SEA STORIES.

Ship Captains-Pursers-Cooks A writer in an Roglish magazine says: -

The captains of some of our ocean steamers can scarcely be said to lead solitary lives, for they spend all their waking hours in sool ty. At least three times a day they play the host at the head of a hospitable board, and unless they are very cross-grained fellows, every one treats them with deference and consideration. They can converse, if they so please, with the stiffest and most dignified of the male passehgers; while the prettiest and wittiest ladies on board are flattered by their attentions. Altogether, I think the captain of a Canarder has rather a good time of it. Think of the characters he meets in the course of a twelvemonth's buffeting with Atlantic waves! A Cunard captain who should keep a carefully discriminated diary might produce a work as interesting in its way as Boswell's Life of He sees all sorts of noteworthy people. He carries the ambarsador accredited to the court of St. James, or Washington, as the case may be; he carries eminent actors and eminent songstresses going to reap a rich barvest of laurels and dollars in the United States; celebrities of all sorts gather their meat at his table. Sometimes, too, he carries people whose fame marvellously resembles in amy-the abscooding bankrupt, the fraud nlent clerk running away with his employer's cash-box and his employer's wife. Sometimes, doubtless, a murderer-well-to-do, or he would not be able to afford a passage on board the Capard boat-stained with the blood o his fellow-man, yet calmly chatting and sip ping his claret, honors him with a ten days'

PURSERS.

* * * "In the old days, during the great French war, the purser in the Royal Navy was rather an uppopular personage. The officers looked down on him as a sort of huckstering tradesmanlike fellow, the seaman despised him as a noncombatant. While the deck ran blood, and arms and legs were flying in all While the deck ran directions, the purser, they averred, was crouching in some safe recess in the inmost part of the vessel, nefariously scheming how to draw rations for dead men, and so put the preceeds into his own pocket. He was ordinarily known by the opprobrious nickname of 'Nipoheese,' and to this day the objectionable lumps which are found in a bag of flour are called 'purser' ploms' The position of the modern purser in the Royal Navy has been materially improved; he is no longer under the temptation of increasing his income by chicanery-poundages and percentages are abolished. takes rank with a colonel in the army, and is usually just as honorable and well-bred a gentleman as any other officer in her Majesty's service. As for the pursers on board the mail steamers and such like vessels, they approximate very closely to naval pursers, being well-uressed, portly, urbane men, spending most of their time in a little slip of an office, and addicted in their leisure hour to playing backgammon with the surgeon. But there is a kind of purser sometimes to be found on board of a passenger ship who has much harder work to do, and who is not nearly so spruce in his apparel. He has probably been a clerk in the shipowner's service, and being of an active and adventurous turn, chooses this mode of working his passage to the colonies. You may see him attired in an old blue shirt and a pair of duck trousers somewhat besmeared with molasses, serving out stores on the main deck to a clamorous crowd of emigrants, or retailing beer and porter at a shilling a bottle; from behind his diminutive bar. The ordinary purser is stout and middle-aged, full of dignity and reserve, never soiling his fingers; but this sort of purser is youthful, nimble, and totally devoid of dignity; hoisting chests out of the hole, opening barrels of pre-served tripe, and bottling off brandy and whisky. But there is one thing he won't stand, he won't allow the passengers to call him 'steward;' a steward, he maintains, is a different kind of animal altogether."

SHIP'S COOKS. "On board first-class passenger vessels the cook is an important, well-paid personage, and, therefore, is very much like cooks ashore. But the ordinary ship's cook, unless he is an African, has seldom much of the Soyer or the Francatelli in his composition. He is simply a sailer, who, in addition to his other duties. undertakes to prepare the food of the crew. When all hands are called he must desert his galley, and in tacking and wearing the ship it is his especial duty to work the foresheet. The cooking arrangements on board our smaller vessels are very defective. There is very little space, a great want of proper implements, and the food is prepared in the rudest and simplest style possible. The dietary on board of an American merchantman is generally superior to that of the English ships. have heard men declare that this good living is the proximate cause of the extreme brutality often displayed by American captains and mates. It doesn't answer, they say, to feed Jack too well. He immediately waxes impudent, and then a row ensues. I have heard such a scene described by an eye-wit-ness. A man refused to obey the mate, the mate instantly knocked him drawn with his fist; another man struck the mate in return, whereupon a regular free fight ensued. Belaying-pins and hand-spikes flew as thick as hail, clasp-knives were drown and used, till at last the captain quelled the disturbance by threatening to use his revolver. The curious thing was, that directly the mutiny was over, the captain descended to the medicine chest, brought up a roll of plaster, and spent the next hour in anxiously binding up the wounds which he and his myrmidons had inflicted. "I once saw a cook whom I pitied a good deal. He had been a ship's cook for thirty years or

