

PEDDLING A SHIP OF WAR

Captain John F. Watson Finally Did Succeed in Delivering the Meteor.

EXCITING EXPERIENCE OF THE VESSEL

It Was Built to Tackle the Alabama, but the Kearsarge Did the Job—Chile Got It at Last.

NEW YORK, March 26.—Captain John F. Watson, who for the last twenty-five years has been the marine superintendent of the Cunard line, was telling the other day how he once had a commodore and twenty-nine other officers of the Spanish navy completely at his mercy, and how, had he wished, he could have delivered them either to the Chilean or Peruvian governments, to his pecuniary profit, as Spain was at that time at war with both countries. The story hinged on the steamship Meteor, which was built to destroy the famous confederate privateer Alabama, that did so much damage to American shipping before the Kearsarge met it off Cherbourg harbor and sent it to the bottom.

"The Alabama had captured and burned so many of our vessels that the merchants of New York and Boston asked permission of the government to present to a vessel designed and built especially for the purpose of running down the privateer, and the government consented to accept the vessel," said Captain Watson. "Among those interested were W. H. Aspinwall of this city and the Forbes brothers of Boston. The vessel, as drafted, was a wooden sailing ship as could be built in those days, was constructed under the supervision of H. B. Forbes, but before it had been fitted out and its machinery put in place the Alabama was at the bottom of the sea and the civil war was at a close. There was then no use for the vessel, as the United States refused to accept it for any other purpose than the one for which it was intended. So the men who had built the Meteor—that was the name they gave it—found themselves with a ship that was of little value to them. They began to figure how they could get rid of it.

"Spain offered for sale in the open market, but no one seemed to want it any more than its owners did, until the trouble between Spain and Chile and Peru started in 1866. Neither Chile nor Peru had much of a navy and they were looking for ships. Through Vernon H. Brown, who is now the agent of the Cunard line, negotiations were opened for the sale of the Meteor. Things were going along smoothly when Spain learned of the prospective purchase and appealed to the United States for interference. The Meteor was lying in New York harbor, fully manned, with steam up and the pilot on board, when William H. Seward, then the secretary of state, took matters in hand and the Meteor was ordered to remain in port. The Spanish minister asserted that the vessel was about to go on a privateer mission against Spanish shipping. The Meteor was dismantled and laid up here. A year later it was sent to Boston, where it was sold at auction. Just who bought it at the time did not appear, but it was again fitted out for sea and a crew placed on board.

"The command was given to me and we made ready to go to sea. My orders were sealed and I had instructions to proceed to Rio de Janeiro before breaking the seal. "A second time the Spanish government, through its representatives, learned that the Meteor was about to sail and the Spanish consul in Boston telegraphed to Washington in order to stop the vessel if possible. But the Spanish consul was not quick enough, and soon after we learned what had been done we had weighed anchor and were steaming out of Boston harbor, bound for the South Atlantic. When we got outside the three-mile limit we saw a revenue cutter coming after us, but we had a good start and no intention of putting back.

"Not a soul on board knew where we were going and officers and men did their best to find out. The voyage down to Brazil was not eventful, but when we reached Rio I found that I had a power of attorney with instructions to sell the Meteor to the best advantage.

"As I said, there was no better craft afloat at the time than was the Meteor. I did not doubt that I could dispose of it to Brazil, but after the officials had looked it over they decided that they did not want it.

"There was a Spanish fleet at Rio and its officers became very much interested in the Meteor, especially when they learned that it was the vessel that had been negotiated for by Chile and Peru.

"The Spanish Admiral complained to the government of Brazil that the Meteor was a privateer and also notified the American admiral who was then in port that he would be held responsible if the Meteor got away. I explained my mission, assured the authorities that I was only out looking for a purchaser for the vessel and permitted the Spaniards to see that we had no armament. Then they wanted to buy the Meteor and I told them that I would sell it. The government authorized a board of officers to test the vessel and they came aboard thirty Spaniards.

"They didn't want Brazil to know what they were up to, so they came aboard at night and early the next morning, with the Spanish commodore, the chief engineer of the fleet and twenty-eight others, we went to sea. Then was the time I had them at my mercy. There was nothing in the world to prevent me from steering around to the west coast of South America and turning them over to either Chile or Peru—nothing except, of course, the sense of right, and to be sure I landed them safely at Rio when they had seen how the Meteor worked under sail and steam. Nothing came of the trip, however, as the terms of settlement that were proposed were not satisfactory.

"Shortly after that I heard from Mr. Brown. The second time he had opened negotiations with the combined governments and had sold the Meteor to the combination. This I did not learn, however, until we got to Singapore, where we went after leaving Rio.

