

PHANTOM SHIP

—OR—
The Flying Dutchman.

—BY CAPTAIN MARRYAT.

CHAPTER XVI.—(Continued.)

Philip made no reply; he felt a respect even for Capt. Barentz' misplaced regard for the vessel. They made but little way, for the swell was rather against them, and the raft was deep in the water. The day dawned, and the appearance of the weather was not favorable; it promised a return of the gale. Already a breeze ruffled the surface of the water, and the swell appeared to increase rather than go down. The sky was overcast, and the horizon thick. Philip looked out for the land, but could not perceive it, for there was a haze on the horizon, so that he could not see more than five miles. He felt that to gain the shore before the coming night was necessary for the preservation of so many individuals, of whom more than sixty were women and children, who, without any nourishment, were sitting on a frail raft, immersed in the water. No land in sight—a gale coming on, and in all probability a heavy sea and dark night. The chance was indeed desperate, and Philip was miserable—most miserable—when he reflected that so many innocent beings might, before the next morning, be consigned to a watery tomb—and why?—yes, there was the feeling—that although Philip could reason against, he never could conquer; for his own life he cared nothing; even the idea of his beloved Amine was nothing in the balance of these moments. The only point which sustained him was the knowledge that he had his duty to perform, and, in the full exercise of his duty, he recovered himself.

"Land ahead?" was now cried out by Krantz, who was in the headmost boat, and the news was received with a shout of joy from the raft and the boats. The anticipation and the hope the news gave was like manna in the wilderness; and the poor women on the raft, drenched sometimes above the waist by the swell of the sea, clasped the children in their arms still closer and cried, "My darling, you shall be saved."

Philip stood upon the stern-sheets to survey the land, and he had the satisfaction of finding that it was not five miles distant, and a ray of hope warmed his heart. The breeze now had gradually increased and rippled the water. The quarter from which the wind came was neither favorable nor adverse, being on the beam. Had they had sails for the boat, it would have been otherwise; but they had been stowed away and could not be procured. The sight of land naturally rejoiced them all, and the seamen in the boat cheered and double-banked the oars to increase their way, but the towing of a large raft sunk under water was no easy task, and they did not, with all their exertions, advance more than half a mile an hour.

CHAPTER XVII.

Until noon they continued their exertions not without success; they were not three miles from the land, but as the sun passed the meridian a change took place; the breeze blew strong, the swell of the sea rose rapidly, and the raft was often so deeply immersed in the waves as to alarm them for the safety of those upon her. Their way was proportionately retarded, and by 3 o'clock they had not gained half a mile from where they had been at noon. The men, not having had refreshment of any kind during the labor and excitement of so many hours, began to flag in their exertions. The wish for water was expressed by all—from the child who appealed to its mother to the seaman who strained at the oar. Philip did all he could to encourage the men, but finding themselves so near to the land, and so overcome with fatigue, and that the raft in tow would not allow them to approach their haven, they murmured, and talked of the necessity of casting loose the raft and looking out for themselves. A feeling of self-prevalence, and they were mutinous; but Philip expostulated with them, and, out of respect for him, they continued their exertions for another hour, when a circumstance occurred which decided the question, upon which they had recommenced a debate.

The increased swell and the fresh breeze had so beat about and tossed the raft that it was with difficulty, for some time, that its occupants could hold themselves on it. A loud shout, mingled with screams, attracted the attention of those in the boat, and Philip, looking back, perceived that the lashings of the raft had yielded to the force of the waves, and that it had separated amidships. The scene was agonizing; husbands were separated from their wives and children—each floating away from each other—for the part of the raft which was still towed by the boats had already left the other far astern. The women rose up and screamed; some, more frantic, dashed into the water between them, and attempted to gain the floating wreck upon which their husbands stood, and sank before they could be assisted. But the horror increased—one lashing having given way, all the rest soon followed; and, before the boats could tack and give assistance, the sea was strewn with the spars which composed the raft, with men, women and children clinging to them. Loud were the

yells of despair and the shrieks of the women as they embraced their offspring and in attempting to save them were lost themselves. The spars of the raft, still close together, were hurled one upon the other by the swell, and many found death by being jammed between them. Although all the boats hastened to their assistance, there was so much difficulty and danger in forcing them between the spars that but few were saved, and even those few were more than the boats could well take in. The seamen and a few soldiers were picked up, but all the females and the children had sunk beneath the waves.

