

# PHANTOM SHIP

—OR—

## The Flying Dutchman.

—BY CAPTAIN MARRYAT.

### CHAPTER XI.

Philip had not long been on board ere he found that they were not likely to have a very comfortable passage; for the Batavia was chartered to convey a large detachment of troops to Ceylon and Java, and for the purpose of recruiting and strengthening the company's forces at those places. She was to quit the fleet off Madagascar, and run direct for the island of Java, the number of soldiers on board being presumed sufficient to insure the ship against any attack or accidents from pirates or enemies' cruisers. The Batavia, moreover, mounted thirty guns, and had a crew of seventy-five men. Besides military stores, which formed the principal part of her cargo, she had on board a large quantity of specie for the Indian market. The detachment of soldiers was embarking when Philip went on board, and in a few minutes were so crowded that it was hardly possible to move. Philip, who had not yet spoken to the captain, found out the first mate, and immediately entered upon his duty, with which, from his close application to it during his former voyage and passage home, he was much better acquainted than might have been imagined.

In a short time all traces of hurry and confusion began to disappear, the baggage of the troops was stored away, and the soldiers, having been told off in parties, and stationed with their mending utensils between the guns of the main deck, room was thus afforded for working the ship. Philip showed great activity as well as method in the arrangements proposed, and the captain, during a pause in his own arduous duties, said to him:

"I thought you were taking it very easy, Mr. Vanderdecken, in not joining the ship before, but, now you are on board, you are making up for lost time. You have done more during the forenoon than I could have expected. I am glad that you are come, though very sorry you were not here when we were storing the hold, which, I am afraid, is not arranged quite as well as it might be. Myneer Struys, the first mate, has had more to do than he could well give attention to."

"I am sorry that I should not have been here, sir," replied Philip; "but I came as soon as the company sent me word."

"Yes, and as they know that you are a married man, and do not forget that you are a great shareholder, they would not trouble you too soon. I presume you will have the command of a vessel next voyage. In fact, you are certain of it, with the capital you have invested in their funds. I had a conversation with one of the senior accountants on the subject this very morning."

Philip was not very sorry that his money had been put out to such good interest, as to be the captain of a ship was what he earnestly desired. He replied that "he certainly did hope to command a ship after the next voyage, when he trusted that he should feel himself quite competent to the charge."

It was not until a week after Philip arrived on board that the Batavia and the remainder of the fleet were ready for sea.

It would be difficult to analyze the feelings of Philip Vanderdecken on his second embarkation. His mind was so continually directed to the object of his voyage that, although he attended to his religious duties, yet the business of life passed before him as a dream. A few days after he had sailed he bitterly repented that he had not stated the whole of his circumstances to Father Seysen, and taken his advice upon the propriety of following up his search; but it was now too late; already was the good ship Batavia more than a thousand miles from the port of Amsterdam, and his duty, whatever it might be, must be fulfilled.

As the fleet approached the Cape, his anxiety increased to such a degree that it was remarked by all who were on board. The captain and officers commanding the troops embarked, who all felt interested in him, vainly attempted to learn the cause of his anxiety. Philip would plead ill-health; and his haggard countenance and sunken eyes silently proved that he was under acute suffering. The major part of the night he passed on deck, straining his eyes in every quarter, and watching each change in the horizon, in anticipation of the appearance of the Phantom Ship; and it was not till the day dawned that he sought a perturbed repose in his cabin. After a favorable passage the fleet anchored to refresh at Table Bay, and Philip felt some small relief, that up to the present time the supernatural visitation had not again occurred.

As soon as the fleet had watered they again made sail, and again Philip's agitation became perceptible. With a favoring breeze, however, they rounded the Cape, passed by Madagascar, and arrived in the Indian Seas, when the Batavia parted company with the rest of the fleet, which steered to Cambrun and Ceylon. "And now," thought Philip, "will the Phantom Ship make her appearance? It has only waited till we should be left without a com-

sort to assist us in distress." But the Batavia sailed in a smooth sea, and under a cloudless sky, and nothing was seen. In a few weeks she arrived off Java, and previous to entering the splendid roads, the Batavia hove to for the night. This was the last night they would be under sail, and Philip stirred not from the deck, but walked to and fro, anxiously waiting for the morning. The morning broke—the sun rose in splendor, and the Batavia steered into the roads. Before noon she was at anchor, and Philip, with his mind relieved, hastened down to his cabin and took that repose which he so much required.

