

NOTES OF NANTUCKET.

The Lazy Life of the People of That Island.

Primitive Honesty—The Decay of the Whaling Business—The Inevitable Fate of Nantucket Relics, Historic Family Names.

NANTUCKET, Sept. 15.—A flavor of the old-time whaling business still lingers about the town. Whales ships long ago gone. Store houses, cooper shops, and other edifices connected with that occupation still visible near the water's edge.

One of Nantucket's curiosities is Mrs. McCleave and her private museum, of which Mrs. McCleave is herself the greatest oddity. The museum is at this lady's private residence. Admittance 15 cents. Hours from 9 to 5 p. m. Mrs. McCleave is a short, stout, thick and fat lady. She gives a verbal description of each curiosity. She seats as many of her patrons as can gather about a table, and bids them admire a collection of ivory napkin rings, paper knives, etc., carved, according to her account, by a "wonderful youth of eighteen," who sailed in her husband's ship and was somewhat addicted to whisky.

Save on the street, certain relics of the old Nantucket whaling merchants. Or possibly the sons of the pillars of business forty years ago. F. E. N., First Families of Nantucket. Attired in black broadcloth. Middle-aged, grey whiskered, spectacled, prim, dignified, and sober. Long past the friskiness of youth. Face slow and measured. Principal events of their daily lives—breakfast, dinner, supper, the daily paper and the arrival of the steamboat from New Bedford. Topics of conversation, the weather, politics and old times.

President of the bank pointed out to me. Large man. Imposing. Supports well the dignity of the bank. Bank seemed to ooze from every pore. Did not see his pores. Covered with official broadcloth. The old-time commercial pillars of Nantucket never during the hottest summers relieve them selves of the dignity of black broadcloth. Historic family names of Nantucket, Folger, Macey, Coffin, Starbuck, Swain, Pitman, Husey, Barnard, Coleman, very numerous. Blood relationship universal. All to some extent comins.

Meat markets sell their surplus stock at auction on certain days. Previous announcement by town crier throughout the town, thus: "There'll be a meat ox at half-past ten o'clock in front of Burgess's market. Corn beef mutton! lam! half—past ten o'clock, meat ox!" Meat placed in lots on tables, each lot pierced by a skewer and sold to highest bidder.

Selling of old furniture to strangers is another important present industry of Nantucket. Visited one store filled with tables, bureaus, tea-trays, tea-kettles, etc., etc., paper plates and platters, tongs, shovels, and-irons, clocks, mirrors, and a thousand other articles of domestic use, and in domestic use from one hundred to two hundred years ago, sold on commission. Dealer informed me that this was the greatest sale and debit of many of the Nantucket relics. As the older members die the younger cease to prize their antiques. Or if prized for a time, cash in hand furnishes the stronger inducement. So at last the ancient family clock, chest and chairs go to the commission store. The stranger buys the relic, carts it off and carries it to the mainland. Its family history is lost. It commences a new career simply as an antique. Possibly in thirty years more, it may drift into another commission store and for a time amuse some other antiquarian purchaser.

Town jailer gets fifty dollars a year salary and house rent. Has little to do. Jail not a popular place of resort. Ben Franklin's mother born here, ditto Lucretia Mott and Tom and Maria Mitchell, astronomers, ditto Secretary Folger. Nantucket's peculiar has no spring; one hour; slightly bickery; open box for the top; you sit in behind; horses generally thin; by some attributed to fish and sea-weed diet; presumably a slander.

Nantucketers have had a habit of being born at various distant points on the globe. Cause, father and mother on whale ships. Fort made; child born, possibly Valparaiso, Honolulu, Rio Janeiro or on mid-ocean. Birth entry of some Nantucket children reads, "Born in latitude 30, north 43, west from meridian of Greenwich, a son," etc.

The longevity of the male Nantucketers is remarkable. Octogenarians are comparatively common. Some live too long. They do not know what to do with themselves, and may have dependent relatives too long waiting for their demise and their property. A man at eighty-four ought to have some consideration for his possible heirs, but the pure salt air here has remarkable preservative properties. It will so harden a man's body that it will refuse to crack and let out his soul, though that soul be ever so willing to go.

