

**THE TERRIBLE TEREDO.**

**Marine Worm That Destroys Timbers**  
 A study of the history and habits of this singular worm will be found neither uninteresting nor unprofitable, says the Atlanta Constitution. Its habitat was originally in the tropic sea, but being carried in the timbers of vessels into North American and European waters, it has become the terror and dread of wharfmasters and captains of unshelved sailing craft along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, and in the harbors of numbers of Mediterranean cities. According to the classification of Linnaeus, this bivalve belongs to the family of Pholadidae and genus teredo, so called from their habit of destroying ship or other timber. The shell is equally valved, and in form it is short, thick and round, and widely open in front and rear. This shell is situated at the inner end of a tube, somewhat cylindrical in shape, and either straight or crooked, as the case may be; this tube being open at each end in the full-grown specimens, and lined or coated with a white, chalky paste or substance, which seems to be its digestive apparatus. The weapon of the teredo is not its teeth, as might be supposed. This singular animal has still another peculiarity, dependent, however, upon the one last mentioned, for since its instrument is its foot, so it feeds itself not from the mouth, but from the foot itself. The valves above noted are simply appendages of the foot. In fact, if a teredo should have its foot amputated, it would in a most literal sense "lose his grip." In the center of the circular opening of the valves the foot is protruded, like the blade concealed in a spring cane, and the entire arrangement constitutes a kind of machine of power inconceivable in so small an object. But the strength of this machine becomes apparent when, upon a closer examination, one notes the strong, rubber-like ridges of the valves, which can contract with great force, and the comparatively enormous size of the great suctorial muscles which enables the teredo to hold its foot with the ease of an aneurysm passing through the softest pine.

This worm attains often a great length, but it is usually from one foot to a yard long, its size depending on the length of time it has been in the wood, and frequently on the size of the vessel. It is provided with two respiratory tubes, each of which has a siphon extending to a calcareous, funnel-shaped structure on the outside of the body. It has two heads, if such they can be called, attached to the extremity of a tube much smaller than the main trunk, and which are each of small tubes, one on each side, longer or, in other words, the main body splits into two small tubes about a foot or six inches from where the head is in a teredo, and where the tail would be in a snake. This worm is common on the coast of California, and is born in a large number of the vessels which are means of a veritable fleet, sometimes creeping through the hull and enough to begin to rot a piece of wood. A good, nice, white having been selected, they fasten themselves to the wood by means of the suctorial apparatus in their heads, strike with their foot and bore inwardly until only the head remains outside. Then they fasten themselves to the very edge, just as a clerk will fasten sheets of paper together, turning over the sides of a brass clasp, and, thereafter, their sole aim, object and ambition in life is to grow, bore and make sawdust. Small when they enter, they could no more creep backward out of their original hole after feasting a month or two on a rich pine log than a camel could go through the eye of a needle.

Still another species of this log-eater is the worm classified by Leach, *Limnoria terebrans*, genus *Isopoda*, which is a minute sessile, eyed crustacean, and which eats into the piles several feet below the low water mark, and in vast numbers, and with destructive power these latter do not equal the teredo. I seen a specimen of a pile attacked by the teredo, and one channel, beginning almost as small as the diameter of a knitting needle, gradually widened downward in a tortuous course until, at an aperture on the opposite side of the log (which had been gnawed lengthways), the size of the passage had grown to quite an inch in width, and the worm had grown in length seven and eight inches, as nearly as could be measured.

On the coast of California, I am credibly informed the teredo sometimes attains a diameter of two inches and a length of fifteen feet. And, so far as any one knows, their only food seems to be the dust which they create rasping their way through the logs. This dust is deposited by the foot in the tube lined with the chalky membrane, and instead of crawling inward any longer, as their burrowings lengthen, they simply grow in due proportion, their head remaining at its place. But there they find their punishment; for their size thus increased, and their log once consumed and broken off, they fall out into the water, and their career ends in the jaws of the next hungry fish that chances their way. Once their one log is destroyed they can never begin life again. So the wise teredo is careful to select a good, big log to begin with.

Another trait of this worm is that it will never attack floating timber. But due to the difficulty of anchoring if her timbers are not protected by metal sheathing. Many a noble vessel has been lost with all on board in mid-ocean owing to the insidious ravages made by the worm as she lay quietly at port taking on cargo and passengers. But as it rarely happens that there is not some visible decomposition in nature's works, and especially so in the case of the teredo, it is not surprising that a wreck will disappear in some channels particularly infested by the teredo.

How to prevent them from ruining a pile almost as soon as it was put down was long a vexed question with men in maritime towns; but experiments and invention have solved this mystery they have given the solution of many others. The logs are now brained or treated. A log properly treated will have a life of at least fifty years, and may bid defiance to every teredo that ever bored a hole or sawdust would wish to bore one.

