

ICE BOUND.

By W. CLARK RUSSELL.

Author of "The Frolic of the Greenway," "Jack's Courtship," "My Wife's Boy," "The Lady Maud," &c.

(CONTINUED.)

CHAPTER XIII.

I EXPLAINED THE HOLD AS FOLLOWS:

It was pitch dark when I awoke, and I perceived it must be the middle of the night; but, to my astonishment, on lighting the lantern and looking at the watch, which I had taken the precaution to wind up over night, I saw it wanted but twenty minutes to eight o'clock, so that I had passed through eleven hours of solid sleep. How, then, was it only possible to recollect where I was and to cast a glance at the closed door and port, to understand why I had slept so long? I had slept fairly warm, and awoke with no sensation of cold; but that, if I was wakened by the sound of my breath to freeze upon my mouth in such a manner that, when feeling the sticky inconvenience I put my finger to it, it felt like a little mass; and I likewise felt the pain of cold in my face to such an extent that I was blistered there, my cheeks, nose and brow could not have smarted more. This resolved me henceforward to wrap up my head and face before going to rest.

I opened the door, and, as I stepped out, I observed an amazing difference between the temperature of the air in which I had been sleeping and that of the atmosphere in the passage—a happy discovery, for it served to assure me that, if I was wakened by the sound of my breath to freeze upon my mouth in such a manner that, when feeling the sticky inconvenience I put my finger to it, it felt like a little mass; and I likewise felt the pain of cold in my face to such an extent that I was blistered there, my cheeks, nose and brow could not have smarted more. This resolved me henceforward to wrap up my head and face before going to rest.

My first business was to light the fire and set my breakfast to thaw, and boil me a kettle of water, and while this was preparing I went on deck to view the weather and to resolve in my mind the routine of the day. On opening the door of the companion hatch I was nearly blinded by the glorious brilliance of the sunshine on the snow; after the blackness of the cabin it was like looking at the sun himself, and I had to stand full three minutes with my hand upon my eyes before I could accustom my sight to the dazzling glare. It was fine weather, and the sky over the glass like mists of the schooner was a clear, dark blue, with a few light clouds blowing over it from the southward. The wind had shifted at last, but pure as the heavens were, the breeze was blowing briskly with the weight and song of small gulls, and its fangs of frost, even in the comparative quiet of the sheltered deck, bit with a fierceness that had not been observable yesterday.

The moment I had the body of the vessel in my sight I perceived that she had changed her position since my last view of her. Her bows were more raised, and the lay over far by the depth of plank I stand on, and as the rocks slopes on either hand, but could not have sworn their situation was changed. An eager hope shot into my mind, but it quickly faded into an emotion of apprehension. It was conceivable, indeed, that on a sudden some early day I might find the schooner liberated and afloat, and this was the first inspiring thought; but then came the fear that the disruption and volcanic throes of the ice might crush her—a fear rational enough when I saw the heights all lay above the sea, and how, in a moment, the ice which formed her cradle might be jammed and welded together. The change of her posture then fell upon me with a kind of shock, and determined me, when I had broken my fast, to search for her, and to look for materials for constructing some ark by which I might float out to sea, should the ice grow menacing and force me from the schooner.

I made a plentiful meal, feeling the need of abundance of food in such a temperature as this, and heartily grateful that there was no need why I should stint myself. While I ate my mind was so busy with considerations of the change in the ship's posture during the night, that it ended in determining me to take a survey of her from the outside, and then climb the cliffs and look around before I fell to any other work. Arming myself with boarding pike to serve as a pole, I dropped into the fore chains, and thence stepped on to the ice, and very slowly and carefully walked round the schooner, examining her closely and boring into the snow upon her side with my pike where I suspected a hole or indent. I could find nothing wrong with her in this way, though what a thaw might reveal I could not know. Her rudder hung frozen upon its pintles, and looked as it should. Some of the distance left her hull, which was a great pit or three or four feet wide; this had certainly happened in the night, and I must have slept as sound as the dead not to hear the noise of it. Such a rent as this would not be a serious consideration of the after part of the schooner and her farther inclination to leeward. Indeed, the hollow was now coming to resemble the "ways" on which ships are launched; and you would have concluded, by the appearance of it that it should slide a little more yet, and off would slide the schooner for the sea;—and in the right posture, too—that is, stern on. But I prayed with all my might and main for nothing but this, and that the sole chance that could offer for the delivery of the vessel for her proper element lay in the cracking up and disruption of the ice on which she lay.

Established as to the state of the ice and the posture of the schooner, I viewed from without, I sent a slow and piercing gaze along the ocean line, and then returned to the ship. The strong wind, the dance of the sea, the grandeur of the great tract of whiteness, vitalized by the flying of violet cloud shadows along it, had fortified my spirits, and being free (for a while) of all superstitious dread, I determined to begin by exploring the fore-castle and ascertaining if more bodies were in the schooner than those two in the cabin and the giant form on deck. I threw some coal on the fire, and placed an ox-tongue along with the cheese and a lump of the frozen wine in a panikula into the oven for I had a mind to toast my vessel's crew and thought the tongue would make an agreeable change, and then, putting a candle into the lantern, walked very bravely to the fore-castle and entered it.

