SMASHED BY THE SEA

The Story of a Shipwreck In the English Channel.

[illegible]

[illegible] thrown to leeward under the weight of the elements.

[illegible] brought no abatement of the fury of the gale. Standing on the poop, surveying her shattered hulk, the skipper turned quietly to his mate. "Is the port lifeboat seaworthy?"

"Carpenter reports that it is, sir," returned his subordinate.

The skipper stood for awhile in silence, noting the sluggish life of the deck under his feet. "Suppose we've got to leave her," he said. "What d'ye think?"

It is the sole occasion where the master mariner will deign to consult and be advised by his inferior officer.

"She can't float much longer, sir," replied the other sympathetically. It might be that in his time he, too, would require to seek similar advice.

"Ah," said the skipper heavily, "and I saw her launched." He crossed over to the teak life rail and laid his hand on it, fondling it affectionately. "All right, mister," he said at last. "We're right in the track of shipping. Pass the word along to put a bag of biscuit aboard and fill the breakers with water."—Pall Mall Gazette.

Short and to the Point.

One of the shortest speeches recorded in forensic annals is that of Taunton, afterward a judge. Charles Phillips, an Irish orator, had made a flowery speech in an assault case. Taunton, who was for the defendant, said in reply, "My friend's eloquent complaint amounts, in plain English, to this—that his client has received a [illegible] and my [illegible]—that he richly deserved it."

The Boy and the Bear.

"Have you ever heard the story of Alby and the bear?" [illegible] father. "It's very [illegible]. 'Alby [illegible] heard the bear [illegible] was Alby!'"—London News.

[illegible]

After the Honeymoon.

[illegible]

Chiefly Concerning [illegible]

[illegible] Brooklyn Life.

Do not think that years leave us and find us the same.—Browning.

SOLVING A PROBLEM.

The Green Country Brakeman Who Introduced the "Saw By."

Many years ago a green country boy applied to the superintendent of a western railway for work and, somewhat against the superintendent's wish, on account of the danger to life and limb attendant upon such occupation, was given a place as brakeman of a freight train.

On one of his first trips it happened that his train met another freight train at a station where the sidetrack was not long enough to accommodate either of them. The conductors were debating which train should back up to a point where they could pass when the new hand ventured to suggest that neither should back; that they could pass each other by means of the short sidetrack if the thing was managed right.

The idea excited a good deal of laughter on the part of the old trainmen, but the boy stood his ground.

"Well, how would you go about it?" asked one of the conductors, confident that the lad would soon end himself against a stump.

The boy took up a stick and traced in the sand a diagram to illustrate his plan.

"Good heavens!" said the conductor. "I believe that will do it!"

And it did do it. Today every trainman in America probably knows how to "saw by" two long trains on a short sidetrack, but it is not so generally known that the thing was never done until an inexperienced country lad, who became the manager of a great railway, first worked out the problem for himself.

The White Shark.

[illegible] the white shark. This variety reaches a length of thirty-five feet and a weight of [illegible] pounds. Its head is long and flat, and the snout [illegible] the mouth. Its six rows of teeth are sharp as lancets and notched like saws. Its mouth is very large, so large one has been known to cut a man [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] the usual contents, sailors and [illegible] is commonly the white shark [illegible] follows the vessel day after day and week after week.

The Retort Courteous.

"Camp Meeting" John Allen was a famous Methodist preacher and revivalist of the old days down in Maine and, like most successful pulpit orators, his sense of humor was equal to his gift of speech.

It is related by the Boston Journal that on one occasion the old gentleman's wife was getting into a carriage and he neglected to assist her.

"You are not so gallant, John, as when you were a boy!" she exclaimed in gentle rebuke.

"No," was his ready response, "and you are not so buoyant as when you were a gal!"

In His Father's Footsteps.

Binks—Did Smith's father leave him anything? Jinks — Only his debts. Binks—How is Smith getting along? Jinks—Well, he has greatly increased his inheritance.—Baltimore American.

The One Way Out.

She—Why did he marry her at all if he intended getting a divorce so speedily? He—Because he didn't think it would be honorable to break their engagement.—Kansas City Journal.

Let no man presume to give advice to others who has not first given good counsel to himself.—Seneca.

LOVE AND FLOWERS.

The Advice a Discerning Woman Gave Unto Her Daughter.

My daughter, wouldst thou know a man's heart? Go to the florist; then, O [illegible] for in him every man [illegible] his confidence.