He awoke refreshed, for a great weight had been taken off his mind. "It does not follow, then," thought he, "that because I am on board the vessel that therefore the crew are doomed to perish; it does not follow that the Phantom Ship is to appear because I seek her. If so, I have no further weight on my conscience. I seek her, it is true, and wish to meet with her; I stand, however, but the same chance as others; and it is no way certain that, because I seek, I am sure to find. That she brings disaster upon all she meets may be true, but not that I bring with me the disaster of meeting her. Heaven, I thank Thee! Now can I prosecute my search without remorse?"

Philip, restored to composure by these reflections, went on deck. The debarkation of the troops was already taking place, for they were as anxious to be relieved from their long confinement as the seamen were to regain a little space and comfort. He surveyed the scene. The town of Batavia lay about one mile from them, low on the beach; from behind it rose a lofty chain of mountains, brilliant with verdure, and here and there peopled with country seats belonging to the residents, delightfully embosomed in forests of trees. The panorama was beautiful; the vegetation was luxuriant, and, from its vivid green, refreshing to the eye. Near to the town lay large and small vessels, a forest of masts; the water in the bay was of a bright blue, and rippled to a soft breeze; here and there small islets (like tufts of fresh verdure) broke the uniformity of the water line; even the town itself was pleasing to the eye, the white color of the houses being opposed to the dark foliage of the trees, which grew in the gardens and lined the streets.

"Can it be possible," observed Philip to the captain of the Batavia, who stood by him, "that this beautiful spot can be so unhealthy? I should form a very different opinion from its appearance."

"Even," replied the captain, "as the venomous snakes of the country start up from among its flowers, so does Death stalk about in this beautiful and luxuriant landscape. Do you feel better, Myneer Vanderdecken?"

"Much better," replied Philip.

"Still, in your enfeebled state, I should recommend you to go on shore."

"I shall avail myself of your permission with thanks. How long shall we stay here?"

"Not long, as we are ordered to run back. Our cargo is all ready for us, and will be on board soon after we have discharged."

### CHAPTER XII.

Philip took the advice of his captain; he had no difficulty in finding himself received by a hospitable merchant, who had a house at some distance from the town and in a healthy situation. There he remained two months, and then re-embarked a few days previous to the ship being ready for sea. The return voyage was fortunate, and in four months from the date of their quitting Batavia, they found themselves abreast of St. Helena; for vessels, at that period, generally made what is called the eastern passage, running down the coast of Africa, instead of keeping toward the American shores. Again they had passed the Cape without meeting with the Phantom Ship; and Philip was not only in excellent health, but in good spirits. As they lay becalmed, with the islands in sight, they observed a boat pulling toward them, and in the course of three hours she arrived on board. The crew were much exhausted from having been two days in the boat, during which time they had never ceased pulling to gain this land. They stated themselves to be the crew of a small Dutch Indiaman, which had foundered at sea two days before; she had started one of her planks, and filled so rapidly that the men had hardly time to save themselves. They consisted of the captain, mates and twenty men belonging to the ship, and an old Portuguese Catholic priest, who had been sent home by the Dutch governor for having opposed the Dutch interests in the island of Japan. He had lived with them for some time, as the Japanese government was equally desirous of capturing him, with the intention of taking away his life. Eventually he found himself obliged to throw himself into the arms of the Dutch, as being the less cruel of his enemies.

The Dutch government decided that he should be sent away from the country; and he had, in consequence, been put on board of the Indiaman for a passage home. By the report of the captain and crew, one person only had been lost; but he was a person of consequence, having for many years held the situation of president in the Dutch factory at Japan. He was returning to Holland with the riches which he had amassed. By the evidence of the captain and crew, he had insisted, after he was put into the boat, upon going back to the ship to secure a casket of immense value, containing diamonds and other precious stones, which he had forgotten; they added, that while they were waiting for him the ship suddenly plunged her bowsprit under, and went down head foremost, and it was with difficulty they had themselves escaped. They had waited for some time to ascertain if he would rise again to the surface, but he appeared no more.

