

KEARSAGE AND ALABAMA.

A St. Louisian Who Was in the Famous Sea Fight.

How He and Others Felt and Under what Circumstances the Cruiser Went Down.

In an unpretentious but neatly kept house in North St. Louis, lives Wm. C. Alsdorf who enjoys the honor of being one of the crew of the immortal Kearsage, which sunk the rebel cruiser, the Alabama.

So far as the Chronicle is aware no seaman's account of this famous fight has ever been published, and learning that Mr. A. was not unwilling to fight that fine fight over again a Chronicle reporter called upon him.

The veteran was found seated at his desk in a plainly furnished room—apparently the sitting room of a family in plain, but comfortable circumstances. The only picture on the wall was a TESTIMONIAL.

to which he frequently glanced with pride, and which proved, on close inspection, to be the vote of thanks addressed to him by me, for his services in aiding to destroy the Alabama, and a certificate that that body had also given him \$25 as a substantial token of their appreciation.

Mr. A. is about 45 years old, of medium height and rather slender built, and of a sandy complexion. He is a Bohemian, and employs very broken English.

HIS STORY.

"Yes; I was one of the crew of the Kearsage," began the old tar. I joined it at Cadix, Spain, two years before the meeting with the Alabama. We were most of that time after the Florida, the confederate ram, which was destroying merchantmen belonging to this government. We were of course also on the look-out for the Alabama.

"Finally we got the Florida blockaded at Breast; she was in the harbor and could not get out until high water so we left her and went to Cadix for coal and provisions, the French government having refused to supply us.

The night we arrived there a dispatch came from Cherbourg, France, notifying the commander, Capt. Winslow, of the arrival of the Alabama. The captain was in bed when the dispatch arrived, it being 2 a. m. He immediately appeared on deck and mustered the men. The dispatch was read to all on board, and the captain in a speech to them said Semmes, the captain of the Alabama, and he had been lieutenant together, and that Semmes was an able officer and a brave man.

"We had long felt that the fight with the Alabama was inevitable and the news did not surprise us; and although we knew we should have a hard tussel we did not shrink from it, in fact we were anxious for it—not the least on account of our captain, whom we loved, and who gave us to understand we must not be whipped by Capt. Semmes, his former comrade.

"Before daylight we were under way for Dover, England, where we went for supplies. We stopped long enough to get provisions, and then left under full steam for Cherbourg where we found the Alabama in the harbor with her flags flying, and presenting a very saucy appearance. We backed out of the harbor and lay three miles off the coast. The same day a French man-of-war, the Couronne, came out of the harbor and notified us that under the French laws we would be compelled to stay three miles from land. We banked fires for eight days waiting for the Alabama to come out. About the fourth day Semmes sent a dispatch to our captain that if we would wait he was ready the Alabama would engage with us. At last the day came! On Sunday about 9 o'clock the man on the fore top sang out:

"Ship ahoy!" "Where ahoy?" "Out of her bow!" "We saw a Brazilian vessel leaving the harbor followed by the Couronne and Alabama. As soon as the Alabama was seen we manned our guns without waiting for orders. The men became somewhat nervous but not excited. Before the quarter-deck our boys were ready for action. As soon as the Alabama came within a shot's distance we took to our heels and she followed us. Our purpose was to get her a good distance out. We got nine miles out when our captain ordered the ship star-board and we turned facing our enemy. She opened fire. "Keep low!" cried the captain, as the first shots from the rebels were racking our vessel. We wanted to get close range as we had no long range guns like our antagonist's Dahlgrens, so we kept going starboard, or sailing in circles.

"At last we got in range and our guns went into action. Our first shot took a flag off the Alabama, and every round from our guns had telling effect, while the enemy's guns were managed very badly.

again. They had an idea they would be hurt."

"AND WHAT THEN?" "The men taken by us on board were treated as if they had been on our own crew. They were nearly all foreigners. We gave them shirts and other articles of clothing they needed, and after all was over for the first time during my connection with the Kearsage, liquor was given us and to the prisoners as well."

"What then?" "We went to London from Cherbourg to have the ship repaired. Then took a trip about the West India Islands in search of the Florida after which we went to Boston, where a grant reception was tendered us."

"What about that flag of the Alabama said now to be on exhibition in Boston?" "I don't believe it is the same flag. The Alabama's flag went down with her I think. When it was taken down one of the crew took it and folded the stars and bars and held it up exposing the white portion to us. As they had no white flag, this was done. The menance devised of their clothing, so that no one could have, or would attempt to save the flag, as it would be at the risk of their life."

A Colonel Outrunk.

