A MESSAGE FROM THE SEA.

By Charles Dickens

On the third night—or rather, I should say, early on the fourth morning—I went below, dead beat, to get a little rest, leaving the vessel in charge of the captain and first mate. The night was then pitch-black—it was raining, hailing and sleeting, all at once—and the Peruvian was wallowing in the frightful seas, as if she meant to roll the masts out of her. I tumbled into bed the instant my wet oilskins were off my back, and slept as only a man can who lays himself down dead beat.

I was awoke—how long afterward I don't know—by being pitched clean out of my berth on to the cabin floor; and at the same moment I heard the crash of the ship's timbers, forward, which told me it was all over with us.

Though bruised and shaken by my fall I was on deck directly. Before I had taken two steps forward the *Peruvian* forged ahead on the swell of the sea, swung round a little, and struck heavily at the bows for the second time. The shrouds of the foremast cracked one after an other, like pistol-shots. I next felt our people go tearing past me, in the black darkness, to the lee-side of the vessel; and I knew that in their last extremity they were taking to the boats. I say I *felt* them go past me, because the roaring of the sea and the howling of the wind deafened me on deck as completely as the darkness blinded me. I myself no more believed the boats would live in the sea than I believed the ship would hold together on the reef—but as the rest were running the risk, I made up my mind to run it with them.

But before I followed the crew to leeward I went below again for a minute—not to save money or clothes, for, with death staring me in the face, neither were of any account now—but to get my little writing-case which mother had given me at parting. A curl of Margaret's hair was in the locket inside it, with all the letters she had sent me when I had been away on other voyages. If I saved anything I was resolved to save this—and if I died, I would die with it about me.

My locker was jammed with the wrenching of the ship, and had to be broken open. I was, maybe, longer over this job than I myself supposed. At any rate, when I got on deck again with my case in my breast, it was useless calling, and useless groping about. The largest of the two boats, when I felt for it, was gone; and every soul on board was beyond a doubt with her.

Before I had time to think I was thrown off my feet by another sea coming on board, and a great heave of the vessel which drove her farther over the reef, and canted the after-part of her up like the roof of a house. At that position the stern stuck, wedged fast into the rocks beneath, while the fore part of the ship was all to pieces and down under water. If the after-part kept the place it was now jammed in till daylight there might be a chance, but if the sea wrenched it out from between the rocks there was an end of me. After straining my eyes to discover if there was land beyond the reef and seeing nothing but the flash of the breakers like white fire in the darkness, I crawed below again to the shelter of the cabin stairs and waited for death or daylight.

As the morning hours wore on the weather moderated again, and the after-part of the vessel, though shaken often, was not shaken out of its place. A little before dawn the winds and the waves, though fierce enough still, allowed me at last to hear something besides themselves. What I did hear, crouched up in my dark corner, was a heavy thumping and grinding, every now and then, against the side of the ship to windward. Day broke soon afterward, and when I climbed to the deck I clawed my way up to windward first to see what the noise was caused by.

My first look over the bulwark showed me that it was caused by the boat which my unfortunate brother officers and the crew had launched and gone away in when the ship struck. The boat was bottom upward, thumping against the ship's side on the lift of the sea. I wanted no second look at it to tell me that every mother's son of them was drowned.

The main and mizen masts still stood. I got into the mizen rigging to look out next to leeward—and there, in the blessed daylight, I saw a low, green, rocky little island, lying away beyond the reef, barely a mile distant from the ship! My life began to look of some small value to me again when I saw land. I got higher up in the rigging to note how the current set, and where there might be a passage through the reef. The ship had driven over the rocks through the worst of the surf, and the sea between myself and the island, though angry and broken in places, was not too high for a lost man like me to venture on—provided I could launch the last and smallest boat still left in the vessel. I noted carefully the likeliest-looking channel for trying the experiment, and then got down on deck again to see what I could do, first of all, with the boat.

At the moment when my feet touched the deck I heard a dull knocking and banging just under them in the region of the cabin. When the sound first reached my ears I got such a shock of surprise that I could neither move or speak. It had never yet crossed my mind that a single soul was left in the vessel besides myself—but now, there was something in the knocking noise which started the hope in me that I was not alone. I shook myself up, and got down below directly.