**TYPOGRAPHICAL BULLS.**

**Literary Gems Unconsciously Produced by the Intelligent Compositor.**  
 A New Brighton editor wrote a notice about the Fort Wayne road, but it appeared "Fish Wagon road."  
 A New England paper told about "a drove of hogs floating down the Connecticut river," instead of "a drive of hogs."  
 An Atlantic editor discussed the political situation in a comprehensive editorial and headed it, "Let Us Explore." He neglected to read the proof, and it appeared under the caption, "Let Us Exploide."  
 A resident of Worcester, Mass., tried to advertise for a fawn-colored bull-terrier pup, which had strayed away from home, and learned by the next day's paper that it was a "fire-alarm bell-tower key" he had lost.  
 A noted Chicago divine preached a sermon in which he used the quotation: "And he saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom." The printer set it: "And he saw Abraham afar off, and a horse's ears in Boston."  
 In a lecture at Tremont Temple, Boston, Rev. Joseph Cook asked his audience: "Was St. Paul a Duper?" In a report of the lecture Mr. Cook was made to pronounce this startling conundrum: "Was St. Paul a Duder?"  
 An Indiana paper found it necessary to publish the following correction: "For 'burglar meeting' in the heading of the article in our last issue relating to the proceedings of the town council, read 'regular meeting.'"  
 Whittier's "Brewing of Soma" figured in a Cincinnati paper as the "Burning of Laura," and another paper of that city, wishing to bestow a word of compliment on a local performance, managed to give publicity to a "word of complaint."  
 It was a Boston newspaper which made its dramatic critic say: "The toast for Irving, like the toast for olives, must be cut elevated." What the critic wrote was: "The taste for Irving, like the taste for olives, must be cultivated."  
 A young clergyman in a Western town sent a notice to the local paper that he would deliver a sermon on "The Relation of Ministers to Their Parishes," and he was surprised the next day to learn that the compositor had changed his subject to "The Relations of Ministers to Their Parisheses."  
 Not long ago a Western Union telegraph operator found the words "orates fratres" in a special dispatch about the "praying brothers." It is not definitely known whether the telegrapher or the compositor attempted to translate the words, but it is certain they appeared in a Minneapolis paper as: "Oh, rats, father."  
 Not long ago a novel depicted a pretty two-headed boy playing on the "green" secure from numbers of curiosities and agents of dime museums. The boy was not such a natural phenomenon as he seemed, however, for a simple transposition of two letters had changed him from "a two-headed" youngster into one with duplicate heads.  
 Another daily had occasion not long ago to say: "In the letter in last Friday's issue about ticket speculation in Berlin, in speaking of the Schauspiel haus, or theater proper, the copyist tried to write as the author did, that it was devoted to 'non-musical' dramatic performances, but the types made it 'non-sensical.'"  
 An editorial note in a recent issue of a Pittsburgh religious weekly is as follows: "A couple of errors escaped the eye of the proof-reader in an article under the heading: 'Isles of the Sea.' In last week's issue, in fourth line of fourth paragraph it should be 'negs' and not 'deals.' Near the close 'Captain Gardiner, for 'Captain Sardines.'"  
 The types usually make their errors "nonsensical," as was the case when a St. Louis paper said: "The stay at Indianapolis proved a relief from the monetary which is inevitable on a thirty-hour continuous journey."  
 The writer wanted to say: "The stay at Indianapolis proved a relief from the monotony which is inevitable on a thirty-hour continuous journey."