"At Singapore I got instructions to cruise to the west coast of South America and to proceed to a little port to the north of Callao, where I was to await further orders. There we learned that there was a Spanish fleet hovering off the harbor of Callao, but soon we heard that the Spaniards had gone and we went into Callao. The Meteor was duly delivered. It saw good service. The last time I saw it was about six years later, when it was a receiving ship at Callao."

"Estimating the Damage. That spirit of thrift popularly supposed to pervade New England is amusingly illustrated by the observation of a Connecticut farmer. The good man had been seriously ill in midsummer, but by reason of his strong constitution he quickly rallied. On being asked in the autumn how he was feeling he replied in a cheerful tone: "Pretty fair, now, thank you, Anny. It don't make much difference, seem that the fella's well fixed up. If I'd died in hayin' or harvestin' time I calculate I'd been 250 damage to me." Then, after a pause, he added: "Come to think of it, that's too low a figure—250 would be nearer."—Exchange.

Individual Credit System

To Suit Individual Need

Hartman's Credit Service is Credit Service that may be adjusted to suit the needs of the individual customer. It not only calls for the smallest payments of all Credit Plans in Omaha, but it grants favors and accommodations that others do not. We make our Credit Service conform to your needs—we grant special concessions—give special help—excuse customers from making payments when ill or out of work. It is Credit Service that will meet YOUR requirements.

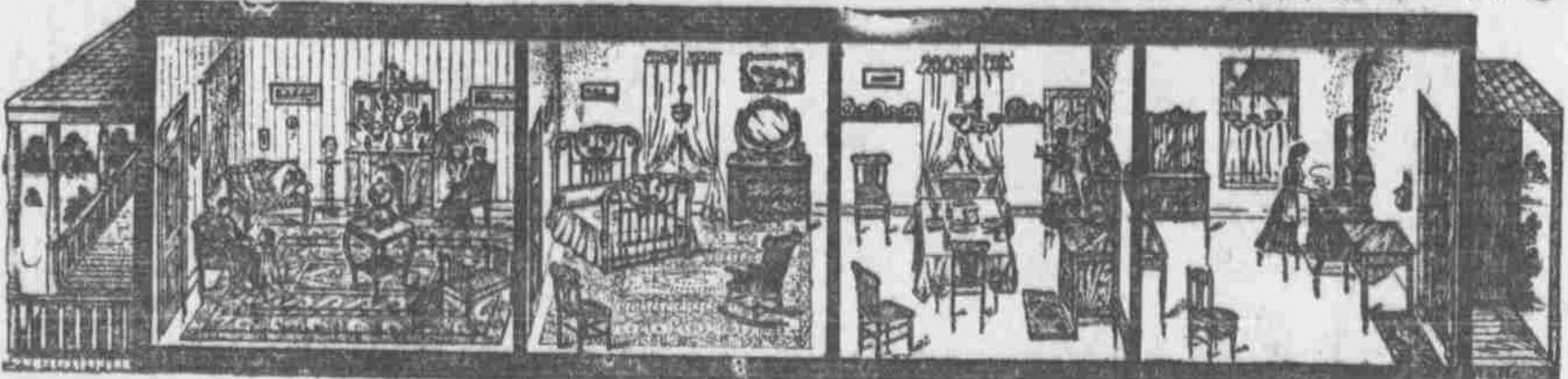
A Beautiful Book of Birdville Jingles Free

The illustration and verses reproduced here is the first of a series of fourteen that are to appear in our Sunday announcements between now and July 1st. These illustrated jingles will tell of the city of Birdville and introduce all the prominent birds of this imaginary bird paradise. They will describe and picture many incidents of the life of these bright plumage creatures and portray many amusing features of their quaint customs. The clever illustrations and catchy jingles will amuse children and parents alike. Watch for these verses every Sunday.

BOOK OF JINGLES FREE

Every child that cuts these illustrated jingles from our Sunday announcements from week to week and saves them until July 1st and mails them to us at that time, will receive a beautiful bound volume of these Birdville verses, printed from fine plates and beautifully illustrated in colors. We would like to have every child in Omaha get one of these books of Birdville Jingles.

LET HARTMAN FEATHER YOUR NEST NOW



4 Rooms Furnished for \$95

In This Offer We Include Everything Needed for Parlor, Bedroom, Dining Room and Kitchen

or any other 4 rooms you wish to furnish. Furnishings of equal value would cost you \$150.00 at any other store in Omaha, whether they advertise a four-room offer or not. We claim this most positively. Don't think of selecting a home outfit until you have seen these furnishings. Special prices made also on three, five, six and seven-room outfits. Credit Terms: \$5.00 Cash and \$5.00 Monthly.



