

The Times' Daily Short Story.

THE DEVIL'S PACKET

(Original.)
The pirates that infested the gulf of Mexico during the early years of the Spanish occupation of Central America disappeared gradually, reappeared occasionally and vanished, the last ship showing up in the early part of the nineteenth century. One moonlight night she sailed out of Puerto Cabello, in Honduras, where she had been lying at anchor during a storm, and made for open waters.

"What is that black hulk out there?" said the man at the wheel to the captain, "and how does she find anchorage in such deep water?"

"She's not anchored," said the captain. "She's lying to."

"No, she's moving. Her yards are squared toward us, but she has altered her course, and I can see her sails. How can those few patches of canvas move so large a vessel, I wonder?"

"All the better for us," replied the captain. "A hulk of a merchantman with such rags will be easily overhauled. Put her north by half north-east."

Whether the merchantman espied the pirate and proposed to get away from her or no, she turned and moved in the same direction as the latter. Notwithstanding her meager show of canvas, she did not seem to lose much interval.

"How does she keep that pace?" inquired the captain of one of his principal men who came up to ask about the stranger.

"She's a queer one," replied the other musketry.

The captain called the crew on deck and ordered them to prepare for action. The guns were run out, ammunition was brought up, and a reserve supply of entrees was dumped at the foot of the mainmast. Then the grappling irons were fixed in place, and the crew stood ready. So long as they were busy they kept their heads, but the moment they began to watch the strange vessel moving steadily on under sails incapable of giving their own little vessel a headway of half a dozen knots they began to look puzzled.

Presently it began to be apparent to the pirates that they were gaining on the vessel. Notwithstanding that she was under the same sail as before, she was scarcely moving. Then of a sudden her sails were furled, but, wonderful to relate, she resumed her former speed. The captain, the wheelman and half a dozen of the crew who had come up to ask questions about the singular craft all looked at one another in astonishment.

"That's no real ship!" exclaimed one with blanched cheeks. "She is a phantom!"

"Shut up!" cried the captain. "She's a ship, a real ship, and we'll be aboard of her within an hour. The first man who talks about a phantom will feel the edge of my cutlass!"

This quieted the crew temporarily, though several who had been born within the fold of the church secretly crossed themselves. They were of the lowest classes, and their captain was no more enlightened than themselves, though made of sterner stuff. The breeze freshened, and it was apparent to the pirates that with the difference of sail area they must soon catch the stranger unless, indeed, she were a veritable phantom. Nevertheless at 2 o'clock in the morning, when the moon had passed the horizon, the pirate was as far astern as ever. The mysterious vessel moved on like a jack-o'-lantern, and the pirates began to believe that she was under the protection of a dark mist that hung over her. Several times this mist disappeared, and the pursuers always noticed that at such times the stranger's pace was either abated or she ceased to move entirely. After one of these changes of gait the pirates found themselves sailing half a mile behind her and on parallel lines a quarter of a mile apart.

"Send a shot," said the captain. The gunners got a gun ready on the forecastle, but there seemed to be some delay. The captain went forward and found the men shivering beside the gun.

"What's the matter?" he thundered. "May be she's under the protection of the blessed saluts," whimpered one of the men. "It would be impious to fire. Look, there's something white in the water amidstships! She moves again. Santa Maria! The sea monsters are bearing her forward!"

Every man fell on his knees and made the sign of the cross.

Suddenly the vessel, notwithstanding the direction of the wind, sheered around and stood on a course that would take her directly across the pirate's bow. The captain still kept on his feet in the midst of his kneeling men and watched her with open mouth and staring eyes. On went his vessel and on went the stranger, passing his course an eighth of a mile ahead. Presently his fighting nature overcame his superstition, and, seizing an iron that was heating in a brazier, he applied it to the vent of the gun. The sailors covered their eyes with their hands as the gun boomed. When they looked again, the vessel had passed their course, and at the moment there was a flash, and the light of Tophet flared through a square opening in her side, glaring on the figure of Satan, who was thrusting a huge poker into the place from whence the light was emitted. Not only the crew, but the captain, fell on their faces on the deck, not daring to look up. When they did, the devil's packet, as they called the vessel, was skipping away from them, pouring a black cloud from a huge chimney amidstships.