"I knew that something would happen," observed the captain of the sunken vessel, after he had been sitting a short time in the cabin with Philip and the captain of the Batavia; "we saw the Fiend or Devil's Ship, as they call her, but three days before."

"What! the Flying Dutchman, as they named her?" asked Philip.

"Yes; that, I believe, is the name they give her," replied the captain. "I have often heard of her; but it never was my fate to fall in with her before, and I hope it never will be again; for I am a ruined man, and must begin the world afresh."

"I have heard of that vessel," observed the captain of the Batavia. "Pray, how did she appear to you?"

"Why, the fact is, I did not see anything but the loom of her hull," replied the other. "It was very strange, the night was fine, and the heavens clear; we were under top-gallant sails, for I do not carry on during the night, or else we might have put the royals on her; she would have carried them with the breeze. I had turned in, when, about 2 o'clock in the morning, the mate called me to come on deck. I demanded what was the matter, and he replied he could hardly tell, but that the men were much frightened, and that there was a Ghost Ship, as the sailors termed it, in sight. I went on deck; all the horizon was clear; but on our quarter was a sort of fog, round as a ball, and not more than two cables' length from us. We were going about four knots and a half free, and yet we could not escape from this mist. 'Look there,' said the mate, 'Why, what the devil can it be?' said I, rubbing my eyes. 'No banks up to windward, and yet a fog in the middle of a clear sky, with a fresh breeze, and with water all around it; for you see the fog did not cover more than half a dozen cables' length, as we could perceive by the horizon on each side of it. 'Hark, sir!' said the mate—'they are speaking again.' 'Speaking!' said I, and I listened; and from out this ball of fog I heard voices. At last, one cried out, 'Keep a sharp lookout forward, d'ye hear?' 'Ay, ay, sir!' replied another voice. 'Ship on the star-board bow, sir.' 'Very well; strike the bell there forward.' And then we heard the bell toll. 'It must be a vessel,' said I to the mate. 'Hark! A gun ready forward.' 'Ay, ay, sir!' was now heard out of the fog, which appeared to near us; 'all ready, sir.' 'Fire!' The report of the gun sounded in our ears like thunder, and then—"

"Well, and then?" said the captain of the Batavia, breathlessly.

"And then," replied the other captain, solemnly, "the fog and all disappeared as if by magic; the whole horizon was clear, and there was nothing to be seen."

"Is it possible?"

(To be continued.)

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### TAKING ASTOR DOWN A PEG.

Snubbed Gently and Unintentionally by a Duke's Gardener.

William Waldorf Astor, the expatriated American millionaire, who now resides in London, is the subject of a lengthy biographical sketch in Tit-Bits, a publication issued in the British capital. Incidental to the sketch it is related how the duchess of Cleveland gently set him down on one occasion. When his grand estate offices on the Thames embankment were finished he gave a magnificent banquet to a number of swells. Showing one of the staircases in the building to the duchess, Mr. Astor is alleged to have asked:

"Isn't that handsome, your grace?"

"Yes, it certainly is," replied the duchess.

"Isn't it more so than any other staircase you ever saw?" Mr. Astor is reported to have persisted.

At this the duchess' back very naturally got up.

"Yes," she said, gently, "I admire it very much. It is much finer than our old staircase at Battle abbey, which has been spoiled these 200 or 300 years by the spurs of those stupid old knights."

Battle abbey is probably the grandest old place in England, and compared with Cliveden, Mr. Astor's country house, is like a battle ship to a torpedo boat.

Another story with a similar point is related in the same sketch. Mr. Astor, it is averred, was lost in admiration of the duke of Westminster's lawn at Cliveden when he first saw it, and it is said, asked the gardener:

"How do you grow turf like that?"

"Well, sir," says the gardener, rubbing his chin and looking very innocent, "you jest sows yer seed and then 'as it rolled every day for a hundred years or so, sir."

### INVESTIGATION WORK.

#### PROGRESS MADE IN INSURANCE EXAMINATION.

John A. Simpson and Others Testify Before Legislative Investigation Committee—Lively Tiffs Had and Threats to Clear the Room Made.

LINCOLN, March 15.—At the last sitting of the legislative investigating committee previous to the one held by it yesterday, John A. Simpson, nephew of Auditor Cornell, and formerly an insurance examiner under his commissions, occupied the witness stand.

