. One hundred and twenty-three men had a bite at him before he expired. It would not strike the childlike and bland Chinese that there was anything specially horrible in such a form of murder. —London Spectator.

The Celebrated Watch.

A lady who had been abroad was describing some of the sights of her trip to a party of friends. "But what pleased me most in anything," she said, "was the wonderful clock at Strasbourg." "Oh, how I should love to see it!" exclaimed a pretty young woman in pink. "I am so interested in such things. And did you see the celebrated watch on the Rhine?" —Queries.

SCIENTIFIC WEDLOCK.

THE PHYSICAL AND MORAL EFFECTS OF UNWISE MARRIAGES.

Mating Among Savages—A Law in Brazil. Deterioration of Royal Blood in Europe—Germany's Peril—Physical Culture Should Be Looked After—Results.

It is both interesting and instructive to study the people and races of the earth, as their methods of contracting marriages influence their deterioration or advancement. Among the Esquimaux, who rank very low on the scale of humanity, marriage is a mere matter of convenience. The sentiment of love seems almost unknown. The woman simply needs to be fed, and the man requires some one to make his clothes and to take care of his hut while he is hunting or fishing. The contract is made when the parties are in infancy. The boy's father selects a little girl for his son's wife, and pays her father for her—perhaps a pair of snow shoes or a dozen persimmon caps. The two are then considered engaged, and when they become old enough live together. It is at once evident that no attention can here be given to those points which should govern a wise and scientific marriage. The prospective bride and groom are too young, at the time when they are affianced, for any one to know into what sort of representatives of their race they will develop. Perhaps the question of chessness is the main one. Their method of contracting marriage alliances goes far to show why it is the Esquimaux have remained so long at their present low level.

In various parts of South America there is an ample field to study the effects of judicious alliances. There exists here almost every variety of cross between the native Indians, the resident and indolent Spaniards, and other more active, vigorous and intellectual Europeans. The alliances are hardly formed with a view to the laws of scientific parentage, though they clearly show the working of these when they have been observed well as the laws of heredity. There is a remarkable and self-imposed family law which popularly prevails, we are told, throughout Brazil in relation to matrimony. It is recognized among all the higher classes. The man who is about to marry is required to furnish a certificate from one or more physicians that he is free from diseases of a certain character, and that he is free also from all signs of any of the diseases which are liable to be transmitted to the offspring. Not only that, but the physicians consulted must testify that, as far as they can learn, there exists no reason to believe that the union will be other than in accord with the laws of heredity.

The ruling families of many of the small European states have their range in marriage selection so restricted by their social code as to furnish noteworthy examples of the disobedience of the laws of scientific wedlock. The consequence is, the members are often feeble minded, weak bodied, bigoted and dispirited. Francis Greg, in his treatise on the appearance—largely due to marriage selection—in England of the once famous and thoroughbred looking Norman type. When found now it generally exists, not among celebrities, but in inconspicuous members of aristocratic families—such as undistinguished army officers and the army of the British. These are exposed to early death, are often tempted into vice, and are prevented from marrying during the prime of life. The shorter and weaker men, with feeble constitutions, are left at home to raise the families; and this danger is threatened to the continued superiority of the population.

In many countries the poorer classes marry early and have large families. They are too ignorant to know anything of the scientific laws which should govern marriages and parentage. Not only are they poor and ignorant, but often vicious. Says Greg: "The careless, squalid, unsparring Irishman multiplies like rabbits; the frugal, fastidious, and respectable Scotchman, in his mortality spiritual in his faith, sagacious and disciplined in intelligence, passes his best years in struggle and celibacy, marries late, and leaves few behind him. Given a land originally peopled by a thousand Saxons and a thousand Celts, and in a dozen generations five-sixths of the population would be Celts; by five-sixths of the property, of the power, of the intellect, would belong to the one-sixth of the Saxons that remained." Says another writer: "It is one of the laws of life that each individual shall to a great extent take the benefits and evils of its own nature, no matter whether these come from ancestors by inheritance or are self produced from habit. A child is entitled to a birth with as few defects of character and constitution as it is possible to give it. Parents are bound by honor and by their own self interest, if they bring children into the world, to do it under such circumstances and conditions that their offspring may live healthy, happy, and useful lives. To bring children into the world which will be incapable, criminal, or so diseased that their whole lives will be miserable, is wrong, if not a crime."

The day when true sanitary marriage will become the rule is a long way off. The need must be made more plainly evident. In this country we are developing, from the amalgamation of many strains, a race wholly new to the world. Our immigrants, as they intermarry with those that have preceded them, produce descendants of a quicker and more progressive mental type than their own, and it is noted by Darwin that the bodies and limbs of these descendants are very noticeably longer than those of their ancestors. During our civil war the uniforms manufactured to fit the average American soldier, including those of foreign descent, though born here, were found, as a rule, to be much too long for foreigners just arrived. When we shall have learned, and learned to apply, the laws of proper selection in marriage, our race ought to be second to none in health and physical development, and that means, also, intellectual advancement. A wide step toward the needed reform has been taken by us as a people, for far more than ever before we are interested in physical culture, upon which health so clearly depends. There is a promise that they will have the high place in the curriculum of education which it deserves.

Our schools now, on account of the absence of a proper system of physical culture, are constantly sending out into the world young men and young women who, by reason of their infirmities, never ought to marry. And again, our ill ventilated sitting rooms and our ill arranged and ill furnished bedrooms are generating an army, the offspring of which must present every phase of bodily imperfection. The remedy for this is physical culture, and the sooner it is recognized, the better. Social reformers and philanthropists have a wide field for cultivation. Let them impress upon our growing youth the importance of healthy bodies, harmoniously developed by proper exercise. Let them also do them everywhere, as our benevolent institutions here in Boston have done, by providing gymnasiums and grounds for open air sports, and they will have earned the highest reward for their labors. —Boston Herald.