The older Nantucketers lament the decay of the whaling business. Financially it was profitable to a few; to the many it gave a subsistence. It involved a hard, coarse life for those engaged in it, a sad one for those left behind and an unnatural one for all. The men were packed in those small ships for two, three, sometimes four years. They touched at certain ports once in five or six months for provisions and water. Their only change and recreation at sea lay in using and murdering whales. Their joy was when the lance pierced animal's vitals and it spouted thick. Their chief hope lay in the few hundred dollars possibly to be paid them at the end of the voyage, and that not to come for a year.

Their glimpses of shore life was a spree. If the whaler married the bride of a month for a three weeks stay on shore, for of similar duration. He knew not what to do. The phrase, "uneasy water" but for him a wrong.

So the married whale hunter passed his life until he arrived at middle age. I asked Capt. John Morris if this was not the correct picture of the whaler's life. "No," said he, "we enjoyed our lives at sea. There was nothing to trouble a man. He didn't need money ahead. He was sure of breakfast, dinner and supper. His appetite was good. What was there to grumble about?" As to life, views of life and life enjoyment, it is unsafe to generalize. What, as to existence, is "one man's meat is another man's poison."

One of Nantucket's curiosities is Mrs. McCleave and her private museum, of which Mrs. McCleave is herself the greatest oddity. The museum is at this lady's private residence. Admittance 15 cents. Hours from 9 to 5 p. m. Mrs. McCleave is a short, stout, thick and fat lady. She gives a verbal description of each curiosity. She seats as many of her patrons as can gather about a table, and bids them admire a collection of ivory napkin rings, paper knives, etc., carved, according to her account, by a "wonderful youth of eighteen," who sailed in her husband's ship and was somewhat addicted to whisky. If you do not so inspect and admire you are called to account by Mrs. McCleave. You must carefully regard whatever this show woman bids you. She is a lady in her manner, and does not hesitate to reprove visitors if, in her estimation, their behavior or manner does not suit her.

"Lizzie" tends the door and takes the money. You ring at the outer door, a gong sounds and a voice, apparently from the clouds, bids you enter and walk up stairs. This is "Lizzie's" voice from an upper window. You enter, catch a glance of the parlors, furnished and arranged after the precise formal, dead, cold and lifeless style, where certain fearful family portraits gaze steadily at certain chairs never removed from their places for decades, while these chairs return the gaze of the portraits and this entire staring and glaring is reflected in a ghouly mirror. The museum is a hodge-podge. Stuffed will cats, squirrels, tarantulas in alcohol, shells, family portraits, anything, everything that this modern Mrs. Farley can gather in and cackle over. Cackle she does for three long hours. If a visitor ventures to leave it incurs her outspoken displeasure. If you laugh in the wrong place Mrs. McCleave does not hesitate to administer reproof. If she sees an unfortunate not paying due attention to the cackle, she makes him a target for the attention of the audience.

Mrs. McCleave's English, as to grammar and pronunciation, ranks among the most interesting of her numerous curiosities. As to construction, it seems to pivot mostly on the proposition "of," which she brings in at frequent uncalled for occasions. "This cup," she remarks, "of which my great-grandmother drank," or, "this tortoise shell comb, of which my sister had made in Boston. She worked many months to earn the money to buy it, of which it cost seven dollars, of which when she had at last bought it, it had gone out of fashion."

Mrs. McCleave has a happy faculty of turning anything into a curiosity. She points out King-crabs and sea-weed. She from the Nantucket shores, Irving-pans which have no other merit than that of being frying-pans not over forty years old, and walnuts grown on Nantucket trees, as articles entitled to as much interest and attention reverence as household furniture dur from bu d Pompeii.

Much of Nantucket island is held as "commons." There are "sheep commons" and "cow commons." A "sheep commons" means as much land as will feed a single sheep. A "cow commons" implies as much land as will raise grass to feed one cow. One hundred and fifty years ago twenty-seven people owned all the Nantucket "commons." Each one of these original settlers had 730 "sheep commons." This made a total of 19,410 "sheep commons." It was all plain sailing arithmetically as to the division of these "commons" until a certain portion of these lands was set aside for other purposes.

These divisions were called "Squam," "Smooth Hill Commons" and "Southwest Quarter." These became no longer "sheep commons." But whoever had owned a fractional part of the "commons" owned likewise another fractional part of the "divisions." How much land in each he might own he didn't know. "His share," says one of the Nantucket histories, "might contain one acre or fifty acres, according to the extent of the division laid out," but 730 was the constant denominator, and a man who owned, say forty-five "sheep commons" of the original land, or, more correctly, 45-19,410ths of the common land, would also be the owner of 45-730ths undivided of a certain share in "Squam," and so on in the several "divisions."