At one time, while Mr. Simpson was being questioned, Attorney Fisher interrupted him and finished up a reply he was about to make. To this the witness and Auditor Cornell's attorneys objected, and Simpson was told not to answer until he was given a fair chance to do so.

Several members of the commission, including chairman Prout, demanded that the sergeant-at-arms be summoned, and the sergeant-at-arms of senate came down stairs on a run. By that time, however, the situation was calmer and the examination was continued.

Mr. Simpson testified to having examined the Farmers & Merchants and the Bankers' Life, both of Lincoln. The examinations he considered to have been thoroughly made.

Witness denied that he had taken the statement of the company in regard to any detail of the company's condition, but had made as thorough an examination as was possible, and the company said it was the most thorough one he had ever been subjected to. He also made a thorough examination of the Bankers' Life of Lincoln.

To his recollection the work on the company took two weeks. His charges were \$10 per day and \$2 per day for expenses. He was living at home at the time. He denied charging \$3 a day for expenses; if record showed that he did some one had fixed it since he made the entry.

Mr. Simpson testified in regard to the examination of several companies. While examining the National Aid at Topeka he had gone to his mother's home in Lawrence every night. He went to Topeka on a pass for which he applied at the Union Pacific railroad. Had spent five days examining this company. The examination, witness said, was considered to commence with his leaving Lincoln and to end with his arrival in this city again.

The witness then testified that he had collected his fees two days before his departure for Lincoln. He had not charged fees for the two days that he was on the way, but had charged expenses for the two days. Then followed a rather complicated question as to how the witness knew how much to charge before his trip was over. Attorney Smith and Cornell interposed, saying that the question could not be answered in the form it had been put. It was over this question that the squabble ensued.

Mr. Simpson said he had to leave on an early train and when it was time to go his commission had not been made out. The auditor had given him a blank piece of paper with his signature and seal upon it. Witness was sure that both seal and signature had been on the paper when he received it. He did not know who had signed it. Thought at first it was the auditor's. On closer examination didn't think it was. Might have been Mrs. Cornell's.

"Was Mrs. Cornell in the habit of acting as auditor of the state of Nebraska?" asked Mr. Prout. Witness thought not.

Mr. Fisher, in the course of his questioning, asked Mr. Simpson, the auditor's nephew, something which seemed to reflect upon the truth of a previous statement. Mr. Cornell's attorneys objected, first asking for a ruling on their objections, which Chairman Prout did not feel inclined to give. This action was met with a demand that the objection be incorporated in the record, which was refused. The attorneys insisted on their right to make the objections and have their own reporter take them down. The remarks of counsel soon became what seemed to the committee an interruption and the chairman ordered the sergeant-at-arms to remove the attorneys from the room. This official placed his hand on the shoulder of Ed. Smith, endeavoring to get him from the place without resistance. Mr. Smith cautioned the sergeant-at-arms that it would be well for him not to use force, and pleaded the constitutional right of every man to be represented by his attorney in such a proceeding. The chairman refused to concede this proposition, for he alleged that there was no accused and no charges. Chairman Prout seemed to be in a mood for insisting on the order given the officer when Senator Currie arose and in a few words said there was not the least disposition to be unfair with anyone and he thought attorneys would be allowed to make their objections in the record as long as they refrained from arguing the same at length. No member of the committee differed and the investigation proceeded without further interruption.

Mr. Simpson was questioned at great length concerning details of his services as county treasurer examiner and insurance examiner. In the evening he was questioned as to what inquiry he had made into the value of the Fort Wayne company's assets. He said he had made inquiries with considerable care.

Questions were asked concerning other companies among them the Prussian National Life which he had spent two days in examining.

Witness testified to having received \$470 for one month's salary as insurance examiner besides his salary from the state and his expense money.

The cross examination was conducted by Mr. Cornell. He said it was not necessary to have a seal or formal commission to act as examiner. He knew of no statute which provided that this should be done.

Questioned as to how he came to go into the work of examining county treasurers, Mr. Simpson said he did it largely at the solicitation of Mr. Liehty.

Mr. Cornell asked that the charge of \$3 a day for board in Lincoln be explained. It was shown that there was no such charge and the committee admitted this.