The effect of this catastrophe may be imagined, but hardly described. The seamen who had debated as to casting them adrift to perish wept as they pulled toward the shore. Philip was overcome. He covered his face and remained for some time without giving directions, heedless of what passed.

It was now five o'clock in the evening; the boats had cast off the tow-lines, and vied with each other in their exertions. Before the sun had set they had arrived at the beach, and were safely landed in the little sand bay into which they had steered; for the wind was off the shore and there was no surf. The boats were hauled up and the exhausted men lay down on the sands still warm with the heat of the sun, and forgetting that they had neither eaten nor drunk for so long a time, they were soon fast asleep. Captain Barentz, Philip and Krantz, as soon as they had seen the boats secured, held a short consultation, and were then glad to follow the example of the seamen; harassed and worn out with the fatigue of the last twenty-four hours, their senses were soon drowned in oblivion.

For many hours they all slept soundly, dreamed of water and awoke to the sad reality that they were tormented with thirst, and were on a sandy beach with the salt waves mocking them; but they reflected how many of their late companions had been swallowed up, and felt thankful that they had been spared.

They were not more than fifty miles from Table Bay; and although they had no sails, the wind was in their favor. Philip pointed out to them how useless it was to remain, when before morning they would, in all probability, arrive at where they would obtain all they required. The advice was approved of and acted upon; the boats were shoved off and the oars resumed. So tired and exhausted were the men that their oars dipped mechanically into the water, for there was no strength left to be applied; it was not until the next morning at daylight that they had arrived opposite False Bay and they had still many miles to pull. The wind in their favor had done almost all—the men could do little or nothing.

Encouraged, however, by the sight of land which they knew, they rallied; and about noon they pulled, exhausted to the beach at the bottom of Table Bay, near to which were the houses and the fort protecting the settlers, who had for some years resided there. They landed close to where a broad rivulet at that season (but a torrent in the winter) poured its stream into the bay. At the sight of fresh water some of the men dropped their oars, threw themselves into the sea when out of their depth—others when the water was above their waists yet they did not arrive so soon as the ones who waited till the boat struck the beach and jumped out upon dry land. And then they threw themselves into the rivulet, which coursed over the shingle, about five or six inches in depth, allowing the refreshing stream to pour into their mouths till they could hold no more, immersing their hot hands and rolling in it with delight.

As soon as they had satisfied the most pressing of all wants they rose dripping from the stream and walked up to the houses of the factory, the inhabitants of which, perceiving that boats had landed when there was no vessel in the bay, naturally supposed that some disaster had happened, and were walking down to meet them. Their tragical history was soon told. The thirty-six men that stood before them were all that were left of nearly three hundred souls embarked, and they had been more than two days without food. At this intimation no further questions were asked by the considerate settlers until the hunger of the sufferers had been appeased, when the narrative of their sufferings was fully detailed by Philip and Krantz.

We must pass over the space of two months, during which the wrecked seamen were treated with kindness by the settlers, and at the expiration of which a small brig arrived at the bay and took in refreshments; she was homeward bound, with a full cargo, and, being chartered by the company, could not refuse to receive on board the crew of the Vrow Katerina. Philip, Krantz and the seamen embarked; but Captain Barentz remained behind to settle at the Cape.

They shook hands and parted—Philip

promising to execute Barentz's commission, which was to turn his money into articles most useful to a settler, and have them sent out by the first fleet which should sail from the Zuyder Zee. But this commission it was not Philip's good fortune to execute. The brig, named the Wilhelmina, sailed and soon arrived at St. Helena. After watering, she proceeded on her voyage. They had made the Western Isles, and Philip was consoling himself with the anticipation of soon joining his Amine, when to the northward of the islands they met with a furious gale, before which they were obliged to scud for many days, with the vessel's head to the southeast; and as the wind abated and they were able to haul to it, they fell in with a Dutch fleet of five vessels, commanded by an admiral, which had left Amsterdam more than two months, and had been buffeted about by contrary gales for the major part of that period. Cold, fatigue and bad provisions had brought on the scurvy, and the ships were so weakly manned that they could hardly navigate them. When the captain of the Wilhelmina reported to the admiral that he had part of the crew of the Vrow Katerina on board, he was ordered to send them immediately to assist in navigating his crippled fleet. Remonstrance was useless. Philip had but time to write to Amine, acquainting her with his misfortunes and disappointment; and, confiding the letter to his wife, as well as his narrative of the loss of the Vrow Katerina for the directors to the charge of the captain of the Wilhelmina, he hastened to pack up his effects, and repaired on board of the admiral's ship with Krantz and the crew. To them were added six of the men belonging to the Wilhelmina, whom the admiral insisted on retaining; and the brig, having received the admiral's dispatches, was then permitted to continue her voyage.