The noise came from inside one of the sleeping berths, on the far side of the main cabin; the door of which was jammed, no doubt, just as my locker had been jammed, by the wrenching of the ship. "Who's there?" I called out. A faint muffled kind of voice answered something through the air-grating in the upper part of the door. I got up on the overthrown cabin furniture; and, looking in through the trellis-work of the grating, found myself face to face with the blue spectacles of Mr. Lawrence Clissold, looking out!

God forgive me for thinking it—but there wasn't a man in the vessel I wouldn't sooner have found alive in her than Mr. Clissold! Of all that ship's company, we two who were least friendly together, were the only two saved.

I had a better chance of breaking out the jammed door from the main cabin than he had from the berth inside; and in less than five minutes he was set free. I had smelled spirits already through the air-grating—and now, when he and I stood face to face, I saw what the smell meant. There was an open case of spirits by the bedside—two of the bottles out of it were lying broken on the floor—and Mr. Clissold was drunk.

"What's the matter with the ship?" says he, looking drowsily, and speaking thick.

"You shall see for yourself," says I. With which words I took hold of him, and pulled him after me up the cabin stairs. I reckoned on the sight that would meet him, when he first looked over the deck, to sober his drunken brains—and I reckoned right: he fell on his knees, stock still and speechless as if he was turned to stone.

I lashed him up safe to the cabin rail, and left it to the air to bring him round. He had, likely enough, been drinking in the sleeping berth for days together—for none of us, as I now remembered, had seen him since the gale set in—and even if he had had sense enough to try to get out, or to call for help, when the ship struck, he would not have made himself heard in the noise and confusion of that awful time. But for the lull in the weather, I should not have heard him myself when he attempted to get free in the morning. Enemy of mine as he was, he had a pair of arms—and he was worth untold gold, in my situation, for that reason. With the help I could make him give me, there was no doubt now about launching the boat. In half an hour I had the means ready for trying the experiment, and Mr. Clissold was sober enough to see that his life depended on his doing what I told him.

The sky looked angry still—there was no opening anywhere—and the clouds were slowly banking up again to windward. The sea, I cargo knew what I meant when I pointed that way, and worked with a will when I gave him the word. I had previously stowed away in the boat such stores of meat, biscuit, and fresh water as I could readily lay hands on; together with a compass, a lantern, a few candles, and some boxes of matches in my pocket, to kindle light and fire with. At the last moment I thought of a gun and some powder and shot. The powder and shot I found, and an old flint pocket-pistol in the captain's cabin—with which, for fear of wasting precious time, I was forced to be content. The pistol lay on the top of the medicine-chest—and I took that also, finding it handy, and not knowing but what it might be of use. Having made these preparations, we launched the boat, down the steep of the deck, into the water over the forward part of the ship which was sunk. I took the oars, ordering Mr. Clissold to sit still in the stern sheets, and pulled for the island.

It was neck or nothing with us more than once, before we were two hundred yards from the ship. Luckily the supercargo was used to boats; and muddled as he still was, he had sense enough to sit quiet. We found our way into the smooth channel which I had noted from the mizzen-rigging—after which, it was easy enough to get ashore.

We landed on a little sandy creek. From the time of our leaving the ship the supercargo had not spoken a word to me, nor I to him. I now told him to lend a hand in getting the stores out of the boat, and in helping me to carry them to the first sheltered place we could find in shore on the island. He shook himself up with a sulky look at me, and did as I had bidden him. We found a little dip or dell in the ground, after getting up the low sides of the island, which was sheltered to windward—and here I left him to stow away the stores while I walked further on to survey the place.

To be Continued.

SUFFERINGS.

THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE OF THE NURSERY.

The following is an extract from a letter written by Rev. C. Z. Weiser, to the "German Reformed Messenger" at Chambersburgh, Penn.

A BENEFACTRESS.

"There is a woman in the public eye, whose name had all along been associated, in our mind, with the Yankee, 'Quack,' and 'Humbug.' But it is so no longer, and we desire to wrest her name from all such suspicious association in all other minds. Whatever notions we may have of womanly delicacy and propriety, we will all admit that woman alone is the Nurse—the good Nurse—the near Nurse. Whether we shall have female physicians or not is a question which must be decided by time and principle, and not as a matter of taste. Pride, prejudice, caprice and custom may as well behave themselves, for if there is really a want there will also be a supply—if there be a 'calling,' there will be a 'coming.' Nature and Human Society are always self supplying, and though Art and Fashion may hinder, they cannot prevent.