The witness denied charging mileage for distances covered on passes.

A letter to Auditor Cornell from Webb McCall, insurance examiner of Kansas, stating that he charged \$25 a day for examining companies with expenses was read to show that the Nebraska charges were not exorbitant. Mr. Cornell also brought evidence from Mr. Simpson to show that in charging \$15 a day for examining the Fraternal company at Topeka, the law was not violated. The law fixing the fees for examining fraternal companies at \$5 a day was passed in 1897 and pertained to companies not before having done business in Nebraska.

Mr. Pool on the Stand.

LINCOLN, March 15.—The legislative investigating committee resumed the taking of testimony last night.

J. D. Humphreys testified that Mr. Palm wrote insurance at the time he was acting as examiner. He specified certain policies written for Mrs. Finney. P. O. Hedlund testified concerning some of the details of the work of the employees of the auditor's office and especially as to the matter of preparing and sending abstracts of United States lands to county officers. Mr. Hedlund said it had always been the custom to accept fees for such services. Books were called for and statements made to show this to have been the case. Mr. Hedlund said, however, that the abstracting had been completed by Mr. McGinity and that Mr. Pool virtually did the work over again. The abstracts were to notify county clerks of lands proved up and ready for taxation and were taken from report from United States land department officers.

Mr. Pool was called and asked from what counties abstracts originally sent from the auditor's office were returned to him requiring him to make corrections for which service he had drawn pay. He could not tell one county. He received in 1897 \$225 for labor and the committee endeavored to find how much of this was for correcting abstracts and how much for making new ones, but could gain no information as to this.

The witness said at the time he was doing the abstracting he received salary at the rate of \$1,700 a year. The extra work was not strictly a part of the work of the auditor, yet the auditor's office was responsible for it. The work had been done with the auditor's knowledge. Mr. Cornell approved the voucher on Mr. Pool's statement of the services performed.

Mr. Pool further said that he had never been told by Mr. Hedlund that this work had been done by Clyde McGinity, but that it would be done. The witness wanted to be understood that Mr. Hedlund never told Mr. Cornell in his presence, or himself in Mr. Cornell's presence that Clyde McGinity had done the work Mr. Pool performed afterwards and had been paid for it.

Mr. Pool admitted that he did know it was a fact that the attorney general believed the voucher illegal, but he stated that he didn't think he had a conversation with anyone in regard to giving it back. Witness could recall no conversation he had had about returning the money. He positively denied that the Mutz investigating committee had had a conversation with him about it or that any member of the committee interviewed him about it.

Mr. Pool said he had had the abstracting work done for 1897 by his family, but had not presented his claim yet, as there was so much discussion in relation to it. He was asked how much the work for 1897 amounted to and whether he had an account of it. He said he thought that he had no account of the work.

"Have you any idea now of the amount?"

"I have an idea of the number of entries."

"How many were there?"

"About 2,700 at 10 cents each, that being the usual charge."

"Do you expect to present a bill?"

"I cannot say either yes or no."

"What relation are you to Mr. Cornell?" asked Mr. Prout.

"Not at all. Not any nearer than the beginning of man."

"Neither by affinity or consanguinity?"

"No, sir."

Mr. Cornell cross-examined Mr. Pool at length.

O. W. Palm was next examined as to what companies he had examined in the endeavor to learn whether he had omitted any in his previous testimony. He had the list at his tongue's end.

Mr. Palm was asked if he had filled out the book of examiner's fees; he said he had not. He said he was willing to do so as a courtesy to the committee, but he wanted it distinctly understood that there was no law compelling him to do so. Before leaving the stand, he denied signing any policy as Mr. Humphreys had testified. The policy had been issued by his wife. The committee adjourned till tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock, to examine Mr. Abbott. No session will be held this evening.

Abbott's Evidence.

LINCOLN, NEB., March 16.—The legislative investigating committee resumed its labors yesterday morning at 9 o'clock, Julian A. Abbott of Falls City being in the witness chair. Mr. Abbott

was formerly an employe in Auditor Cornell's office.

Mr. Abbott testified that he had been engaged by the committee to examine the books of the auditor's office, more especially in relation to fees and office expenses. The results of his labors he had compiled, which compilation was offered in evidence.