Quartered Oak Pedestal Extension Table, Price \$7.50. This Table is made of quarter-sawn oak, specially selected, large flaky grain. Has a most beautifully grained top and beautifully polished. Has extra heavy base and carved claw feet. It is 45 inches in diameter. Exclusive Hartman design—actual value \$12. Credit Terms: \$1.75 Cash, 50c Weekly.



Agents for the Celebrated Mc Dougal Kitchen Cabinets, \$18 to \$38, sold on Easy Payments, at Cash Store Prices.

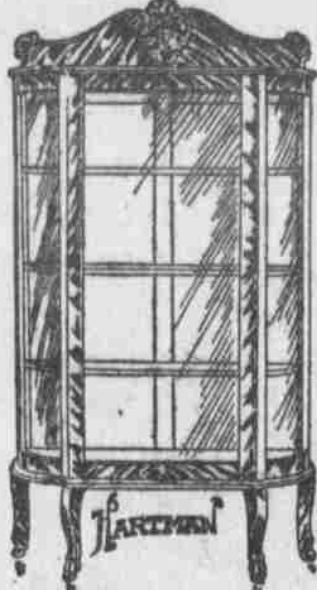


Hartman's New Model Special Sewing Machine 18.75. New "Model" High-Arm Sewing Machine. Has all the new improvements. Cabinet is of solid oak, polished finish, all nickel parts heavily plated. Machine with a wonderful capacity for a wide range of work—hemming, felling, binding, tucking, ruffling, gathering, hemstitching, sewing, etc. Complete with full set of attachments and accessories. You would pay \$20 for a machine not half so good in any other store in Omaha. Hartman contract for thousands, hence the low price. CREDIT TERMS: \$2 CASH, 50c WEEKLY.



Refrigerator Special Sale Price 6.95. This Refrigerator is one of our Specials on sale this week. It is strongly constructed, of great durability and most economical. It is fitted with patented iron, has metal shelves, patent drip cup and other improved features. A value you cannot possibly duplicate in Omaha. CREDIT TERMS: 75c CASH, 50c WEEKLY.

All Goods Delivered in Unlettered Wagons



Solid Oak China Closets 12.75. Made of selected solid oak and beautifully polished. Has oval bent ends, French shaped legs, carved top, and carved claw feet. Has fancy carved panel on top as shown. Height of China Closet 69 inches. CREDIT TERMS: \$1.00 CASH, 50c WEEKLY.

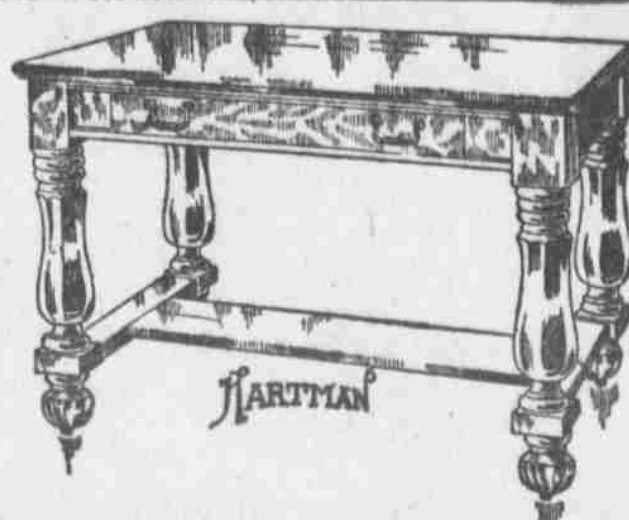


This Elegant Special Dresser 8.75. This Dresser Special represents a value that is positively beyond duplication. It is one of the handsomest dressers that was ever offered at anywhere near this price. It is made of seasoned wood throughout, in oak or mahogany finish, extra well constructed and extra well finished. It is beautifully polished and neatly ornamented with carvings. It has a French beveled mirror, measuring 36x30 in. The size of the Dresser top is 48x30 in. It has double swelled top drawers and is very handsome in appearance. CREDIT TERMS: \$1.00 CASH, 50c WEEKLY.

EVERYTHING WE SELL WE GUARANTEE



Massive Solid Oak Sideboard 11.75. These Sideboards are made to order for the Hartman chain of stores and every effort has been given to the detail of workmanship and finish. They have extra large French beveled mirrors, are elaborately carved.



Quarter-Sawn Library Table, Price 12.75. This Library Table is especially made for the great Hartman Chain of twenty-two stores. It is made throughout of best selected quarter-sawn oak or mahogany finish, and is beautifully polished. The top measures 42x38 in. It is of the finest possible workmanship and finish. CREDIT TERMS: \$1.25 CASH, 50c WEEKLY.