This is not so very clear. But it is a sum in simple addition compared to what it is to come. Obed Mitchell, in 1831, wasn't satisfied with the simplicity of the fractionalizing of the Nantucket commons. He wanted a new division and a new denominator. He also wanted more land. He had a good deal of trouble, but he was aided by Law, Jew and the Massachusetts State legislature, he had made a new set-off to these commons. By this the nominator of the fraction was changed from 730 to 630, so that if one of the original proprietors had been alive he would have owned thirty-six sheep commons in the undivided lands, and thirty-six more sheep commons in the divided lands.

I quote again from one of the many histories of Nantucket as to the amount really owned at present by the so-called proprietors of these Nantucket Commons. This (Macy's History) says, as to the amount owned by each proprietor: "The original idea was an acre and a half of land, but as the term is now used it indicates nothing definite either in area or value, but means simply a certain undivided fractional part of a very uncertain something else." I have given here about half of the complications arising out of this division of the Nantucket Commons. The remainder would not instruct the reader, since by no possibility can he understand the portion already given. PRENTICE MULFORD.

For Revenue Only. [Conkers Gazette.] "Bub, will you hold my horse for me for about ten minutes?" "Not exactly. I kin git ten minutes most any time, but I'll hold 'im for yer for about ten cents."

A writer on Italy utters a truth not widely when she says: "I have sometimes those who are constrain d a

Advertisements.

M. W. McClesney & Son,

43 Queen Street.

2811

PACKAGES

Assorted Merchandise

Loading and to Arrive

Per Mariposa & W. G. Irwin,

Consisting in Part of

Bbls. Flour, Golden Gate.

Bbls. Flour, El Dorado.

Bbls. Flour, Crown.

Bbls. Flour, Anchor.

Sks. Potatoes, Best in Gannies.

Sks. Onions, Best Silver Skin.

Sks. Corn, Best Whole.

Sks. Corn, Best Cracked.

Sks. Wheat, Best.

Sks. Barley, Best.

Sks. Bran, Coarse and Fine.

Sks. Beans, White.

Sks. Beans, Red.

Sks. Beans, Bazon.

Sks. Beans, Horse.

Sks. Beans, Lima.

Cases Meal, White Corn, 10 lb. bgs.

Cases Meal, Oat, 10 lb. bgs.

Cases Wheat, Cracked, 10 lb. bgs.

Cases Medium Bread.

Cases Nicasas.

Cases Ex. Soda Crackers.

Cases Tins Coffee, Roast & Ground.

Sks. Green Coffee.

Cases Spices, Ass'd, all sizes.

Chests Japan Tea, 1 lb. papers.

Chests Japan Tea, 1/2 lb. papers.

Casks Whitaker's Star Hams.

Crates Standard Bacon.

Advertisements.

Silver! Silver! Silver!

GREAT SILVER GIFT SALE!

COMMENCING

Saturday, Nov. 29th.

AT

CHAS. J. FISHEL'S.

\$5,000 Worth of Silver Presents

WILL BE GIVEN AWAY DURING THIS SALE.

Butter Knives, Butter Dishes, Castors, Etc., Etc.,

To every Customer Purchasing \$2.50 worth of Goods.

TOYS! TOYS!!

\$2,500 WORTH OF TOYS

And Christmas Presents will be given away during this Sale to every Customer buying \$1 worth or more.

Don't buy Toys for Christmas, but call at

CHAS. J. FISHEL'S,

Corner Fort and Hotel Streets. 188 ft

Headquarters for Supplies

FOR THE

HOLIDAYS! HOLIDAYS! HOLIDAYS!

FOR

Santa Claus! Santa Claus! Santa Claus!

FOR

Christmas Presents! Christmas Presents!

FOR

New Year's Gifts! New Year's Gifts!

FOR

Every Day a Grand Opening Day.

New Goods are Daily being Placed on our

Counters as soon as Room is Made.

New Arrived from England, via Australia, per P. M. Zealandia.

of November 23rd.

Terra Cotta Figures, Bisque Figures, Al-

baster Figures, Motto Cups and Saucers.

Fine Moustache Cups, China Vases.

Bohemian Vases, China and

Bisque Ornaments, Rose

Ornaments, Ladies'

Advertisements.