more, but in his old age he rashly shipped as coek on board an emigrant ship; he soon found that to cook for thirty or forty sailors was one thing, to cook for four hundred passengers was another. These passengers were divided into about fity messes, and each mess had its own particular pudding or piece of meat. The purser had endeavored to introduce a very systematic arrangement; every mess was provided with a pudding-bag and meat-net, and to every pudding-bag and meat-net a number was attached-a duplicate of which remained in the possession of the captain of the mess. In theory the system was admirable. Your mess, let us suppose, was forty-three; number fortythree was attached to the bag containing your pudding; you presented your ticket marked ferty-three and the cook delivered you your pudding. So much for the purser's theory. Now let us see what actually happened in practice. About feeding-time a crowd of hungry mess captains, egged on by their respective adherents, hustled one another round the galley. Old Sam struck his prong into the boiler, like the Israelitish priests of old time, and fished out a bit of meat. If it looked as good or better than his own the strongest man present made a grab at it, regardless of tickets; some, indeed, grabbed two or three nets full, and so there were constant complaints and murmurings, for weakly and diffident people got no dinner at all. Old Sam strove to do his best, but he had no head for system, and therefore throughout the whole voyage he was badgered and builied and abused, till I wonder he did not end his woes by jumping overboard. I used to see him of

an afternoon sitting on the spare spars-the only recreation he ever took-wiping away the perspiration which streamed down his lean old wrinkled face; and, as I have already said, I pitied him from the bottom of my

Pr. Watts and Popular Fallacies. Benjamin Scott writes to the London Daily

"It is high time that some one appeared on behalf of Dr. Watts, and to correct a misquotation of one of his poems, which, by careless repetition of writers and speakers innumerable is fast becoming a part of the popular belier, and will, in common with other fallacies and falsehoods, require ages of denial and confutation to shake and remove. I refer to the lines which appeared yesterday in one of your leaders on 'Dogs and Policemen:'-

"'Let dogs delight to bark and bite, For 'tis their pathre to.'

The Doc or never wrote these lines, nor do they appear in any edition of his works I have ever seen, and are only to be found in the imagination of his critics. The point is a small one, but truth is truth. The words attributed to him are so grossly defective in a grammatical point of view that I wonder they hould have been set down to a writer who, whatever his merits as a poet, was an exceedingly careful writer, and whose work on logic was, for nearly a century, a text-book at Oxford. The lines, as written by Watts,

"Let dogs delight to bark and bite, For God has made them so; Let beare and il ans growl and fight, For 'lis their nature too,''

Simple and bordering, as intended, on the obildish, there lines are correct if not elegant

-at all events they are Watts'. "While on the subject of popular blunders, so spt, as Dr. Mackay says, to float about the world for ever,' allow me to point out that in your able critique of Longfellow's new drama, pserted a few days since, Endicott, the Paritan Governor of Massachusetts, is termed a 'nonconformist.' This confounding of the 'separatist' colony of New Plymouth (the pilgrim fathers) with the conforming colonists of Boston, who persecuted nonconforming Quakers and Anabaptists, is an inveterate vice of modern history, and will, notwithstanding its bistorical falsity, manifest absurdity, and the contradiction it carries on its face, continue to be the creed of thousands who take all they read for gospel, and never care to winnow the false from the true.

"Your critic sins in very good company, for Mr. Lengfellow, who still honors our country by his presence, is guilty of a similar fallacy in connection with this subject, which poetical icense may permit, but which history does not ustify. I alinde to his charming poem, 'The Courtship of Miles Standish,' in which he introduces 'The Puritan maiden Priscilla' as the central figure, at a period auterior to the landing of a Puritan in New England, Confusion as to religious parties in England is very excusable in an American but should not exist here, where the 'hard and fast line' between conformity and nonconformity, between 'State' and 'free' religion, continues to this hour."

Ellen Tree and the Oil Lumps. The following anecdote of Fllen Tree, now Mrs. Charles Kean, is told by Sol Smith, in his

latest book of stage reminiscences:-Gas had not been introduced into St. Louis in 1845, and our oil lamps at the wings had a eaugerous way of flaring up in a most unruly manner, occasionally threatening to set pre to the lamp landers, and thus cudanger the building. The lamps were open "floa s," with wickboiders coming up from the bostom, and the oil, when heated, would take fire and burn up in a large name. To goard against accidents we had a tub of water placed on each side of the stage, with a large swab or mop in it tendy for use at any moment; and scarcely a night passed without a swabbing being re-

The wing hands (subordinate stage carpenters) were instructed to keep a strict watch over the wing lamps, and to use the swab promptly whenever occasion might require. Besides these wa'ches, every actor and accress seli a deep interest in the swabbing process, and in not an unusual thing to see Richard Third or Handel, just before entering upon the stage, catch up a swab and oash it upon the ris up finners, which, if not attended to, were likely to burn up the Tower of Loudon, or the

Toyal palace of Elamore.

Mass Tree was performing the part of Julie! and had taken her station (Act 2, Scene 2) or the balcony, for the purpose of enjoying the fresh night-breeze after the fatigue of the ball which had concluded in the previous act, and to think of the young pilgrim who had so greatly interested her during the lesuval, when, casting her eyes over the way, she saw that one of the wing lamps was just beginning to flare up, and all eyes being by d upon her, there was imminent danger of a conflagra fon. The fair Jule had taken her seat on the balcony, but was ob-served to fidget and torn in her chair in a most un-Ju iet like manner, calling off, through the window behind her, in a loud whisper, for "somebody to get the swab!"

