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THE PLAQUE AT SEA.

The Tragedy of a Ship's Crew Stricken With Yellow Fever.

In the gray light of a July morning we made a sail dead ahead, close upon the outskirts of retreating night. In twenty minutes we heard the report of firearms from her deck and saw her flag was at half-mast in token of distress. A murmur of excited sympathy ran through the great throng on the deck of the ———. There was another, of disappointment, when the purser told us it was a Spanish brig. It was as if we had wasted our compassion—an impulse natural to the Saxon breast, born of the fierce blood of those who peered through the stormy passes of the Alps into the Elysian fields of Latin foes.

The steady throbbing of the screws slackened and ceased as we closed upon the quarter of the helpless brig. In a light western air, she lay with topsails backed and her jibs and spanker idly swaying to and fro. Four men were upon her deck, and as we approached, lowered a boat astern, hauled it slowly alongside, and entering it left the ship. She was apparently deserted. They rowed painfully toward our steamer, and we gathered on the port side where the rope ladder had been hung, to catch the first glimpse of their faces. This we could not do; the four wore wide sombreros and bent to their oars feebly but persistently, never looking up. Our captain hailed them impatiently—they only waved their hands between the dipping of the oars. They were now alongside, and the bow oarsman clutched the ladder and began to climb to the deck. Two others followed him, all three hanging like spiders on the narrow way, resting at every round. The most intense excitement was visible in every face that watched them from the ———'s deck. Our captain hailed them from the bridge, and as before each man waved a hand in a mechanical way. Then the captain came to the ladder awaiting their coming. The fourth man sat still in the boat, but those who noticed saw him bending forward as he sat until the broad brim of his hat touched the gunwale, and the black locks of his hair showed from behind. He seemed helpless or asleep, but attracted little attention as the others climbed closer to the deck.

At last the uppermost had his hand upon the steamer's rail; a few more steps and he would be on deck. A hundred were ready to aid him in what seemed a task beyond his power. But the captain thrust them all away, and reaching forward lifted his hat from his head. A general exclamation of horror broke from our eager group. There, not two feet from the rail, looked upward the visage of Death—a yellow, shriveled face, and eyes that burned with the weak and cruel fire of wasting life. Long and matted hair and mustache sweeping down made the picture beyond fall. It was the look of the baser man, after the divine and human elements of his nature die away in hunger, thirst or bodily distress, leaving in his useless frame the reptile only, from whose depths the strict Darwinians claim ascent. An impulse of terrible dread seized all who looked upon the sallow face, akin in all the fear of sudden death.

The captain motioned back the man. He trembled like a leaf and spoke for the first time: "We are dying, señor." "Of what?" "We do not know." But the captain knew, and we shrank as if from flame at the words: "They are dying of yellow fever." If we had doubted this, the next moment would have proved his judgment right. The man remaining in the boat rose suddenly from his seat with a quick, sharp cry, "Santo Dios!" and fell upon his back dead.

The captain ordered the others back, promising aid on board the brig. They swore they never would return, and began climbing with the haste of desperation. Never will I forget the struggle that ensued. The leading Spaniard clinging with both hands to the rail, held back by the broad hands of the captain, seemed the active personification of the plague, doing battle with the lives of all on board. He was like one mad; he cursed and snapped his teeth, filling the air with bitter oaths, drawing his feet under him to the highest round he could reach, and throwing all his strength into a fatal effort. He made it, and was thrust down again by the same strong hands. But his feet had been drawn as close to his body so that they slipped from beneath him—and for a single instant he hung above the others. Then he fell, striking the next man and the third, and carrying them with him into the sea. They sunk like plummets; in a moment more there were but three broad hats floating upon the place of their descent.

The captain consulted with his first officer, a well-thrown pig of iron crushed through the bottom of the boat, and the bell rang out, "full speed ahead."

When the sun came up, the Spanish brig stood for an instant against the disk and disappeared in the dazzling radiance of its later rays.—C. F. Allen in New York Graphic.

