



### THE HOUMA CERES

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### The Navy of the United States.

In "Cooper's Naval History of the United States," some highly interesting facts are stated. We learn that the first decked vessel ever built within the limits of the United States was constructed on the bank of the Hudson, by Adrian Block, in the summer of 1614. She was called the Yacht, and her first voyage was made through Hell Gate, into the Sound, and as far east as Cape Cod, by the Vineyard passage. It was in this voyage that Black Island was first discovered. Within the first forty-six years after the settlement of Massachusetts, there were built in Boston and its vicinity, 730 vessels varying from 6 to 200 tons burthen. One of these the Blessing of the Bay, a bark of 50 tons, was built in 1631.

The celebrated English patriot and divine, Hugh Peters, caused a vessel of 300 tons to be constructed at Salem, in 1641. The first schooner ever launched is said to have been built at Cape Ann, in 1714. In 1718, Connecticut had but two brigs, twenty sloops and a few smaller craft, employing but 120 seamen; while Massachusetts, about the same time, had 462 vessels, the tonnage of which was 25,406, and employed 3488 seamen. The first ensign ever shown by a regular American man of war, was hoisted on board the frigate Alfred, in the Delaware, by the hands of Paul Jones, in the latter part of December, 1775. What this ensign was, is not precisely known, as the present national colors were not formally adopted until 1777.

The first regular American cruiser that went to sea, was the Lexington, a little brig of 14 guns, commanded by Captain John Barry, of Philadelphia. She sailed sometime in the winter of 1765. The first American man of war that got to sea after the adoption of our present form of government, was the Ganges. She was originally an Indian, but was purchased by the government, and converted into a cruiser, having an armament of 24 guns. She sailed in May, 1798, under the command of Captain Richard Dale, who was first Lieutenant on the Bon Homme Richard, when that ship captured the Serapis.

The Constellation was the first of the new built vessels that went to sea, under Captain Truxton. She sailed June, 1792, and was followed by the United States, and a little later by the Constitution.—Both these latter sailed in July the same year. The first prize under our present naval organization was the Erinch Privateer La Croizable. She was a schooner of 14 guns, and was captured by the sloop of war Delaware, Captain Decatur.

### National Ships Lost.

Our navy as at present organized, dates from the year 1794, and it is perhaps not a little curious that one of its first prizes should have been the first vessel lost, without any one being able to say how she was lost. In 1799, the frigate Constellation, then under command of Captain Truxton, captured the French frigate l'Incorrupt, after a very gallant action. This was during what was called the quasi war with France, caused by the depredations that were made upon our commerce by the cruisers of that country, which were repeatedly routed. The prize was taken during the story, and was first commanded by Captain Murray, who succeeded by Captain Fletcher. The latter sailed on a cruise in July 1800, with a crew of roving commission. Some letters were received from persons on board of her, and sent in by vessels she spoke; but, though she was to be absent only eight weeks, nothing has been seen of her for almost four and fifty years.

The Pickering, Captain Hillar, a four-gun vessel, which sailed a month later than the Incorrupt for the West Indies, was never heard from again. The Saratoga, of 16 guns was lost in the same way in 1807.

One of the finest vessels that ever sailed from this country, was the sloop of war Wasp, which left Portsmouth, (N. H.), in 1814, under the command of Capt. Blake.

ly. On the 24th of June she captured and destroyed the British sloop of war Reindeer, and on the first of September the Avon, a vessel of the same class. One of her prizes was taken on the 21st day of September, and sent to America under command of Mr. Geisinger, and no direct intelligence was ever afterwards received from her. She was spoken by a Swedish brig on the 9th of October, out of which she took two American officers, who belonged to the frigate Essex, and were passengers in the Swede from Rio de Janeiro. This was the last time that she was seen and known. Various stories as to her fate were current for years. Mr. Cooper says:

"There is only one rumor in reference to this ship that has any appearance of probability.

"It is said that two English frigates chased an American sloop of war off the southern coast about the time the Wasp ought to have arrived, and that the three ships were struck with a squall, in which the sloop of war suddenly disappeared."

The Wasp was uncommonly well manned and officered, and her loss was a severe one to the navy. Blakely was an admirable commander, and the gentlemen under him were of high merit. Two of the Lieutenants, Mr. Reilley and Mr. Baurly, had taken part in the capture of Guerriere and the Java, and another, Mr. Tillinghast, was an officer on board the Enterprise when she took the Boxer. The Empress, brig, eighteen guns, sailed from the Mediterranean for the United States in 1815, and was never heard from after she passed the strait of Gibraltar. She had been taken from the English, in 1814, by the Peacock, Captain Warrington. We believe that at the time of her loss she was commanded by one of the Shubricks, an historical name in our navy.