The witness bore evidence that Mr. Pool had drawn the warrant for \$325 for transcribing and correcting land abstracts for 1896, which transcripts had already been made by Mr. McGinity. He also testified as to extra pay drawn by clerks in the office for packing and sending out books and blanks to county officers.

During 1897, the witness testified, the auditor had turned into the state treasury all fees received by him, as were fees in 1898 up to February 17, when the new order, by which fees were paid direct to the state treasurer, went into effect.

The report of Mr. Abbott showed the following amounts on hand in the auditor's keeping from fees received during 1897: February 1, \$2,835; March 1, \$7,290.50; April 1, \$7,815.50; May 1, \$3,993.50; June 1, \$7,844; July 1, \$1,004; August 1, \$1,664; September 1, \$1,056.50; October 1, \$1,505; November 1, \$794.40; December 1, \$1,113.90. During 1898: January 1, \$771.90; February 1, \$1,613.40; March 1, \$58.90. After this fees were paid direct to the treasurer.

Appended to the report is a list of fees so far as recorded for insurance examinations made under Auditor Cornell.

So far as recorded Palm received \$22.25 for examinations, a number of his fees not being entered. None of the Palm and Gillan charges were entered. J. A. Simpson received a total of \$921.30 for examinations made by him, he having examined nine companies. Archer examined five companies and received \$432.

Twenty-eight companies have been examined, and no record entered of charges made.

### A TREELESS REGION.

Aspects of Some of the Mediterranean Countries.

Anyone who has traveled through the comparatively treeless countries around the Mediterranean, such as Spain, Sicily, Greece, northern Africa, and large portions of Italy, may fervently pray that our own country may be preserved from so dismal a fate. It is not the loss of the forests only that is to be dreaded, but the loss of agricultural regions now fertile and populous, which may be desolated by the floods that rush down from bare hills and mountains, bringing with them vast quantities of sand and gravel to be spread over the lowlands. Traveling a few years ago through Tunisia, I came suddenly upon a fine Roman bridge of stone over a wide, bare, dry river bed. It stood some thirty feet above the bed of the river, and had once served the needs of a prosperous population. Marvelling at the height of the bridge above the ground, I asked the French station-master if the river ever rose to the arches which carried the roadway of the bridge. His answer testified to the flooding capacity of the river and to the strength of the bridge. He said: "I have been here four years, and three times I have seen the river running over the parapets of that bridge." That country was one of the richest granaries of the Roman empire. It now yields a scanty support for a sparse and semi-barbarous population. The whole region roundabout is treeless. The care of the national forest is a provision for future generations for the permanence over vast areas of our country of the great industries of agriculture and mining, upon which the prosperity of the country ultimately depends. A good forest administration would soon support itself, but should be organized in the interests of the whole country, no matter what it cost.—Atlantic Monthly.

### JEWELS ARE IN FASHION.

Those Who Own Costly Gems Must Wear Them All the Time.

Now it is known that society women possessed of costly jewels are in the habit of wearing them night and day, we shall pity them more than ever. Regarding which practice the Chatteer of the Boston Herald chatters as follows: "It must be an awful heresy never to go without that rope of pearls and that string of diamonds! It is worse than wearing a hair shirt in the penitential season. But what can a woman do when thieves abound, and several hundred thousand dollars' worth of precious stones have to be toted from place to place? And please observe that smaller coronets are taking the shine off the big tiaras. These giddy little coronets are cocked on one side of the pompadour, and give a very rakish air to the stately coiffure, but if a lady doesn't number a tiara or a coronet among her jewels, she must have a diamond feather or a splendid butterfly to sport above the waves of her hair. Mrs. George Vanderbilt is the only woman in the world who owns a string of rubies. It is of fabulous price, and I wonder if she, too, has to wear it night and day, hidden away under the tailor-made gowns, and if it never troubles her dreams by being slept on. For even priceless rubies are harder than the peas which gave the poor princess such a backache in the fairy story."

### She Was Angry.

Mrs. Latehours (addressing her husband, returning at 3 a. m.)—Nice hour to be coming home! Nice company you've been in, no doubt. Latehours (nonchalantly)—Houl soit qui mal y pense. Mrs. Latehours—Yes, that's right! Come home and use bad language to your wife!