The commissioner of the general land office in reply to inquiries with regard to land frauds discovered in California says: "I have had a knowledge of these operations for some time, and have had agents out there making investigations. In consequence of the reports received from them, I have suspended action upon all timber land cases in California, Oregon and Washington territory. Persons interested are not getting any patents and they will not get any until I am satisfied as to the honesty of their entries." In explanation of the nature of the illegal operations commissioner McFarland said that Congress, by a special act, provided for the sale to individuals of separate tracts of timber land in California, Oregon and Washington territory; the procurement by one person of a large number of such tracts through the co-operation of others, who purchased them only to transfer them to him, is a clear violation of the spirit of the law.

The Pennsylvania legislature has been in continuous session 260 days, and has cost the state \$750,000. Last Saturday was the one hundred and first day of the extra session, which has cost the people nearly \$300,000. It is proposed to make an effort to pass a resolution stopping the pay of the members after the 30th inst. This extra session grows out of the deadlock on the apportionment question. But a great many of the members are not adverse to stringing out indefinitely. Ten dollars a day is more than the majority can make out of their regular business.

The company organized in Seattle to build a railroad extending from near the head of Big Skookum bay westward into the dense body of timber lying between that bay and Chehalis river, have about 24 miles graded and will begin laying the iron in October, when it will be turned over to them by the Seattle R. R. Co., who will have substituted the broad track for the present narrow gauge. The Mason county road will also be narrow gauge and will use steam engines for motive power.—Courier.

"Why is it that a little country like France is, in proportion to resources, so much richer than America?" asks an exchange, and the Buffalo News thinks it is because Frenchmen sell American women bonnets.

The Verbiage of the Courts.

"I was in court a few days ago," said a time worn litigant, "when a young lawyer, arguing before Judge Joseph Barnard, read from one of the papers in the case including the usual verbiage. The judge suggested a briefer statement on the point, probably believing with the judge of the supreme court in the anecdote, that justices may be presumed to know something of the forms of law. The young man then stated his point in plain and condensed English. The idea then struck me, when would it be possible to relieve the law of all the flummery of the verbiage now employed. In actual proceedings before a magistrate this verbiage is discarded as absolutely unnecessary in argument; yet it is religiously maintained in all matters of pleading and in all orders, injunctions, etc., granted by the courts. Half the delays grow out of this use of verbiage. Half the quibble out of which some unscrupulous lawyers make their living are based upon this needless use of unnecessary words." A lawyer who was present could give him no encouragement to look for a speedy reform; on the contrary, he irreverently said that the verbiage of the law was as necessary to the existence of the lawyers as the flummery of some religions was to the success of its advocates and ministers.—New York Tribune.

Never in the history of this coast, was there such furor for planting hop yards as this season. In California there are 1783 acres of old yards, to which 2372 acres have been added this season, in seven middle and northern counties; in other districts of California increase has been about the same. In Washington Territory the acreage last year was 700 acres, and this season it is fully double. In Oregon the increase is quite large.



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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE city assessment roll for 1883 is now in my hands for collection, and all persons that are indebted for the same may save five per cent by paying said taxes before October 1st, 1883.
J. G. HUSTLER,
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The countenance is pale and leaden-colored, with occasional flashes of a circumscribed spot on one or both cheeks; the eyes become dull; the pupils dilate; an azure semicircle runs along the lower eyelid; the nose is irritated, swells, and sometimes bleeds; a swelling of the upper lip; occasional headache, with humming or throbbing of the ears; an unusual secretion of saliva; slimy or tarted tongue; breath very foul, particularly in the morning; appetite variable, sometimes voracious, with a gnawing sensation of the stomach; at others, entirely gone; fleeting pains in the bowels; occasional nausea and vomiting; violent pains throughout the abdomen; bowels irregular, at times constipated, at others, unfrequently tinged with blood; belly swollen and hard; urine turbid; respiration occasionally difficult and accompanied by hiccuping; cough sometimes dry and convulsive; uneasy and disturbed sleep, with grinding of the teeth; temper variable, but generally irritable. Whenever the above symptoms are found to exist,

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