The most remarkable instance of the loss of a national ship, since the close of the past war with England, was that of the Hornet, which was supposed to have foundered in a "norther" in the Gulf of Mexico, about a quarter of a century ago.—Nothing was heard of her, if we remember after she left Tampico, some time in the year 1830.

The Hornet was one of the "lucky ships" of the navy, and a great favorite both with the service and with the country, and was distinguished for the part she took in the war of 1812, capturing everything with which she fought, and escaping from superior vessels. In 1813, when commanded by Captain Lawrence, she took the British brig Peacock, after a short but very warm action of fifteen minutes, the Peacock being sunk. Attached to Commodore Decatur's squadron, a few months later, she was compelled to take refuge in New London, when that squadron fell in with a greatly superior British force, where she was blockaded for a long time. Escaping from New London, she went to sea in January, 1815, under the command of Capt. Biddle. On the 23d of March she engaged and captured the Penguin, a vessel of about her own force and with picked crew. Subsequently she was chased for two or three days by a British seventy-four, and narrowly escaped being captured.

The recent losses of the Albany and the Porpoise have revived the interest that used to be felt in the losses that we have mentioned above. It will be seen that it is no new thing in our navy for vessels to disappear, leaving no trace of their fate, and the same remark applies to all navies.

### DESPISING HOUSEHOLD DUTIES.

From a variety of causes, nothing is more common than to find American women who have not the slightest idea of household duties. A writer thus alludes to this subject:—"In this neglect of household cares American females stand alone. A German lady, no matter how high her rank, never forgets that domestic labors conduce to the health of body and mind alike. An English lady, whether she be only a gentleman's wife, or a duke's does not despise the household, and even though she has a housekeeper, devotes a portion of her time to this, her happiest sphere. It is reserved for our republican ladies to be more choice than even their monarchial and aristocratic sisters. The result is a lassitude of mind, often as fatal to health as neglect of bodily exercise. The wife who leaves her household cares to the servants, pays the penalty which has been affixed to idleness since the foundation of the world, and either withers away from ennui, or is driven to all sorts of fashionable follies to find employment for the mind.

—Why is a young lady just from a boarding school like a building committee? Because she is ready to receive proposals.

Small and steady gains give competency with tranquility of mind.

### CONTENT.

BY ALICE CAREY.

My house is low and small,  
But behind a row of trees,  
I catch the golden fall  
Of the sunset in the seas.  
And a stone wall hanging white  
With the roses of the May,  
Were less pleasant to my sight  
Than the fading of to-day.  
From a brook a heifer drinks,  
In a field of pasture ground,  
With wild violets and pinks  
For a border all around.

My house is small and low,  
But the willow by the door  
Doth a cool, deep shadow throw  
In the summer on my floor.  
And in long and rainy nights,  
When the limbs of leaves are bare,  
I can see the window lights  
Of the homesteads elsewhere.

My house is small and low,  
But with pictures such as these,  
Of the meadow and the row  
Of illuminated trees,  
And the heifer as she drinks  
From the field of meadow ground,  
With the violets and pinks  
For a border all around—  
Let me never, foolish, pray  
For a vision wider spread,  
But, contented, only say,  
Give me, Lord, my daily bread.

### Sugar.

Sugar, so extensively used in every country of the habitable globe; and forming, as it does, one of our chief staples, supplies its commercial demand mainly from the juice of the cane, which contains it in greater quantity and purity than any other plant, and offers greater facilities for its extraction. Although sugar, identical in its character, exists in the maple, the cocoa-nut, and the beet-root, and is economically obtained to a considerable extent, yet it is not sufficient to admit of ready separation from the foreign matter combined with it, at least, by the means that producers usually have at hand.

The early history of cane sugar, like that of many other necessities of life, is involved in great obscurity. It appears to have been imperfectly known to the Greeks and Romans, as Theophrastus, who lived 320 years before Christ, describes it as a sort of "honey extracted from canes of reed;" and Strabo, who states on the authority of Nearchus, the commander of the fleet in the expedition of Alexander the Great, says that "reeds in India yield honey without bees."