Mrs. Winslow does not want to treat *you*, gentlemen! nor does she prescribe a regimen for your wives; but modestly appears as a messenger of health and happiness to your INFANTS in the cradle. Is there anything improper in that? A nurse of 'ten years' experience can boldly say what is or is not good for a babe—and ought to be listened to. God speed her on her humble but happy mission. She is the most successful benefactress our little one ever enjoyed—her doting parents not excepted. Just open the door for her, and Mrs. Winslow will prove the American Florence Nightingale of the nursery. Of this we are so sure, that we will teach our 'Sissy' to say, 'A Blessing on Mrs. Winslow,' for helping her to survive and escape the griping, colicking and toething siege. We confirm every word set forth in the Prospectus. It performs precisely what it professes to 'perform—every part of it, nothing less. Away with your 'Cordial,' 'Paregoric,' 'Drops,' 'Laudanum,' and every other narcotic, by which the babe is drugged into stupidity, and rendered dull and idiotic for life!

We have never seen Mrs. Winslow—knew her only through the preparation of her 'SOOTHING SYRUP FOR CHILDREN TEETHING,' and we and the power we would make her, as she is, a physical saviour to the infant race.'

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They are Sugar coated, so that the most sensitive can take them pleasantly, and they are the best Aperient in the world for all the purposes of a family Physic. PRICE 25 CENTS PER BOX; FIVE BOXES FOR $1.00.

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12 Wooster st., New York, March, 1861.

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GENERAL BUSINESS.

BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM—

☞ The new spectacular drama, GITABELLE, THE CHILDREN of the KINGAL, THIS AFTERNOON & EVENING, at 3 & 7½ o'clock. For other curiosities, see Museum adv. on 3d page. Admission 25 cents. Children under 10 years, 15cts

CHEAP ROOFING—SATURATED FELT and tarred paper for roofing and underlaying tin and slate roofs; superior composition for all kinds of roofing. Dealers supplied on liberal terms. JEREMIAH Brothers, 5 Spring Slip. mh1 24ac*237

CARDS!—CARDS!!—CARDS!!!—Cards from the Fine Fly Press; 5,000 large, handsome Business Cards for $5; single 1,000 $1 50; all other kinds of Job Printing by steam equally low. FOLGER & TURNER, 116 John st mh12 24ac*144

F. C. WELLS & CO., 115 FRANKLIN ST. WHOLESALE AGENTS FOR THE SALE OF DR. ZEILL'S NERVINE POWDERS TO CURE 18,241,6 LOVE OF STRONG DRINK.

FRENCH WHITE ZINC PAINT—DRY and in oil, red and green seal, at reduced prices for cash. For sale at the depot of the Vieille Montagne Company of Paris, by JOSEPH M. SYMONS, 42 and 44 Green street. mh20 24ac*186

GREY'S ORRIS TOOTH PASTE! PRICE 25 CENTS PER BOX.

is the best dentrifice for the Teeth ever produced. As a cleanser and beautifier (without injury to the Teeth or Gums) it stands unrivalled. It has now been before the public over fourteen years, and during that time not one complaint has been made, but on the contrary, every one speaks of its marvelous properties in the highest terms. All who value their teeth, as also the looks of clean white teeth, should not neglect trying this article, as we are confident they will not find it in the least overrated. Manufactured and for sale, wholesale and retail, by J. E. GREY, corner Myrtle and Franklin aves, Brooklyn, and 479 Second Ave., corner 30th st, New York. Agent for Williamsburgh, J. I. Brisot, 46 South Second st. For sale by Druggists generally. mh22 24ac*206

HACHADOOR TATEOSYAN'S CELEBRATED Oriental Fig Paste is good for weak lungs and for the weakly and infirm, made by me these 19 years, look on each cake for my trade mark, the stars and crescent and my initials H. T., no other is genuine. HACHADOOR TATEOSYAN, Constantinople, Turkey. Sold by all Fruit Dealers. 25,24ac