The pirates steered for land, deserted their vessel and forever abandoned their nefarious calling.

The devil's packet was the first steamer ever seen in the gulf of Mexico. F. A. MITCHEL.



Mrs. Hughson, of Chicago,

whose letter follows, is another woman in high position who owes her health to Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

"Money seemed but poor and paltry compared to health, and yet a few dollars invested in Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound brought me good health. I suffered for several years with general weakness and bearing-down pains, caused by womb trouble. My appetite was frightful, and I could not sleep, until I seemed more weary in the morning than when I retired. After reading one of its advertisements I decided to try the merits of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and I am so glad I did. No one can describe the good it did me. I took three bottles faithfully, and besides building up my general health, it drove all disease and poison out of my body, and made me feel as spry and active as a young girl. Mrs. Pinkham's medicines are certainly all they are claimed to be."—Mrs. M. E. HUGHSON, 347 E. Ohio St., Chicago, Ill.—\$5000 forfeit if original of above letter proving genuineness cannot be produced.

If the slightest trouble appears which you do not understand, write to Mrs. Pinkham at Lynn, Mass., for her advice, and a few timely words from her will show you the right thing to do. This advice costs nothing, but it may mean life or happiness or both.

UNIQUE NEW NAVAL BAND.

Not One of the Sixteen Members Can Speak English.

A United States navy band composed of sixteen men, not one of whom can speak a word of English, yet every one of whom is practically an American, having taken the first steps toward naturalization, is a living attraction now receiving attention at the League Island navy yard, says the Philadelphia Record. It is the first band of musicians ever recruited for the navy in Philadelphia. The task of forming the band was assigned to Lieutenant Commander Webb of the United States naval recruiting station in Philadelphia. At first it was believed that the full complement of men could be obtained in a few days, but the fallacy of this idea was very speedily realized. When the full quota was obtained, after three weeks, Lieutenant Commander Webb gave one long sigh of relief, and the men were very soon on their way to the League Island navy yard, where they were given quarters in the temporary camp that has been constructed for marines.

The men will serve as musicians on the cruiser Minneapolis, which is at present undergoing repairs preparatory to being ordered for service as flagship for the Atlantic school squadron. There will be five vessels in the squadron, including the Panther, Yankee, Hartford and the Prairie. So far as arrangements have been perfected, they will go into commission about the middle of December. In the meantime the band will remain at League Island, and the men will go through training drill and a special course of practice in music.

The men expressed delight at entering the service of Uncle Sam, and they were made especially happy when presented with a full set of new musical instruments provided by the government. They were also measured for new uniforms.

The Wild Ostrich. So extensive are the feeding grounds and so rapid the movements of the wild ostrich that it often covers fifty or sixty miles between daybreak and dark.

Billiards in Glasgow. Glasgow possesses more public billiard rooms than any other city in the United Kingdom.

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CONDITION OF CROPS

What Washington Weather Bureau's Weekly Summary Shows.

INDIAN CORN FAIRLY GOOD.

Great Western Staple Not So Badly Damaged by Frost and Rain as Was Feared—Status of Other Crops.

Washington, Sept. 23.—The weather bureau's weekly summary of crop conditions is as follows:

While the week has been abnormally cool, with general frosts throughout the central valleys and as far south as the northern portion of the central gulf states, the damage has not been serious except in the extreme western portions of Kansas and Nebraska, the Dakotas, Minnesota, Wisconsin and New England. The south Atlantic states have suffered from excessive moisture, while the heavy rains of the previous week over the northern portions of the Missouri and upper Mississippi valleys delayed thrashing of spring wheat and caused grain in shock to sprout. Drought has been largely relieved in the east gulf states, but continues in the Ohio valley, Tennessee and in the central and west gulf states. The Pacific coast states have experienced a very favorable week.