Remeo, who had entered from the right hand side, and had not seen the flaring lamp, went on with his speech, interrupted from time to time by the lovely Capulet. Romeo-"She speaks, yet she says nothing. Juliet (Aside)—"Where is Mr. Sol. Smith? Will somebody call him?"

Romeo-"Her eye discourses. I will an June (Aside)- 'Will nobody get the swab? We shall be burnt up." Romeo-"I am too bold; 'tis not to me she

Juliet (Aside) - "No; it is to somebody to bring the swab. Where is Mr. Sol, Smith?" Fonco-"See how she leans her cheek upon her hand. On that I were a glove upon that hand, that I might truch that cheek!"

Julie!—"Ah me!" (Aside)—"We'd better not go on. Where is the swab?"

Romeo- ' hhe speaks! On speak again, bright Ju iel- (Aside) - 'If that swab isn't brought this instant; I'll come down-I will. At ! there's Mr. Sol. Smith with the swab at last." Romeo-(Spraks the balance of the speech, inteeded by Juliet, who is watching the swab-

Junet-"Oh! Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou komeo?"
(Arice)- "Thank heaven, the danger's over; the swab has saved us !" "Deny thy father and refuse thy name"-aud

The November Meteors

The sunual meteoric shower is expected this year between the 12 h and 15 h of November. The astronomer of the Chempati Observatory

willes to the Gazelle of that city:'On the 12 h and 15 h of November, between he hours of midnight and suprise, watch will be kept at this Observatory for the so called November' meleors. In this labor it is pecu-tiarly advantageous to have the co-operation of several observers; and as the observations are of a very simple character, the director would cordially invite all who are interested in this subject to unite therein with him. Those who cannot do duty at the Ob-ervatory may still accomplish something at their own residences, especially if provided with a good watch and a star map or globe. A map of the bright stars within forty-five degrees of Leo may indeed be easily constructed beforehand, and be used with

"Corresponding observations will be made at several points within a hundred miles of us, and t is hoped that some results for paratlax may be

deduced. "All who intend observing will do well to communicate at once with the undersigned, stating to what extent they can take part in the "Cincinnati Observatory, October 28," observations.

A VALUABLE LAMP. - Dr. Richardson exbiblied at the British Society for the Advancement of Solence, a lamp, which he tad instructed for transmitting light through the structures of the animal body. He believed that the idea that this could be effected was given in Priestley's Work on Electricity; that great chemist had observed, on passing a discharge of a Leyden battery through his finger, that the structure seemed to present luminosity; but the operation was painful. A suggestion of Dr. Mack intosh, last year, at Dundee, had been acted on by Dr. Richardson, who had observed the motion of the heart and of respiration, by cirect ocular demonstration, while these or gans were under the influence of various bodies belonging to the ethyl and methy series. Dr. Richardson had so far extended the principle that he was enabled to transmit light through various tissues of the bodies of large noimals. The particular details of all there interesting and elaborate experiments he described. In a child, the bones could be seen in the arm and wrist. The movements and outline of the heart could also be seen in

- Ex-President Buchanan's liquors brought \$1200 at public sale.

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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

OWEN L. JUNES, of Philadelphia bankrupt, late of the firm of Matthew H. H.O. E and OWEN L. JUNES, late doing business under the firm of HGWE & JONES, having petitioned for his discharge, a meeting of creditors will be beid on the inite day of November 18's, at 2 o'clock P. M., before Register William Momit Harl. Esq., at No. 51 Walls UT street, in the city of Pailadelphia, that the examination of the bankrupt may be fluid and any business of meetings required by sections 27 at d25 of the act of Congress transacted. The Beg.seer will certify whether the bankrupt has conformed to bis day. A meeting will also beheld on WED NETDAY, the Iwenty-flith day of November, loss, before the Court at Palladelphia, a 10 o clock A. M., when pactles interested may show cause Egainst the decharge. d scharge. Witness the Honorable John Osdwalader,

Witness the Honorane Judge of the said District Court, and seal thereof, at Philadelphia. October 21, 888.
G. R. FOX, Clerk, Attest— WILLIAM McMicharl, Register. 102'wit S. MARSHAL'S OFFICE, E. D. OF PENN

U. S. MARSHALLS OF AND STREET OCT. 21, 1868 This is to give notice: That ou the 2sth day of October, A. D loss, a warrant is bankroped was issued spains the estate of William B. Barkser, of this ociphia, in the courty of Phi aceiphia, and estate of Pennsylvania, who has been adjudged a bankropt, on his own pastition; that the payment of any debts and desivery of any property belonging, on such bankropt, to him, or for als use, and the transfer of sov property by him, are forbidded by law; that a meeting of the creditors of the said bankropt, to prove their debts, and to choose one or more assignates of his estate, will be held at a Court of Bank, tunicy, to be holden at No 53 WALNUT street Philadelphia, before william Academia Academia and South and Court of Bank, at so clock P. M.

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