LEAKY ROOFS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION cured and made warranted, BY JAMES O'REILLY, MASON AND CEMENT ROOFER. Apply or address No 307 Madison st., or No 1 Ridge street. mh14 24ac*147

LEAKY ROOFS CURED—ELLERY'S patent rubber paint, 1 cent a foot warranted, 596 Grand street; 37 Park Row; 153 Bowery; 48th street, 9th avenue; 80 East 14th street, 40th st, and Broadway; and 508 6th avenue. Rights and paint for sale. mh26 24ac*110

"LOVE OF STRONG DRINK, CURED."

by DOCTOR SIBLEY'S ANTI-DRINK PREPARATION, which may be given, unknown to the drinker, in coffee, tea, or any other drink. Warranted to produce no unpleasant effects. Cures in one day. Price ONE DOLLAR per package. Sent BY MAIL on receipt of price.

PRINCIPAL OFFICE, No. 63 Division street, corner Market, New York.

For sale at Mrs. Beecher's book store, 314 8th avenue, Brooklyn, Mrs. Hopper's grocery, 170 Fulton street, Jersey, S. Ja st cor. Wm. 2. Mercer's, 264 Broadway.

Morristown, N. J., at C. W. Freeman's store. 6d20 24ac*225

LEAKY ROOFS—EVERY KIND OF TIN, slate, gravel, board and other roofs repaired and made tight, and warranted for 5 years. Apply 453 Seventh ave, by note or personally, or at Branch Agency, 12 South 7th st, Williamsburgh, N. Y.—Cement for sale by barrel or gallon. A. WILSON. mh7,198,24ac

SCARF-PINS, FINE GOLD AND CORAL, $1 cash, or 5 for $1, for sale at MORRISON'S Jewelry Store, 355 Hudson street. 23,118,4

SAVE YOUR DOLLARS THE SMITH HATTER, can be found at his NEW STORE, 181 NASSAU STREET, Two doors from Beekman st., and next door to the Nassau Bank. Where he offers for sale HIS SPRING STYLE OF FINE MOLESKIN SILK HATS AT $2. The same as are sold elsewhere for $3 and $4. CALL AND EXAMINE. Times have changed—and every man should save his dollars, if he can. You can save a dollar by BUYING AT SMITH'S. mh8 24ac*

THE EXCELSIOR SHADE FIXTURE, the best shade fixture in use. Cannot fall down. WILL wear a hundred years. Just ready. BUY THE EXCELSIOR SHADE FIXTURE. Office at 292 Hudson street. Shades put up with this fixture. 18,128,9

TOBIAS' DERBY CONDITION POWders for Horses.—A safe, sure and speedy cure for heaves, coughs, colds, distemper, hide bound, loss of appetite, &c. Gives a fine silky coat, and will bring a horse into condition in ten days. For fast stock they are invaluable. 25 cents a box. Sold by all Druggists. Office 56 Cortlandt street. 6d26, 24ac*180

TRUSSES—DR. RIGGS' WATER PROOF multipedal Truss has met with a success in the cure of rupture and a demand unknown in the history of Trusses. Warranted cleanly and perfect in all respects for five years. Young subjects invariably cured. Also a varicocele Truss and appliances for enlarged veins. 2 Barclay st. 18,156,24ac

DESKS.

MME DEMOREST'S GRAND SPRING opening of patterns, 473 Broadway, 25th canal st. Branches in all principal cities. mh8 24ac*65

TRICOPHEROUS FOR THE HAIR AT 50 cents per bottle.—PORTER & FAIRCHILD'S Tricophorous preserves the Hair in its original Beauty, Lustre and Beauty, preventing or removing DIRT, DANDRUFF and all ERUPTIVE DISEASES of the Hair and Skin. Prepared by PORTER & FAIRCHILD, Perfumers, 416 Hudson st, and 138 Sixth ave, New York.