Notwithstanding the occurrence of light to heavy frosts generally throughout the corn belt, the corn crop has escaped injury except in the western portions of Kansas and Nebraska and in the Dakotas, Minnesota and Wisconsin. While low temperatures have prevented rapid ripening, especially over the western districts, the crop as a whole has advanced favorably, although the late planted in the Ohio valley and Tennessee has suffered from drought. A large part of the crop is now safe, but the bulk of the unharvested will require from one to two weeks of favorable weather.

The Spring Wheat Harvest.

The weather has been favorable for the completion of spring wheat harvest on the north Pacific coast. In the Dakotas and Minnesota spring wheat in shock has been injured and thrashing delayed by wet weather.

Except in portions of the eastern districts of the cotton belt, where cotton picking has been interrupted by rains, the weather conditions have been favorable for gathering the crop, and this work has progressed rapidly. The prevalence of rust, shelling and boll worms is widespread, and the boll weevil in Texas continues destructive, although premature opening in South Carolina, rust in Georgia and shedding in Alabama have been somewhat checked. Heavy rains have injured the staple in Georgia, South Carolina and Florida. Cotton is opening rapidly in all districts. The outlook for a top crop is not promising.

Late tobacco has suffered from drought in Tennessee and Kentucky, and heavy rains in North Carolina and frosts caused some injury in Kentucky. Damp weather has proved injurious to tobacco in harns in Maryland. The bulk of the crop is now housed.

The reports continue to indicate extensive prevalence of blight and decay in potatoes.

Planting and seeding have advanced satisfactorily except in the Ohio valley and Tennessee, where the soil has been too dry, and in the northern portion of the middle Atlantic states, where there has been too much rain.

Six Hurt by Auto Plunge.

San Jose, Cal., Sept. 23.—An automobile containing six persons plunged over an embankment and fifteen feet below to the bed of the Gaudalupe river, injuring all of the occupants, one of them, Mrs. De Salssett, probably fatally. The party consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Pietro De Salssett, Mr. and Mrs. Peter E. Col, their son Lewis and the chauffeur, William Corless. Mrs. De Salssett's chief injuries are internal. Mr. Col's left arm was broken in two places and Mrs. Col suffered the fracture of her collar bone. The hurts of the others consist of many bruises.

Odell Welcomes Farmers.

Niagara Falls, N. Y., Sept. 23.—The farmers' national congress assembled here in twenty-third annual session. The congress was called to order by President George L. Flanders of Albany. After prayer by Rev. A. S. Bacon, Governor Benjamin B. Odell, Jr., of this state was introduced and delivered an address of welcome. About 800 delegates, representing thirty-eight states, were present. Reciprocity treaties, good roads, labor questions and the ownership of public utilities will be among the subjects discussed.

Canal Treaty Evidently Dead.

Washington, Sept. 23.—The state department had no new dispatches bearing upon the Panama canal situation either from Minister Beaupre or through Mr. Herran, the Colombian charge d'affaires here, and nothing is looked for during the day which will keep the treaty alive. There is no intimation in official circles here as to what will follow the rejection of this treaty.

Incendiary Fire Near Boston.

South Framingham, Mass., Sept. 23. The handsome country residence of Hagop Boghigian of Boston, two miles from the center of the town, has been burned at a loss of \$25,000. The house occupied one of the finest sites in this vicinity and was handsomely furnished. The property was insured. There is said to be evidence of incendiarism.

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IN BOSTON MARKETS.

Quotations on the Leading Products That Are in Demand.

Boston, Sept. 23.—Receipts of butter are smaller and the market has stiffened up considerably. The demand is fair at quotations. No. 1 creamery, round lots, 22¢; western, 22¢; 23¢; Vermont dairy, 19¢; 22¢; reworked butter, 17¢; 18¢; jobbing, 14¢; 15¢ more.