L. B. KERR,

MERCHANT TAILOR,

GAZETTE BUILDING,

WITH A LARGE STOCK OF

New Goods and Materials

Of the Latest Styles and Patterns,

Which he is Prepared to Make up in the

LATEST FASHION,

AND FOR THE

LOWEST PRICES POSSIBLE.

GREAT REDUCTION

IN PRICES OF

BOOTS & SHOES

Large and Varied Assortment Just Received ex. "Mariposa."

"Small Profits and Quick Returns"

IS MY MOTTO.

Ladies' Gents' and Children's

BOOTS AND SHOES

IN GREAT VARIETY.

All Styles and Sizes of

GENTS' DANCING PUMPS,

Ladies' Common Sense Slippers,

AND CHILDREN'S BOOTS & SHOES

Of All Descriptions.

At Prices which Defy Competition

FRANK GERTZ,

FORT STREET. Honolulu, H. I.

ROYAL HAWAIIAN HOTEL.

The Royal Hawaiian Hotel is one of the leading architectural

structures of Honolulu. The grounds upon which it stands comprise

an entire square of about four acres, fronting on Hotel Street. This

large area affords ample room for a lawn and beautiful walks, which

are laid out most artistically with flowering plants and tropical trees

There are twelve pretty cottages within this charming enclosure, all

under the Hotel management. The Hotel and cottages afford accom-

modations for 200 guests. The basement of the Hotel contains the

finest billiard hall in the city; also, a first-class bar, well stocked with

Advertisements.

L. B. KERR,

MERCHANT TAILOR,

GAZETTE BUILDING,

WITH A LARGE STOCK OF

New Goods and Materials

Of the Latest Styles and Patterns,

Which he is Prepared to Make up in the

LATEST FASHION,

AND FOR THE

LOWEST PRICES POSSIBLE.

GREAT REDUCTION

IN PRICES OF

BOOTS & SHOES

Large and Varied Assortment Just Received ex. "Mariposa."

"Small Profits and Quick Returns"

IS MY MOTTO.

Ladies' Gents' and Children's

BOOTS AND SHOES

IN GREAT VARIETY.

All Styles and Sizes of

GENTS' DANCING PUMPS,

Ladies' Common Sense Slippers,

AND CHILDREN'S BOOTS & SHOES

Of All Descriptions.

At Prices which Defy Competition

FRANK GERTZ,

FORT STREET. Honolulu, H. I.

ROYAL HAWAIIAN HOTEL.

The Royal Hawaiian Hotel is one of the leading architectural

structures of Honolulu. The grounds upon which it stands comprise

an entire square of about four acres, fronting on Hotel Street. This

large area affords ample room for a lawn and beautiful walks, which

are laid out most artistically with flowering plants and tropical trees

There are twelve pretty cottages within this charming enclosure, all

under the Hotel management. The Hotel and cottages afford accom-

modations for 200 guests. The basement of the Hotel contains the

finest billiard hall in the city; also, a first-class bar, well stocked with

Advertisements.

L. B. KERR,

MERCHANT TAILOR,

GAZETTE BUILDING,

WITH A LARGE STOCK OF

New Goods and Materials

Of the Latest Styles and Patterns,

Which he is Prepared to Make up in the

LATEST FASHION,

AND FOR THE

LOWEST PRICES POSSIBLE.

GREAT REDUCTION

IN PRICES OF

BOOTS & SHOES

Large and Varied Assortment Just Received ex. "Mariposa."

"Small Profits and Quick Returns"

IS MY MOTTO.

Ladies' Gents' and Children's

BOOTS AND SHOES

IN GREAT VARIETY.

All Styles and Sizes of

GENTS' DANCING PUMPS,

Ladies' Common Sense Slippers,

AND CHILDREN'S BOOTS & SHOES

Of All Descriptions.

At Prices which Defy Competition

FRANK GERTZ,

FORT STREET. Honolulu, H. I.

ROYAL HAWAIIAN HOTEL.

The Royal Hawaiian Hotel is one of the leading architectural

structures of Honolulu. The grounds upon which it stands comprise

an entire square of about four acres, fronting on Hotel Street. This

large area affords ample room for a lawn and beautiful walks, which

are laid out most artistically with flowering plants and tropical trees

There are twelve pretty cottages within this charming enclosure, all

under the Hotel management. The Hotel and cottages afford accom-

modations for 200 guests. The basement of the Hotel contains the

finest billiard hall in the city; also, a first-class bar, well stocked with