The admiral sent for Philip into his cabin, and having heard his narrative of the loss of the Vrow Katerina, he ordered him to go on board the commodore's ship as captain, giving the rank of commodore to the captain at present on board of her; Krantz was retained on board his own vessel as second captain, for by Philip's narrative the admiral perceived at once that they were both good officers and brave men.

(To be continued.)

RING PHAROAH GAVE JOSEPH.

Interesting Relic in the Possession of a Jerseyman.

Prof. John Lansing of New Brunswick, who has been spending the winter in this city, will leave soon for Colorado, where he expects to live for a considerable time for the benefit of his health. He is a very scholarly and accomplished gentleman, being a minister of the Dutch Reformed church. He was born in the city of Damascus, Palestine, in "the street which is called Straight," his father being a resident missionary there. Prof. Lansing for 13 years lived in Egypt and is the master of nine languages. He has many curious and valuable relics of Egypt, stones and jewels of the ancient Pharaohs. He has what is thought by the best Egyptologists to be the identical gold ring set with a stone, which Khaph Nub, the Pharaoh, gave to Joseph when he made him prime minister over all Egypt, says an Atlantic City paper. It is a curious gold jewel and was worn on the thumb. It was found at Memphis 15 or 20 years ago in the coffin of a mummy. He has a walking stone and many kinds of sacred beetles bearing carved inscriptions telling of the reign in which they were the official emblem. He has a silk crocheted cap which was taken from a mummy and is several thousand years old, rare amber beads, the precious images of cats, and ancient symbols which have been unearthed in the land of the pyramids.

MILTON'S STAIRCASE.

Brought to Philadelphia, but it Has Since Been Lost.

"Where is the poet Milton's staircase?" asks the Philadelphia Record. "This staircase was brought from London by Richard Rush and built into his country home, named Sydenham, which was located at what is now Columbia avenue and Sixteenth street. A small street of the same name, Sydenham, marks the place. Mr. Rush was United States minister to England when Milton's house was torn down to make room for modern improvements. Being an admirer of the author of 'Paradise Lost,' Mr. Rush bought the old-time staircase and had it erected in his home and inscribed with a silver plate setting forth the dates and facts. Upon the death of Mr. Rush his estate was divided among his children and the real estate soon came into the market for building lots. Sydenham house was torn down and the antique Milton staircase doubtless fell to some one of the heirs. It would be interesting to learn where this relic found its final shrine. Sydenham was a quaint old place, just opposite the country seat of Judge Stroud. It has a variety of odd rooms entered by invisible doors, and much antique furniture, massive silver and many old portraits."

Dog Adopts Pig.

Savannah News: Quite a curious freak can be seen at the home of A. Proctor, at Summerfield, who has a dog that has adopted a motherless pig. The mother will fight her own offspring to nurse the pig.

Each man is a hero and an oracle to somebody.—Emerson.

JOHN BULL'S PACIFIC NAVAL STATION.

Esquimault, the Fortress Which Is Designed to Protect Victoria.

The recent shipment over the Canadian Pacific of many heavy guns and much war material to the new naval station at Esquimault indicates the intention of the British government to erect, at the gateway of British Columbia, a Pacific Gibraltar, which will render the British possessions in this quarter of the world absolutely secure against aggression by any other nation.