Cheese has advanced, owing to the firmer country markets. The quotations are: Round lots, Vermont twins, 10¢; 11¢; New York twins, 11 1/4¢; 11 3/4¢; jobbing, 10¢; 11¢ higher.

Eggs are in good demand for fresh gathered and full prices are being paid for all choice lots. Western fresh, 19¢; 21¢; eastern, 22¢; 23¢; nearby, 20¢; 21¢; jobbing, 16¢; 17¢ higher.

Reports from the country indicate a very small crop of beans. The growing crop has been seriously damaged by frost and frosts in Michigan and New York. The quotations are: Carload lots, pea, \$2.40; 2.45; medium, \$2.35; 2.40; yellow eyes, \$2.25; red kidneys, \$3.45; 3.55; California small white, \$2.85; foreign pea and medium, \$2.20; 2.25; jobbing, 10¢ more.

Apples have been rather quiet. There has been some improvement, however, during the past two days, and the outlook for a better trade is considered excellent. Duchess, \$2.25; Williams, \$2.25; 2.50 per bbl and 75¢; 81¢ per bu; maiden's blush, \$1.50; 2.00; Maine gravensteins, \$3.35; Maine pippins and porters, \$1.50; 2.00; Harveys, \$2.50; 2.75; worthlies, \$2.25.

Exports of apples have begun in earnest, though still small from this port. The exports from all ports to all parts for the week are estimated at about 110,000 bbls.

Michigan peaches are in fair supply and sell at \$2.25 per bu; bskt; New York peaches, 75¢; 81¢; 2-bkt carriers, \$1.25; 1.50.

Watermelons are in light supply, but are easy at 12¢; 25¢.

A few Rocky Ford canteloupes are still offering and bring \$1.50; 2.25 per doz.

Cranberries are quoted at \$1.75; 2.25 per bx and \$5.00; 6.50 per bbl. The receipts for the week were 1821 bbls, against 885 bbls for the same week last year.

Domestic grapes sell at 11¢; 12¢ per bskt for Wordens, 12¢; 13¢ for Niagaras, 13¢ for Salems and 15¢; 16¢ for Delawares.

Bartlett pears sell at \$1.22 per bu and \$2.25 per bbl; other varieties, 75¢; 81¢; 2.25 per bu and \$2.25 per bbl. Damsons are quotable at 25¢ per bskt.

California plums are quoted at \$1.50; 1.75 per bx; peaches, \$1.25; 1.50; Bartlett pears, \$2.25; Tokay grapes, \$1.50; 1.75; Malaga grapes, \$1.25; 1.50.

Potatoes are steady and unchanged at: Aroostook hebrons, 45¢; Jersey hebrons, Aroostook hebrons, 45¢; Jersey hebrons and round white, 55¢; 60¢; bbl stock, \$1.75; sweets, Norfolk, cloth heads, \$2.25; 2.50; Jersey double heads, \$2.50; 2.75.

Native celery is selling at 75¢ per doz bchs.

Tomatoes are quoted at: Native, per bx, 50¢; 55¢.

Cucumbers sell at 50¢; 53¢ per bx. Yellow turnips are selling at \$1 per bbl; white, 25¢ per bu; beets, 85¢ per bu; bunch beets, 2¢; carrots, 75¢ per bu; parsnips, 75¢ per bu.

Marrow squashes are quoted at \$1.50.

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Real Estate Loans, all in Vermont	\$458,646.54	Capital Stock	\$50,000.00
Loans to cities and towns	61,800.00	Surplus Fund	5,000.00
Other loans	163,296.36	Undivided Profits	7,255.66
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Funds on hand	42,097.09	Deposits	1,037,821.64
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All our Mortgage Loans are made on improved property in the state of Vermont. Interest is credited to depositors April 1st and October 1st in each year, thus giving depositors compound interest. We pay all taxes on deposits not exceeding \$2,000. We should be pleased to do business with you.

THE TURKISH ATROCITIES.

State Department at Washington Urged to Take Some Action.