I was prepared for the scene of confusion, but I must say it exceeded all I could have with something of the force of the first impression. Sailors' chests lay open in all directions, and their contents covered the decks. There was the clearest evidence here that the majority of the crew had been seized by the pines, a violent hurry, burning out their boxes to earn their money and jewelry into their pockets, and heedlessly flinging down their own and the clothes which had fallen to their share. This I had every right to suppose, and the character of the middle on the floor, for passing the light over a part of it, I witnessed a great variety of attire of a kind which certainly no sailor in any age ever went to sea with—not so fine, perhaps, as that which lay in the cabins, but very good, nevertheless, particularly the linen.

In many places, glittering among the clothes, were gold and silver coins, a few silver ornaments, such as buckles, and watches—things not missed by the pirates who had aided to discover a couple of silver crucifixes and a silver goblet and the hilt of a sword broken short off for the sake of the metal, and only used of Nothing ruder than this interior is imaginable. The men must have been mightily put to it for room. There was a window in the head, but the snow veiled it. May be the ropes need to be cut, and the vessel's crew and thought the tongue would make an agreeable change, and then, putting a candle into the lantern, walked very bravely to the fore-castle and entered it.

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HOOD'S SARSAPARILLA.

Keep the Blood Pure

We believe Hood's Sarsaparilla is the very best medicine to take to keep the blood pure and to expel the germs of scrofula, salt rheum, and other poisons which cause so much suffering, and, sooner or later, undermine the general health. By its regular use, the system is purified, and the blood is made pure and healthy.

"Early last spring I was very much run down, had nervous headache, and I commenced taking Hood's Sarsaparilla, and was much benefited by it. I recommend it to my friends." Mrs. J. M. Taylor, 1115 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio.

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Parities the Blood

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Sold by all druggists. Price, 50 cents per bottle. Prepared by C. L. HOOD & CO., Apothecaries, Lowell, Mass. 100 Doses One Dollar.

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33 and 35 South Queen Street, Opposite Fountain Inn. Our Expenses Are Not High and We Are Satisfied With Our Small Profits.

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33 and 35 South Queen Street, Opposite Fountain Inn. DONT FORGET BARGAINS IN CARPETS.

DONT FORGET

BARGAINS IN CARPETS. These are busy days among the Carpets. From early till late we are cutting, sewing, laying. Many new things are arriving every day right from the looms, bright and cheerful in their patterns. Lower than ever in their cheapness. Here are the arrivals of the day: Beautiful new style Ingrains at 25, 25, 35, 45, 50, 60 and 70 cts. Yards. More of those excellent and beautiful Tapestry Brussels at 50, 60, 75 and 85 cts. Yards. No old styles here. Every yard of Brussels in our house is of this season's manufacture, this being our first season for these goods. Rag Carpets in endless variety at 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55 and 60 cts. Don't miss seeing our 35c and 50c numbers. They are low, and under price. RUGS AND MATS.—Just in today a magnificent assortment of Smyrna Rugs at 60, 75 cts., \$1.00, \$1.25, on up to \$5.00. Also a full stock of Floor Oil Cloth at 25c, up to Carpet Linings, Window Shades, Window Shading and Pictures, Stair Carpets, 10c, up to Stair Oil Cloth, etc., etc. Rugs taken in exchange. Carpets neatly sewed and laid.

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Easter Cards. We will give you a beautiful card on Easter Monday if you will come and ask for it, or if you come Saturday, we cannot be so particular about one day; we have them for our customers.

Kid Gloves for Easter.

We have them also for you, never had such an immense variety and such low prices. Opened some very fine Dress Buttons to-day in all colors, riveted-cut steel. Our assortment of Buttons was never so large. Why don't you come and convince yourself?

Grey Jerseys, tailor made, the nobbyest, neatest garment we ever saw.

"Mather" Patent Lacing Gloves, colored and black, at \$1, and a handsome Photo panel with every pair, in fact with every dollar's worth of goods you buy. Easter Cards, Saturday and Monday. Ask for one, they are for you because you read our advertisement.

Keep your eyes on us. It will do you good.

Another case of Stamped Pillow Shams, splendid muslin, 15c a pair. Also the large Stamped Aprons at 15c. Plush Ornaments and Lambrequin Fringes, all styles and colors. You cannot do as well anywhere else. More novelties in our Millinery Department.

ASTRICH'S P. O. F.,

Lancaster. CLOTHING, &c. INFORMATION. To those about Ordering Spring Clothes: If you want to have Money and be Pleased, ASKEW'S.

ASKEW'S,

Boys' and Little Boys' Clothing. We're wholly prepared for cutting and fitting customers, and we believe that you will be pleased with the BEST CUTTING at our LOW PRICES as we will be to show you the best cloth best attached together. Boys' Suits, \$1.00 to \$1.50. Men's Spring Overcoats and Suits.

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High & Martin,

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Remember comfort and satisfaction goes with every purchase made. L. Gansman & Bro. CAUSTIC SODA. THREE AND FIVE POUND PACKETS. J. BOGERTON & CO., CHEAPEST DRUG STORE IN THE CITY, 205 W. and W. West King Street.

L. Gansman & Bro.

ESTATE OF JACOB REITZ, LATE of Lancaster County, deceased. Letters of administration on said estate having been granted to the undersigned, all persons interested in the same are requested to make immediate payment of their claims or to present their claims to the undersigned, who will present them to the court for settlement. MICHAEL REITZ, ADAM REITZ, J. W. B. BAUMANN, Attorneys.

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Delichier & Schaum, 620 B. BOBAUM, Manufacturers and Dealers in FURNITURE UP EVERY DESCRIPTION. Have removed to 13 EAST KING STREET, LANCASTER, PA.