The policy of Great Britain ever since it became a naval power has been to seize strategic points and fortify them so strongly as to render them invulnerable, and thus, by their possession, control immense stretches of sea and large land territories which could not be held in any other way save by a great outlay. This policy is illustrated in the Mediterranean, for instance, by a simple statement. At the western extremity of this great inland ocean England holds Gibraltar, which has long borne the reputation of being the strongest fortress in the world. In the center there is Malta, which is scarcely inferior to Gibraltar in the effectiveness of its fortifications. At the eastern extremity there is Cyprus, which has not yet been fully fortified, but no doubt, in pursuance of the British policy, will be during the next few years. There are no fortifications on the Suez canal, but the majority of the company stock is owned by Great Britain. Egypt has virtually become a British province, and there is not the slightest doubt that should there be a prospect of serious trouble with any foreign nation involving the Egyptian and eastern interests of Great Britain the canal would be seized, and, if necessary, fortified and defended by English guns. At present there is no need of such action, for, although Suez and Port Said are not defended, England holds at the southern extremity of the Red Sea the great fortress of Aden and the island of Perim, and could instantly close the Mediterranean and

repairs effected and all provision made for the equipment and maintenance of the fleet which England at all times maintains in the North Pacific.

The interests to be safeguarded by Esquimault and the great guns now on their way across the continent are already enormous and will become much larger during the next few years. To begin with, there is the transcontinental trade, which at all times in the year, even during the winter season, is a very important matter. The Canadian Pacific was built for the sole behoof and accommodation of the British colonies, and its western terminus must be perfectly secure against attack, otherwise the railroad becomes of little value. During the last few years it has become clear that there is a great future before British Columbia. A couple of decades ago the entire region was supposed to be practically uninhabitable by whites on account of the severity of the climate, but experience has shown that the mild winds of the Pacific temper the climate for a considerable distance inland, and that in a latitude where, on the east coast, winter has almost perpetual reign, the crops of more temperate regions can be grown in British Columbia. In fact, the climate does not differ materially from that of the states of Oregon and Washington, and the abundance of rich lands which can with labor be made available for farming will unquestionably tempt from the British Isles emigrants, who otherwise might have come to the United States.

FAMOUS FOLK.

And the Troubles They Give Their Doctors.

The pope is becoming very disobedient. Though Dr. Lapponi, the papal physician, recently insisted that his holiness was not to leave his bed, and not to receive anyone, the energetic



ESQUIMAULT HARBOR.

Red Seas to the commerce of the world by stopping navigation at Gibraltar and Aden.

The policy which governs the British government in the Mediterranean and Red Seas has prevailed elsewhere and any one who is curious to observe to what extent the British government controls maritime affairs by the possession of strategic points and islands can enlighten himself by glancing over a map of the world, when he will find that the earth is girded by lines of British fortresses, which have been established in the last century and a half. Great Britain is thus the policeman of the ocean, all seas being patrolled by ironclads displaying the union jack.

Up to this time, however, the valuable English dependencies which lie along the North American coast of the Pacific have received comparatively little attention. Now it appears that the British government has become thoroughly aroused to the importance of its great Pacific colony and means to establish at Esquimault a naval station of the first class, which will be the rendezvous for the Pacific fleet. Esquimault has been but recently selected as a suitable point and consequently its name is to most readers rather unfamiliar. It is situated on a beautiful and commodious bay, three miles to the west of the city of Victoria, on the island of Vancouver. It is thus in an important sense the fortress which will protect the capital of British Columbia from foreign attack. It is said that at first the propriety of establishing a station at Victoria was suggested, but the close proximity of a fine bay and harbor led to the selection of Esquimault rather than of the capital as the proper site. Esquimault will defend not only the capital of British Columbia, but also, among others, the important city of Vancouver on the mainland and the western terminus of the Canadian Pacific railroad.

At present Esquimault is a station in embryo. Extensive docks have been built and fortifications begun, but the town now consists for the most part of the houses of employes and workmen. The extent of the government's preparations, however, indicates work of the most extensive character, and in the next two or three years Esquimault will become the site of great workshops and foundries, where shipbuilding will be carried on,

WOMEN AS EXECUTIONERS.

Belgium and Virginia Have Had Them in That Capacity.