Detroit Free Press. A man doing business on Woodbridge street west took a colored man into his employ a couple of weeks ago, and during his conversation previous to settling terms he remarked: "When you wish to address me you can call me Colonel."

"Was you a Kernel in do wash?" "No matter; you can call me Colonel, and I will give you an extra quarter per week for so doing."

"Dat's all right, Kernel—I'll aim dat quarter ash's yer bo'n."

At the end of the week the laborer hung around after he was paid off and asked if there was any trouble. He scratched his head, hesitated and finally said he would explain himself Monday morning. When Monday came the employer remarked:

"Now, then, Samuel, what it the matter?" "Nuffin 'tall, boss—trouble all, one."

"Well, what was it?" "Wall, you see, do driver of a coal cart down yer diskivered dat I was callin' you Kernel for two ashillin's a week. What does he do but offer me fifty cents a week to take the kernel off of you an' put it on him."

"And you wanted to do it?" "Wall, I kinder felt dat way, kase I've workin' for low wages, but I saw him Sunday and fixed all right."

"How?" "I've gwine to keep right on callin' you Kernel for two ashillin's a week, an' I've gwine to call him General for seventy-five cents a month! What shall I begin on this mawnin', Kernel?"

He gets his extra quarter per week right along, but he now addresses his employer as "boss."

PEPPERMINT DROPS.

A New Yorker has coughed up a wooden tooth-pick and is daily looking for a tooth-brush to follow.

lodging and breakfast. The proprietor of the hotel said at the time that the man was undoubtedly crazy, as he had never been known to do such a thing before.

If the country remains flooded much longer it will be necessary for farmers to use oyster tongs to dig their potatoes. Imagine granger Pratt, the governor, out on his farm in a skiff, raking potatoes from the bottom of the lake, and dropping them into the boat, while he wipes the perspiration from his brow on the sleeve of his coat. We trust the high water will be gone before it gets around on a farm with a steamboat and planters with a pile driver, or saw whet by anchoring it to the bottom with old horse shoes.

The Modern Young Girl. Brooklyn Eagle. I'm an only daughter young girl, A sweet-tempered, frizzes young girl, A lang'ish, dainty, all powdery and SIT on till I'm young girl.

I'm a would-be pathetic young girl, A poet on the arts young girl, A note in embryo, don't know a thing you know, All on the surface young girl.

I'm a novel-reading young girl, A lie-awake until 3 young girl, A romantic, with a fancy for a noble lady, Let me do the work young girl.

I'm a look-out for a catch young girl, A snatch at the proposing, and bag 'em when dozing, Hold on to your same young girl.

RELIGIOUS.

There are 95,103 Presbyterians in New Zealand. Iowa is erecting Methodist churches at the rate of one per month. The meetings of Moody and Sankey in England are a great success in point of attendance.

The Swedish Lutherans in the United States are said to number 300 congregations, 150 pastors and 70,000 attendants at different churches.

Maine has 243 Congregational churches and only 196 ministers, and even these 51 have no changes, 82 are only acting pastors, and the rest regular pastors.

In the Episcopal church of Central Pennsylvania, out of a total of eighty-six churches, fifty-nine, or a proportion of nearly three-fourths, are wholly free.

HOSTETTER'S CELEBRATED BITTERS. One of the Reasonable Pleasures. Of life, a properly cooked meat, affords little or no present enjoyment, and more subsequent torture to a continued dyspepsia.

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Mr. Kinball, the "church debt raiser," has thus far labored in behalf of 160 churches, being instrumental in raising from church members the respectable sum of \$11,000.

The Lebanon Shakers number 350, two-thirds of whom are women and girls, and their property is valued at \$1,750,000. Members relinquish all claims on retiring from the community.

In Minnesota there are ninety-four Episcopal churches, with eighty-three clergyman, 5,964 communicants, and \$292,497 worth of church property.

Another English clergyman is to be prosecuted for "ritualistic practices," Rev. R. H. Bristol of St. Stephen's, Lewisham, is a prominent member of the High Church party and regarded as an eloquent preacher.

St. Paul's church, in New York, the oldest in the city, is having its tower repaired. The oak timber of which were put in place in 1776, have been found to be as good as new. The main body of the church was finished in 1766.

The United Presbyterian church has an article in its directory of worship (to be read in the church) on instrumental music in the articles. But an agitation for repeal has begun, and the question (of repeal) has been sent to the Presbyteries.

A clergyman named Wild, formerly of Brooklyn, announces in a recent sermon that in the death of President Garfield he sees the way prepared for the assumption of a military dictatorship under General Grant, to be followed by the union of Great Britain and the United States.

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