CHEAP AND RELIABLE HAIR DYE!! BRIGHT & COLT'S COLUMBIAN HAIR DYE. TWENTY-FIVE CENTS PER BOX. Sold by all druggists, and at the Depot, 53 Gold st, New York. Agents in the city and suburbs are the following well known druggists and storekeepers. New York. L. A. HOADLEY, 91 Eighth avenue. GERT & CO., 419 Second avenue, cor. 30th st. FOSTER & FAIRCHILD, Perfumers, 416 Hudson st, and stand 195 Sixth avenue. GUION & CO., cor. Broadway and Twenty-fourth st. DAME & CO., 438 Fourth Avenue, corner 31st st. READE & CO., corner Houston st and Avenue D, and at the corner of Allen and Stanton sts. Dr. BRYANT, 445 Grand st, near Pitt st. SANDORS'S News Depot, 273 Division st.; also, at the News Depot, 55 Columbia st. Mrs. E. PECKHAM, Hair Dresser, 360½ Bowery. Brooklyn. J. E. GREY, corner Myrtle and Franklin aves. Dr. G. REYNOLDS, 500 Court street. J. W. HOSKINS, 66 Fulton street. R. G. RUTHERFORD, corner Myrtle ave. and Carll st. Williamsburgh. MALLOY & CO., South 6th st., corner Eighth st. HOPPER, 356 South 6th st., corner Seventh st. Dr. NORTON, 36 Grand st., near Second st. W. H. BARNES, 212 Grand st, near Seventh st. THOMPSON'S Variety Store, 276 Grand st. W. S. GAGE, corner South Second and Ninth sts. Jersey City. PECK'S News Depot, 92 Newark avenue. Jamaica, L. I. PECK & CO., Hall of Pharmacy—also for sale by Druggists generally.

Manufactured and for sale (wholesale or retail) at 46 SOUTH SECOND ST., Williamsburgh, L. I. Orders all orders should be addressed. mh13 24ac*105

BUSINESS CHANCES.

BLACKSMITHS SHOP FOR SALE—A horse shoeing shop, with 2 good sets of tools, a large stock of shoes, and the best run of work in the city; will be sold reasonable. For particulars apply 193 Norfolk st, up stairs. 22,175,6

CONFECTIONARY FOR SALE—ONE OF the oldest established confectionary and ice cream saloons, situated in the best locality on the 8th ave, 5 years' lease and cheap rent; to be sold on account of the proprietor going to Europe for the improvement of his health. For particulars apply 171 West 35th st. 24,117,3

CANDY STORE FOR SALE—THE OLD established candy store, 166 Leonard st; cold cheap. 18,135,6

MARKET STAND FOR SALE—THE Pine double stand, 16 and 18 Centre Market, suitable for any business; will be sold cheap. Apply to ALEX. TURNBULL, 85 Charles st, near 4th st. 21,0

OYSTER AND DINING SALOON FOR sale—$500 will buy an oyster and dining saloon; an excellent business stand, and well fitted up with boxes. Inquire at the "Atlantic," Canal and Varick st, N. Y. 18,152,6

STAND IN WEST WASHINGTON MARket for sale. Inquire of F. A. WILKISSON, No. 246. 21,120,3

STORE FOR SALE—THE GROCERY store, corner of South First and First st, Williamsburgh, lately occupied by John G. Schwartman, deceased, will be sold at private sale on Monday, the 25th inst, at 2 P. M. For further particulars inquire of JULIUS CONSMILLER, corner White and Elm streets, N. Y. 22,172,2

PUBLICATIONS, &c.

THE NATIONAL CONTROVERSY; OR THE VOICE OF THE FATHERS UPON THE STATE OF THE COUNTRY. By JOSEPH C. STILES, D. D. New York: Rudd & Carlton.

Having read the book, by Rev. Joseph C. Stiles, entitled The National Controversy, &c., we cheerfully commend it to the patronage of all Union loving citizens, as able and valuable document on the great question now distracting our beloved country.

In behalf of the Executive Committee of the National Society for the promotion of National Unity.

P. B. MORSE, Pres't.

New York, March 19, 1861. May be found in all the Book Stores. 21,170,3

REAL ESTATE.

BUILDING LOTS FOR SALE ON Liberal terms, or exchange for improved city property—900 building lots, convenient to railroads, in Brooklyn, in the 9th and 18th wards, price from $150 to $400 per lot. Inquire on the corner of Myrtle and Lewis ave., Broo