What do you think of a woman who will voluntarily offer herself to the government as the public executioner? A few years ago the official public executioner at Brussels died, and a substitute was temporarily appointed. On one occasion this person was ill and unable to attend. But at the appointed hour a stout, middle-aged woman presented herself at the central police station and quietly remarked to the assembled functionaries: "I've come for the execution. My husband is not very well this morning, and has asked me to take his place. Please let me get to business." The general stupefaction may be more easily imagined than described, which, being noticed by the would-be lady executioner, she added in a reassuring tone: "Oh, this is not by any means the first time." It afterward transpired that the woman, whose name was Marie Rege, had officiated on several occasions in lieu of her husband. Dressed up in his clothes and her face masked, she had been the public executioner at several executions, and never had the proceedings been interrupted by a single hitch. It is needless to say that the police authorities were unable to avail themselves of her offer on this occasion. It will be a surprise to most people to learn that there has actually been a woman executioner in this country. In olden times few cared to take the office of executioner, and occasionally death sentences were respited on condition that the criminal should perform this office. A case of this sort occurred in pre-revolutionary days, when a woman was sentenced to death for a murder she had committed in Virginia. The death sentence was respited on her offering to become public executioner, and, known as "Lady Betty," she performed these duties for many years. She officiated on the scaffold without any mask or disguise and flogged criminals through the streets with enthusiastic vigor.—Boston Journal.

CRAFT OF COAL STEALING.

How the Railroads Are Victimized by Those in That Industry.

Coal stealing from railroads, common along the lines of all coal-carrying roads, has been reduced to a system in Syracuse, the Post-Standard of that city says. The thieves work hard and take many risks, not only of detection, but of bodily injury. Their methods would be called clever if employed in an honest business. The heaviest thieving is done by men with sacks, who climb up between the cars of a slow-moving train with two or more bushel sacks concealed under their clothing. As opportunity offers they fill a sack and throw it from the train, to be picked up by accomplices. Another trick is adopted by men who, dressed like tramps, board trains as if with the intention of stealing a ride. These men travel along from one car to another, apparently seeking a comfortable place in which to lie down, but in their progress they manage to dislodge a large amount of coal, which is subsequently picked up by the women and children who are employed in the "industry." Large quantities of coal are stolen by these and other methods, the plunder being disposed of to unscrupulous dealers, who subsequently rob the honest poor by dishonest measure.

Human Eyes.

Mrs. William E. Curtis, the wife of a Chicago journalist, probably possesses the most unique necklace in existence, which was exhibited at the Chicago world's fair. The necklace is composed of three rows of human eyes in a perfect state of preservation, polished and mounted in gold. The eyes were procured from Peru, where the dead are buried in a sitting posture, and the hot, dry air acts more effectively than any embalming fluid in preserving them. A mummy can therefore be obtained for about \$5, and the eyes alone are much cheaper. Polished and mounted as they are in this necklace, they make a very striking ornament. Mrs. Curtis wore the necklace once only, and it was much admired until her friends were informed that they were petrified human eyes, and not gems that were set in it, when the admiration turned to revulsion.

Getting Ready.

In consequence of the delicate nature of Franco-English affairs the defenses of such waterways as the Firth of Forth, the Clyde, the Humber and the Bristol Channel are under the consideration of the British war authorities, and probably a statement will shortly be made to parliament. The scheme places strongly armed forts at all the important points along the coast and on the larger islands in the channel, which last will be further protected by submarine mines and powerful searchlights.

Riotous Proceedings.

Superintendent—The necktie department will have to be moved further away from the counting room. Manager—Why? Superintendent—The spring styles make so much noise that the clerks can't work.

Indifference of Turk to His Wife.—Rarely, indeed, is a wealthy Turk seen at his wife's dinner table. He usually dines in a part of the house remote from that occupied by his conjugal partner or partners.

Krupp's Cannon.

Krupp, the great German gun manufacturer, has made 29,000 cannon.

All About the Peach Crop.

Atlanta Journal: There is yet hope that we may have another great peach crop this year. Without an abundant supply of Georgia peaches, the pleasure of life is distinctly decreased for millions of the people of this country.

No Doubt About It.

"Colonel, you swear positively that your regiment never received a pound of embalmed beef in Cuba. How is it possible for you to be so absolutely certain?" "Because my regiment never got farther than Tampa, sir."

His Acknowledgment.

"You admit," said the judge, severely, "that you married these two women?" "I did," said the unabashed bigamist. "They are my better thirds."