Wrecks Far Out at Sea.

If the poet whose youthful dreams were typified by wrecks far out at sea, in the dim fashion of symbolism that poets sometimes affect, had only been a reader of the *Bureau Veritas* and its statistics of shipwreck, he would no doubt have perceived that the symbolism of his phrase did not end with himself, and that wrecks far out at sea are by no means uncommon in prosy commercial circles. Ships have gone down metaphorically ever since poets were, but there is something vastly different and a trifle more appalling in the literal going down of a vessel. It involves more than dreams and aspirations—fantastic fancies set with imaginary sails. Men sink, and lives which have been are lost in a moment, leaving but a bubble on the surface of the sea that breaks unmarked of man.

Statistics of maritime disaster—mere undemonstrative numerals—are nevertheless suffused with pathos. Every shipwreck is the wreck of so many lives—the breaking of so many poor human bubbles that reminds even those who never venture to sea in ships what bubbles they are and how liable to break. Such figures carry with them, in their prosaic way, whole sermons on humility, sorrows enough to wring poems from hearts of stone, tragic scenes enough to baffle the sure and ready pen of a Dickens; and as they stand one above the other silently in their columns, they seem almost, to a fanciful mind, to be talking the matter over among themselves, rehearsing what they really mean to the wives of sailors.

It may be taken for granted that the figures are not complete, that many a lost ship, with all on board, never gets even the epitaph of an Arabic numeral; but, such as they are, the report for July, 1873, as exhibited in the last number of the *Bureau* presents a large total. Ninety-nine sailing vessels and thirteen steamers were lost during those thirty-one midsummer days, about twenty-one of which, when the *Bureau* went to press, there was a mystery.—*N. Y. Evening Post.*

Tobacco: A Boy's Debate.

"What do boys chew tobacco for?"
"I don't know, do you?"
"Does it make their teeth white?"
"No, it makes them black."
"Does it preserve the teeth?"
"No, it destroys them."
"Does it sweeten the breath?"
"No, it makes it foul."
"Does it aid digestion?"
"No, it hinders it."
"Does it make a boy look manly?"
"No, it makes him look like an unweaned calf."
"Would you like to see your sister chew?"
"No."
"Would you like to see your mother chew?"
"No."
"Would you like to see your father chew?"
"I should not like to say; father might not like to hear what I have to say on the subject, so let us drop it."
"And I will drop the quid," said the father, who overheard the conversation.

"A GAY young Lutheran," is what an Oil City lady called a young blade whom she suspected of rapidity. The young Lothario denied the soft impeachment and said his father was a Methodist, but he "didn't belong regular to any meeting house, himself."

WHEN death has come it is never our tenderness that we repent of, but our severity.

HE WHO reigns within himself and rules his passions, desires and fears is indeed a king.

AN OLD man is employed in the house of Harper & Brothers who began working for them upwards of fifty years ago, when the firm was first known by its present name.

BOOKS in China are not dear and all the standard histories and school-books are very cheap. The whole of the Confucius classics sell at from 30 cents to $1.50, according to the quality of the paper, while the Chinese primer, containing 1086 characters, sells from 1½ to 2 cents per copy. The Chinese never lay duties on books.

IT HAS been said that the wheat of California is worth more to the state than its gold. A six months' review of the wheat trade of California shows a crop, sold and unsold, valued at $24,000,000 and it is estimated that the present crop will yield 40,000,000 centals.

The total population of the United States is 38,925,598. Of these 6,439,206 are males over the age of 21 years; 12,505,923 of the entire population are reported as engaged in "gainful and respectable pursuits." The number of persons above the age of 10 years is 26,388,645.

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