Although India and Cochinchina are the countries usually cited as the native homes of the sugar cane, where this plant grows wild, nevertheless, Roxburgh, in his "Flora Indica," declares that its indigenous habitat in the East Indies is unknown. It occurs in a wild state in many parts of the South Sea Islands, especially in Tahiti, but in no part of the American continent, notwithstanding contrary statements have been made. It is true, a species of cane is found in Central America, apparently indigenous, which is rich in saccharine juice, and is very readily crushed by rollers; but it is not known with certainty when it was discovered, nor whether or not it is the result of self-sown seeds of some variety of the Eastern cane. The cultivated sugar-cane, let it be known, very rarely produces seeds, although it sometimes occurs even in our Southern States.

The culture and manufacture of sugar, it is stated, were introduced into Europe from the East, by the Saracens, soon after their conquest in the sixth century; and it is known that the Arabs caused the extension of the cultivation of this plant to Rhodes, Crete, and Sicily—nay, even to Calabria, and Spain. It is also stated by the Venetian and Amalfian historians that their countrymen imported sugar from Sicily, in the twelfth century, at a cheaper rate than they could obtain it from Egypt, where it was then extensively made. The first sugar plantations established in Spain were at Valencia, but they were soon after extended to Grenada and Murcia.—Prince Henry, the navigator, carried sugar-cane from Sicily to Madeira. Towards the end of the fifteenth and the commencement of the sixteenth century, it was conveyed to the Canary Islands, where plantations were formed, especially on Gomera and Grad Canary. From Gomera it was introduced into the West Indies by Columbus, in his second voyage to America in 1493, and soon after became diffused over Mexico, Guiana, and Brazil. It was cultivated to a considerable extent in St. Domingo in 1506, where it succeeded better than in any of the islands. In 1513 there were 28 plantations in that colony established by the Spaniards, where an abundance of sugar was made, which for a long period, formed the principal part of the European supplies. Barbadoes, the oldest English settlement in the West Indies, began to export sugar in 1640; and in

1686, the trade of that island required four hundred vessels averaging one hundred and fifty tons burthen.

The common sugar-cane is very sensitive to cold, and is, therefore, restricted in its cultivation to regions either situated within or bordering on the tropics; where there is little or no frost. In inter-tropical America it occurs at the height of four thousand feet above the sea; and in particular places, under favorable circumstances, even over 6000 feet, especially on the elevated plateaux of Mexico. In Nepal, in Asia, it extends up the Himalayas 4500 feet. It thrives best in a mean annual temperature of 77 to 84 deg Fahrenheit, but it succeeds even at 66 deg. to 68 deg.

In the existing distribution of sugar-cane as a field crop, in the United States, it is found as far North as 32 deg. East of the Rocky Mountains; although, from its flexibility or disposition to acclimatize itself, it is highly probable that it is gradually becoming more hardy, and will eventually endure exposure and yield a profitable return much further North, along the borders of the Mississippi and its tributaries, than it has hitherto produced. In most parts of Louisiana the cane yields three crops from one planting. The first season it is denominated "plant-cane" and each of the subsequent growths "rattoons." But sometimes, as on the prairies of Atakapas and Opelousas, and the higher Northern range of its culture, it requires to be replanted every year. Within the tropics, as on the island of Cuba, and elsewhere, the rattoons frequently continue to yield abundantly for twelve, fifteen, and even twenty-four years from the same roots.

### A Story with a Moral.

Mr. Bones, of the firm of Fossil, Bones & Co., was one of those remarkable money making men, whose uninterrupted success in trade had been the wonder and afforded the material for the gossip of the town for seven years. Being of a familiar turn of mind he was frequently interrogated on the subject, and invariably gave as the secret of his success, that he minded his own business.

A gentleman met Mr. Bones on the Assanpink bridge. He was gazing intently on the dashing, foaming waters as they fell over the dam. He was evidently in a brown study. Our friend ventured to disturb his cogitations.

"Mr. Bones, tell me how to make a thousand dollars."

Mr. Bones continued looking intently at the water. At last he ventured a reply.

"Do you see that dam, my friend?"

"I certainly do."

"Well here you may learn the secret of making money. That water would waste away and be of no particular use to anybody, but for the dam. That dam turns it to good account—making it perform some useful purpose, and then suffers it to pass along. That large paper mill is kept in constant motion by this simple economy. Many mouths are fed in the manufacture of the article of paper, and intelligence is scattered broad cast over the land on the sheets that are daily turned out; and in the different processes through which it passes money is made. So it is in the living of hundreds of people. They get enough money. It passes through their hands every day, and at the year's end they are no better off. What's the reason? They want a dam. Their expenditures are increasing, and no practical good is attained. They want them dammed up, so that nothing will pass through their hands without bringing something back—without accomplishing some useful purpose. Dam up your expenses, and you'll soon have enough, occasionally to spare a little, just like that dam. Look at it my friend!"