**A MAN**

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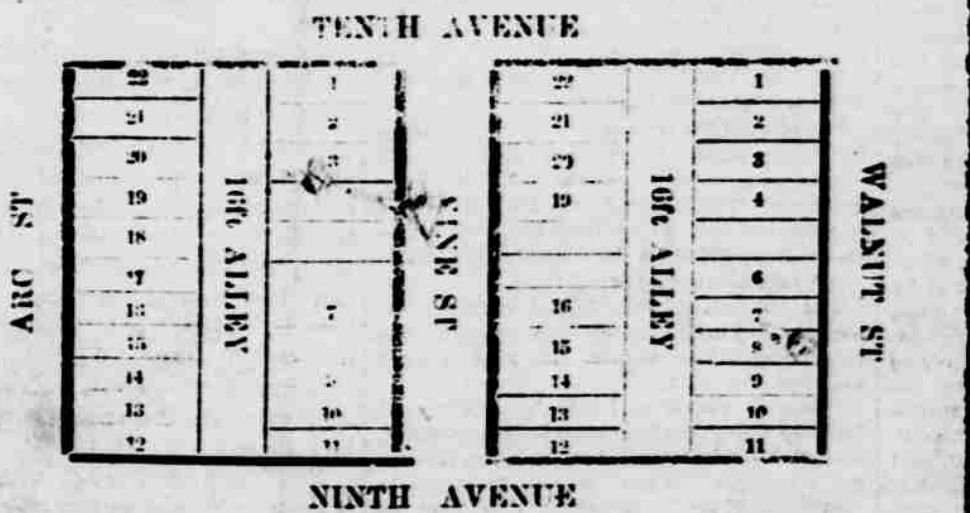
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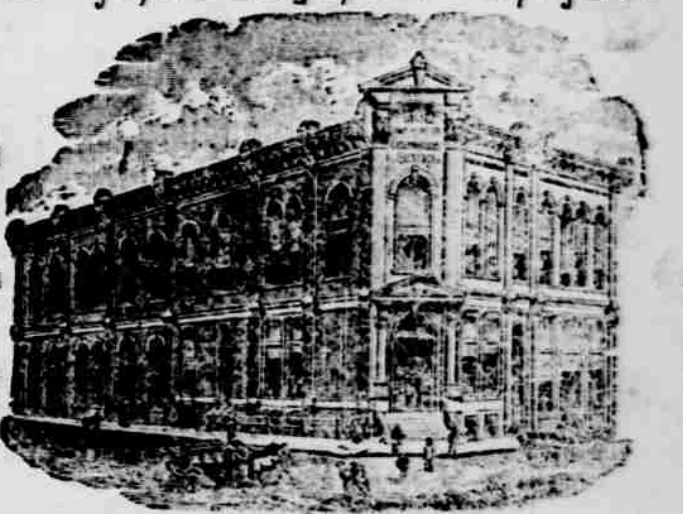
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**UNSUBSTANTIAL SOLES.**

**Cobbling That Was Good Enough for the Cobblers, But Not for a Live Drummer.**  
 Two traveling men recently stopped at the Tenth House, says the Buffalo Courier. One of them had on a pair of boots very much worn through the soles, and he thought he would get them mended here, for he was going to Tonawanda the next day to call on a merchant and he wished to be well dressed. He had only the one pair of boots and his friend agreed to take them to a cobbler while he remained in his room until they were patched. The friend found a cobbler and told him he must have the boots that evening. The cobbler said he could not mend them so soon. "Oh, but this is a case of necessity, the man is dead and we want to put a decent pair of boots on him. We're got to take the body out of town. The cobbler finally promised to have the boots done, and had them ready when the drummer called in the evening. His friend slept peacefully and the next morning put on the mended boots feeling that he could look the whole world in the face. It was quite a walk from the railway station at Tonawanda to the office of the merchant he sought, and he had not gone half the distance when he felt a sharp pain and writh one of the new soles came loose and flapped about in a most dilapidated manner. The gentleman sat down by the roadside and found that the rascally cobbler had just pegged a strip of leather over the old sole. He hammered it on with a stone as best he could and shuffled slowly on. He transacted his business with the merchant and had to walk all through the works with him, during which the other sole came loose, but he managed to conceal the trouble until he got away, when he hammered the boots together again as best he could and returned to Buffalo. He showed the boots to his friend and asked if that was the way in which the Buffalo cobbler usually did their work. His friend was as indignant as he was, and taking the boots, rushed round to the luckless cobbler, shook the articles in his face, and asked what he meant by patching off such work on people. "Why," said the disciple of St. Crispin, "I told you I couldn't mend the boots in so short a time as you gave me, and besides, you said the boots were for a dead man, and I thought that a bound sole was unnecessary. What sort of a dead man was it?" he asked, in a grieved manner, "that would wear out a pair of boots walking round in them! He must be awfully lively for a dead man. If he had not stink so much, I should have never broken," and with this explanation the traveling man had to be content.

**A Pretty Girl's Pretty Feet.**

The humming birds belonging to a pretty New York society girl build their nests in the lace curtains and have raised little families in the parlor. There are plants for them to fly about in, and every day the florist sends a basket of flowers for them to fly about in, and every day the florist sends a basket of flowers to extract the honey from. They are like little rainbows flying about the room, and they light on the head of their dainty mistress with perfect freedom. She seems to have an affinity for the feathered tribe. Outside her chamber window is a box for a dove who always alights there at night and pecks at the windowpane when he wants to come in. He has perfect freedom, but chooses to remain in the box many hours in the course of the day. This same young lady comes in to greet a visitor with a cenary colored light on her head and a fluffy bill, hopping along along her. The letter is very pale and the young man will look at her and perceive that she has been to a doctor.

**The Flare of "Home Rule."**

Mr. E. S. Brandreth, one of the sub-editors of the New English Dictionary, has been at great pains to find the answer to this question. The result of his researches is to show that the phrase "Home Rule" was first used by the late Mr. A. M. Sullivan in the Nation of July 25, 1870. It did not come into general use, however, until ten years later, when the Irish Protestants, disgusted with Mr. Gladstone's Disestablishment measure, backed the Home Government Association in Ireland. The movement, the slogan of which was the "Home Rule party," was named Mr. Sullivan's name and used in their watchword.