[illegible] which he sendeth [illegible] the quality of a man's love, likewise the quantity and [illegible].

[illegible]

Yet at first [illegible] he [illegible] "I say, old chap, [illegible] a stunning [illegible]."

Then the [illegible] a [illegible] for the truth that the end is at hand. Yea, that is the mark of an engaged man [illegible], [illegible] all orders shall cease [illegible], and until he sendeth flowers for his wife's grave that man shall not again enter a florist's shop.

For stale carnations, bought upon the street corner and carried home in a paper bag, are a fit offering for any wife. Yet a funeral rejoiceth the florist's heart, and maketh him to smile, for he knoweth that a widower's next order shall be worthy of a new cause and the game shall begin all over again.

Verily, verily, my daughter, I charge thee, account no man in love until he hath gone forth into the gardens and the fields and plucked thee a few dinky pansies or stray weeds with his own hands.

For when a man sendeth thee violets it may mean only sentiment, and when he sendeth thee orchids it may be only a bluff, but when he doeth real work for any woman it meaneth business. Selah!—London Tit-Bits.

HAD LUCK ON THE WAY.

The English Thief That Dropped In to See His Lawyer.

[illegible] "Where [illegible]?" "From 'The Reminiscences of a K. C.,' by Thomas [illegible]."

Funny For Her.

A New England lad was intently watching his aunt in the process of making pies and cake. He seemed very much inclined to start a conversation, an inclination, however, which the aunt in no way encouraged. She continued in silence to assemble the ingredients of a mammoth cake.

"Tell me something funny, auntie," finally ventured the boy.

"Don't bother me, Tommy," said the aunt. "How can I when I am making cake?"

"Oh, you might say, 'Tommy, have a piece of the pie I've just made.' That would be funny for you."—Exchange.

A Relief.

"Johnny," said the boy's mother, "I hope you have been a nice, quiet boy at school this afternoon."

"That's what I was," answered Johnny. "I went to sleep right after dinner, and the teacher said she'd whip any boy in the room who waked me up."—Boston Post.

The Change.

"You didn't use to object to your husband playing poker."

"No, but that was before I learned to play bridge. It is a lovely game, but I cannot afford to play it unless he stops playing poker."—Houston Post.

A CONTRACT [illegible]

[illegible]

A [illegible]

His Diamonds [illegible]

[illegible]

"[illegible]" said the wise judge [illegible] the chief merit [illegible] and service."

FRENCH DETECTIVES.

They Are Trained For Their Duties In a Regular Police School.

In Paris aspirants for positions in the detective force are taught in a regular school, where day after day they are put through various exercises until they become proficient and receive appointments or show that they have not the detective instinct in them.

The students first are trained in the use of their eyes and their hands. One of the lessons consists in placing the pupil in a brilliantly lighted room full of furniture and ornaments. Then he is taken to another room and required to make a sketch of the room he just has left, indicating the position of all the objects in it. He is allowed to look at a face for a minute and then required to describe the color of the hair, the eyes, the general form, etc. He afterward is required to pick out a photograph of the face from among several hundred others.

In educating the hand the student is placed in a dark room in which are many curious and unusual objects. These he feels over and then writes a description of them. He must remember even the slightest details. One test is to let him handle gems in the dark and then tell what they are, whether diamonds, rubies or what not. This is, of course, an exercise for the more advanced pu[illegible]

[illegible]

One [illegible]

[illegible]

Littlest Father.

The woman who came [illegible] was telling how she [illegible] take care of the baby. The boy was two and one-half years old. The baby was six months.

"That's the youngest little father I ever heard of," said the flat dweller she was cleaning up for. "Do you lock them up?"

"Yes," said the cleaning woman.

"Poor little fellow!" said the flat dweller. "Locked in to burn in case of fire! Some day when you are cleaning up for me I want to go over and see that little father, who ought to be in the cradle himself, taking care of the six-month-old baby. I want to just sit there and look on awhile. Poor little fellow!"—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Toned Him Down.

"This photograph doesn't look a bit like me," said Snarley to the photographer.

"I know it," said the photographer. "I was afraid to make it exactly like you for fear you wouldn't take it."

Tested.

Cora—Are you sure you will be able to support me, dear?

Merritt—Why, yes. It's cheaper to be married than engaged.—Exchange.

Hungarian peasants have a superstition that fire kindled by lightning can [illegible]