THE HUMAN VOICE.

What It Is in Which the Soul of the Organ Consists.

The individual peculiarities and delicate expressions of the human voice have been looked upon as almost belonging to the soul, and as, therefore, incapable of reproduction. We recognize people by these slight, but sure, differences in quality, and think that "there is no mistaking that voice." We pay the same tribute to the individuality of each kind of musical instrument, being able to distinguish one from another positively, by the quality of the sound only, after hearing precisely the same musical note struck upon each.

The first question to be answered is, what is the difference in the sounds of different voices and of different musical instruments by which we distinguish them, if it is difference neither in the loudness nor in the pitch of the tone produced? It is the simultaneous sounding of other notes which accompany faintly the note played upon the instrument, not loud enough to be heard, but giving it richness and quality in precisely the same way that a chord makes a richer sound than a single note. These extra notes, sometimes called sympathetic vibrations, are too faint to be separately recognized, but they modify the original note, giving it a richness, quality of "timbre" which differs for every instrument. The piano is richer than the harp, because its strings are surrounded by a case which imparts the vibrations of each string to such of the other strings as are in accord with it, thereby causing those nearest in agreement to accompany every note struck. The proportion of faint notes which accompany the note played is different in different kinds of musical instruments, being affected by the shape of the case, the material, etc.; hence the difference in quality of sound.

In talking, the sounds of the voice are made nearly all in one note, and articulation is simply the effect of rapid and decided variations in the quality or the timbre of the note, and the instrument which was sounding was rapidly changed from an organ to a violin, a piano, etc., as the different syllables are pronounced. These changes in the musical nature of the mouth can assume so as to possess at will the quality giving properties of any instrument. This inflexibility of the voice is illustrated by the fact that the tone can imitate almost any musical instrument. Many people do not realize that a conversation is carried on in nearly a single tone, with variations in its quality only. When we vary the pitch of the notes produced by the voice, as well as the quality, we are singing, and when we vary the pitch without varying the quality, that is, without pronouncing words, we are "humming" a tune. —Harper's Weekly.

The Jackals of Calcutta.

Kind friends had warned us, ere we retired to sleep the first night in Calcutta, not to suppose that there was anything the matter if we should hear the cry of the jackals. But for that warning I do not know what our feelings would have been when, awakened from our first sleep by them, we heard a pack pass close to the house. It seemed to us as though the consciousness of the whole city and unbarred the portals of hell and put a trumpet in the hand of every liberated fiend. I had presumptuously imagined that familiarity with the concerts of London cats would enable me to sleep through the jackals' efforts.

But though the cat has undeniable power he can never hope to reach the top notes of the jackal. This latter, indeed, lacks the conversational variety of the more domestic animal. He confines himself mainly to one tone, which begins in a semi-apologetic low note, then ascends a little, still with a suspicion of apology and explanation that he did not mean to make quite so much noise but could not help it; and then the flood gates are open, and seeming to say that he does not care he yells with ecstatic abandon. Terrible as a "wandering voice" of the night the jackal appears a poor creature should he be come upon in his own proper person by day. True, his teeth are to be respected, but that is because, like all carrion feeders, his life is more or less poisonous. He is himself a sneaking coward, useful, however, beyond description. No system of drainage will enable Calcutta to dispense with its natural scavengers, and of these the jackal is among the most efficient. Peering into dark corners and with a nose keen to scent out what has escaped even the bright eyes, little as that seems to miss, he brings a special place in the sanitary economy of the city of palaces. —"Turans and Tails."

Seriousness of Cuban Courtship.

The surveillance of parents over daughters renders the matter of courtship a serious affair in Cuba. Many young men actually become dolorous objects from persistent serenade before so much as civil recognition by the family is granted. But there is undoubtedly a high quality of patience exhibited on the part of the family, as well as by doughty lover. Time after time, at all hours of the night, on returning to my hotel from divers wanderings in the Cuban capital, have I passed these love stricken youths, stationed opposite the homes of their innamoratas in all manner of agonized attitudes, strumming due muffled notes upon ancient guitars, and lifting their voices in passionate though doleful petitions to the night, the moon, the stars and all the saints, to aid them in reaching the ears and hearts of their adorandas.

All this may seem ridiculous to us, but it is far from that to those who thus pour out their souls upon the night. Nobody pays any attention to it. The parents, who are used to it, simply turn in their beds with thanks to the saints that their doors are massive and the windows are of iron bars. Delated male passengers cast sympathetic glances at the lone troubadours, remembering their own dismal efforts in the past. Even the neighbors keep silence, and not a rock or handy household implement is shot, as from some shadowy catapult, on disturbing mission through the bosky midnight air. For hours of this lugubrious sort of vigil no reward is sought or expected, but if the flutter of a dainty hand or the shimmer of delicate laces is for an instant caught at the balcony of the fair one's alcoba, then is the minstrel lover in an ecstasy of delight. —Edgar L. Wakeman's Letter.

Where the Day Ends.

In a German chart, published in 1870 by Dr. Gleuns, a line dividing places keeping Sunday and Monday respectively passes through Behring straits, leaving the Aleutian Isles on the east, curves sharply in between the Philippines on the west and Carolines on the east, then curves again sharply, sweeping north of Guinea and leaving the Chatham Isles on the west. At all places west of the line it is Monday, while it is Sunday on the east. —Arkansas Traveler.

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