Hartman's Special Folding Reclining Go-Cart... 6.25. This Handsome Go-Cart is of the new folding type and occupies small space when folded. It has full imported reed body and dash, cane back and embossed cane seat. Springs best tempered steel, pat. wheel fasteners and brake and large rubber tires. A handsome and dependable cart. A very elegant cart, and offered at a price that is surprisingly low. 75c CASH and 50c WEEKLY.



Hartman's Imperial Monarch Brussels Rugs, 10.6x8-3, at..... 12.75. These rugs have no miter seams—are of highest character—most durable quality. They are made of worsted, aniline dyed, strictly high grade. They are not "printed" rugs, but are woven rugs. They are not made of printed carpets, such as many rugs that are being advertised just now in Omaha. They are specially made rugs and are offered to you at an extra special price. CREDIT TERMS: \$1.00 CASH, 50c WEEKLY.



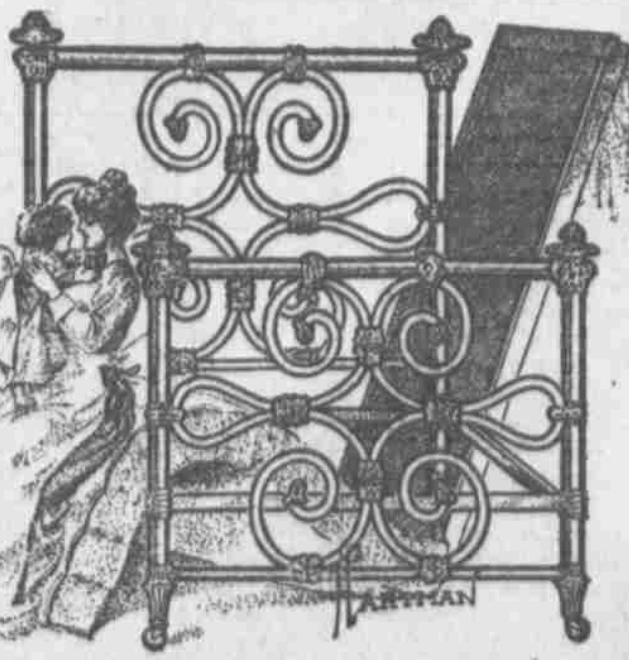
Hartman's Special Kitchen Cabinet... 11.75. Exactly as shown. Convenient top, large size base, size 26x46 inches, large tilting flour bin, large drawer and boards, extra well made, solid oak throughout, golden finish. You can see at a glance its actual worth is \$20. TERMS—\$1.00 CASH; 50c WEEKLY.

Twenty-Six Piece Set Rogers Silverware FREE

Perhaps some of your neighbors have been among the hundreds who have so far secured these sets and you, having seen them, know what a beautiful set it really is. If not we advise you to see these beautiful sets displayed in our show windows and as you admire their beauty we bear in mind their sterling quality. These sets are the genuine Rogers silver and each piece in the set bears the full name of Rogers the world's famous silver maker. The price of the pieces is covered by the guarantee of this famous maker. These sets are put up in handsome leatherette cases with a broad ribbon across the top bearing the full name Wm. A. Rogers. They sell throughout Omaha at from \$10.00 to \$12.00.



We wish to put this Silverware into your home without costing you a single penny. Our plan is this: We'll give you one of these sets absolutely Free if you purchase goods of us to the amount of \$100.00 or more, within the period of one year. HAVE THE SET DELIVERED TO YOU AT ONCE. In order to enable you to get this Set at once, even though not ready to make any purchase now, we will agree to deliver the Set to you immediately, with the understanding that in case you do not purchase goods during the year which in the aggregate amount to \$100.00, that you will pay us \$5.00 for the set, on the easy terms of only \$1.00 cash and 75c monthly. This price about one-half the regular selling price of the silverware. We will deliver the Set on the terms mentioned. In case you buy goods of us to the amount of \$100 any time within the year, we will credit your account with every cent you have paid on the Silverware, and thus be giving the entire set to you Absolutely Free.



This Complete Outfit, Bed, Springs and Mattress, at 10.75. This outfit consists of Bed, Springs and Mattress. Bed is of above handsome design, made of large, strong tubing and heavily enameled; Springs are of best pliable steel and the Mattress is of splendid quality, with soft top, heavy ticking and taped edges. The bed alone is actually worth as much as we now ask for the entire combination. CREDIT TERMS: \$1 CASH, 50c WEEKLY.

22 Great Stores Throughout the U. S. HARTMAN'S 1414-1416-1418 Douglas Street