THE BLOOM OF AGE.—A good woman never grows old. Years may pass over her head, but if benevolence and virtue dwell in her heart, she is as cheerful as when the spring of life first opened to her view. When we look upon a good woman, we never think of her age; she looks as charming as when the rose of youth first bloomed on her cheek. That rose has not faded yet; it will never fade. In her neighborhood she is the friend and benefactor. Who does not respect and love the woman who has passed her days in acts of kindness and mercy? We repeat such a woman cannot grow old. She will always be fresh and buoyant in spirits, and active in humble deeds of mercy and benevolence. If the young lady desires to retain the bloom and beauty of youth, let her not yield to sway of fashion and folly; let her love truth and virtue, and to the close of life she will retain those feelings which now make life appear a garden of sweets—ever fresh and ever new.

Pleasures come like oars, and go like post-horses.

### Serenading a Young Lady.

In my young days, says the editor of an exchange paper, I was extravagantly fond of attending parties, and was somewhat celebrated for playing the flute; hence, it was generally expected, when an invitation was extended, that my flute would accompany me.

I visited a splendid party one evening, and was called upon to favor the company with a tune on the flute. I, of course, immediately complied with the request. The company appeared to be delighted, but more particularly so was a young lady who raised her hands, and exclaimed that it was beautiful, &c. I, of course, was highly flattered, and immediately formed a resolution to serenade the young lady on the following night. Previous to leaving the party, I made inquiries respecting her residence. I started the next night, in company with several young friends, and arrived at the ladies residence, but made a glorious mistake by getting under the window of an old Quaker.

"Now, boys," said I, "behold the sentimentality of this young lady the moment I strike up the Last Rose of Summer." I struck up, but the windows remained closed. The boys smiled.

"Oh!" said I, "that's nothing: it would not be in good taste to open the window on the first air."

I next struck up on "Old Robin Gray." Still the window remained closed. The boys snickered, and I felt somewhat flat.

"One more, boys," said I, "and she must come."

I struck up again—"My love is like the red, red rose." Still there was no demonstration.

"Boys," said I, "she's a humbug. Let us sing 'Home sweet Home,' and if that don't bring her, we will give her up."

We struck up, and as we finished the last line the window was raised.

"That's the ticket, boys," said I, "I knew we could fetch her."

But instead of the beautiful young lady it turned out to be the old Quaker, in his night-cap and dressing gown.

"Friend" said he, "thee was singing of thy sweet home—and if I recollect right thee said there was no place like home; why don't thee go to thy home? Thee is not wanted here—thee nor any of thy party. Farewell!"

We and our hats went home!

SALT.—Salt is indispensable to man as a part of his food. It is stated that with every bushel of flour one pound of salt is used in making bread alone. Every adult consumes about two ounces of salt weekly. The omission of a proper quantity of it in our food favors the engendering of disease. We read that when the laws of Holland ordained men to be kept on bread alone, unmixd with salt, as the severest punishment that could be inflicted upon them in their moist climate, the effect was horrible. The wretched criminals are said to have been devoured by worms. Mungo Park mentions that he suffered great inconvenience from the scarcity of this article:—"The long use of vegetable food creates so painful a longing for salt that no words can sufficiently describe it." Almost all grammivorous animals seem to have the same necessity for the use of salt in their food as man. An exemption from the rot is generally enjoyed by sheep fed on the salt marshes, or when salt is regularly mixed with their food. In the States of La Plata, in South America, the sheep and cattle, when they discover a pit of salt clay rush to feed upon it, and in the struggle many are trodden to death. In upper Canada the cattle have an abundance of wild pasture to brows on in the woods; but once a fortnight they return to the farm of their own accord, in order to obtain a little salt; and when they have eaten it, mixed with their fodder, return again to the woods.—Indiana Farmer.

GOOD ADVICE.—It's impossible for us to say what occupation would be most lucrative for a young man, particularly as we know nothing of his talents or acquirements. We would, however, say, as a general rule to all, "do not haste to be rich." Adopt some safe and regular business, in which you may realize a comfortable living, and be content. If a person is prudent and economical, there is generally but that he will succeed. The idea of getting rich is a vain and foolish one, and men generally spend half their lives in finding out that to accomplish this object is a useless undertaking. There are thousands of persons at the present time suffering the pangs of poverty, who, if they had been content with a moderate, would have been comfortable and happy. The education that we get in the world is more dearly bought than any scholastic instruction, and it would be well if every man would more generally avail himself of the wisdom which every day life affords.