Washington, Sept. 22.—The state department has received a long cable gram from Minister Leishman at Constantinople, but nothing was given out regarding it except the informal statement that it contained no alarming news and was in part concerned with routine business.

Communications have reached the state department urging this government to say or do something that will put a stop to the atrocities in Turkey. It is said that this pressure does not emanate from the missionaries.

Officials at the state department are reticent about the probability of the United States giving expression to the feeling with which the alleged atrocities in Turkey are viewed by the people of the United States, but they say that reports from Turkey show that the deeds daily perpetrated in sections of that country are of such a character as to shock civilization and necessarily are of deep concern to the United States.

The state department still has under consideration the matter of the appointment of the retiring wali of Beirut to be wali of Brusa. At present the officials are disposed to regard the appointment in the light of a transfer rather than a promotion, but a further inquiry into the facts by Minister Leishman may change this view of the case. It was said at the state department that it was the original intention of the sultan to appoint the former wali of Beirut to be subsecretary of the department of the interior.

Murdered For Thirty-six Cents.

Hartford, Conn., Sept. 23.—An appeal over the loss of 36 cents, Paul Misick, a Pole, employed at a stone quarry in Newington, shot and killed Charles O'Brien, a brakeman employed on a work car of the Hartford Street Railway company. Misick made his escape after the shooting and is still at large.

Former Chicago Mayor Dead.

Chicago, Sept. 23.—Hon. Alton Smith, Sherman, who was chosen mayor of Chicago on the eighth year of his corporate existence, is dead at his home in Waukegan at the age of ninety-two years. Mr. Sherman came to Chicago from Barre, Vt., his birthplace, in 1835 and at once took an active part in public affairs.

American Squadron at Kioochou.

Berlin, Sept. 23.—The United States squadron under command of Rear Admiral Evans has arrived at Kioochou, the German colony on the east coast of China.

Stereotypers on Miller Case.

Washington, Sept. 23.—President Whitmore of the Stereotypers and Electrotypers' union of this city made a statement to the effect that his opposition to the Central Labor union's resolutions sent to President Roosevelt in the Miller case was individual and not as representing the union. He said he went to the executive council meeting to protest verbally, but that President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor refused to discuss the case. Mr. Whitmore said that the stereotypers' union is not and will not be involved in the controversy.

Nonunion Man Assaulted.

Indianapolis, Ind., Sept. 23.—William H. Collins, an employee of the Parry Manufacturing company and a non-union man, was badly assaulted on the street by a man supposed to be a union hod carrier. Collins refused, it is said, to discuss the respective merits of unionism and nonunionism with his assailant. The latter struck Collins a vicious blow on the head. The blow and fall caused concussion of the brain, from which Collins died.

Mine Officials Killed.

Ruena Vista, Colo., Sept. 23.—Colonel R. F. Morley, manager of the Ruena Vista smelter and of the Mary Murphy mine at Romley, and Adolph Abernethy, superintendent of the mine, were killed by foul air when making an inspection of the mine workings. Their bodies were recovered. Archie Anderson, superintendent of the Four Metals Mining company, who accompanied Morley and Abernethy into the mine, was unconscious when brought to the surface, but was revived.

Divorcee Marries in London.

London, Sept. 23.—Mrs. Edith Newcomb Ward, who recently obtained a divorce from Reginald Ward of New York, was married at noon to N. Gibbs Ingraham, grandson of Justice Ingraham of the appellate division of the supreme court of the city of New York. The wedding occurred at Police-stone. The Rev. S. J. Williamson officiated.

Insurgent Leader Caught.

Santiago, Cuba, Sept. 23.—Rural guards surrounded and captured Juan Lopez, the leader of the recent insurrection and the writer of the letter asking for a cessation of the pursuit, and another man.

Prominent Financier Dead.

St. Paul, Minn., Sept. 23.—Edward L. Hodgson, president of the Security Trust company, is dead at his home here after an illness of several months. He was born in the Isle of Man in 1841.