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Mixed Way leaves Oil City at Arriving at West Penn Junction at 7.00 a. m. GOING NORTH. 7.15 h. m. Day Express leaves Pittsburg at Arriving at Oil City at 1.55 p. m. Night Express leaves Pittsburg at 8,00 p. m. Arriving at Oil City at Parker Acc. leaves Kittanning 6.00 a m. 7,20 a. m.

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# Select Miscellany.

THE MYSTERIOUS WIDOW.

During the summer of 1814, the British not only laid claim to all that portion of the district of Maine lying east of Penobscot, but Admiral Griffeth and Sir John Sherbrook-the latter then being the Governor of Nova Scotia-had been sent with a heavy force to take possession, and occupy the town of Castile, which place commands the entrance to the Penobscot river. Short. ly before the arrival of the English squad. ron, Commodore Samuel Tucker had been sent around to Penopscot bay to protect the American coasters, and while the British sailed up the Castine, he lay at Thom-

It was a schooner that the commodore commanded, but she was a lively one, well armed and manned; and that she carried the true Yankee "grit" upon her deck, the enemy had received from them too many proofs. On the morning of the 28th of August, a messenger was sent down from Beilast with the Intelligence that a British frigate was coming from Castine to take him. Tucker knew that the British feared him, and that also Sir John Sherbrook had offered a large amount for his capture.

When the commodore received the in. tlligence his vessel was lying at one of the low wharfs where he would have to wait for two hours for the tide to set him off, but he hastened to have cyrything prepared to get her off as soon as possible, for he had no desire to meet the frigate.

The schooner's keel was just cleared from the mud, and one of the men had been sent upon the wharf to east off the bowline, when a wagon drawn by one horse came rattling down to the spot. The driver, a rough-looking countryman, got out upon the wharf, and then assisted a middleaged woman from the vehicle. The lady's first inquiry was for Commodore Tucker. He was pointed out to her, and she stepped upon the the schooner's deck and approached him

"Commodata," she asked, when do you sail from here ?"

"We sail right off, as soon as possible, madata."

"Oh, then I know you will be kind to me," the lady urged in pursuasive tones. "My poor husband died yesterday, and I wish to carry his corpse to Wicasset, where he belongs, and where his parents will take care of it."

"But, my good woman, I shan't go to the old 'oman ?" Wicasset."

"If you will only land me at the mouth of the Sheepscot, I will ask no more. 1 can easily find a boat there to take me up." "Where is the body?" asked Tocker.

"In the wagon," returned the lady, at the same time raising the corner of her shawl to wipe away the tears. "I have a sum of money with me, and you shall be well paid for your trouble."

"Tut, tut, woman; if I accommodate you there won't be no pay about it."

The kind-hearted old commodore was not the man to refuse a favor, and though he liked not the bother of taking the wo. man and her strange accompaniment on board, yet he could not refuse. When he told her her he would do as she had re. quested, she thanked him with many tears in her eyes.

Some of the men were sent upon the wharf to bring the body on board. A long buffalo robe was lifted off by the man that drove the wagon, and beneath it there appeared a neat black coffic. Some words were passed by the seamen, as they were putting the coffin on board, which went to show plainly that the affair did not exactly suit them. It may have been but prejudice once in a while, when we consider the stern realities they have to encounter.

"Hush, my good men," said the commo. dore, as he heard their murmered remonstrances. "Suppose you were to die away from home, would you not wish that your last remains might be carried to your poor parents? Come, hurry now !"

The men said no more, and ere long the coffin was placed in the hold, and the woman shown to the cabin. In less than half an hour the schooner was cleared from the wharf, and standing out from the bay. that he was once out of the bay.

gratitude and satisfaction, and remarked had no doubt in his mind now that there debts, it's not likely I'll pay her'n.

go down into the hold.

old sailor, who was standing at the wheel, the string. "she takes on dre'fully?" "Yes, poor thing," said Tucker, as he

heard her sobs and groans. "D'ye notice what'n eye she's got?" continued Carter.

with tears." "My eyes! but they shore, though, when she stood there looking at the com-

Tucker smiled at the man's quaint earnestness, and without further remarks he went down to the cabin.

When the woman came up from the hold, she looked about the deck of the one of those who objected to the coffin's each. being brought on board, and hence he was not predisposed to look very favorably upness, and Carter eyed her sharply. Soon she went to the taffrail and looked over at stood by the binuscle again.

"Look out, or you'll gibe the boom," uttered the passenger.

Carter storted and found that the main sail was shivering. He gave the belm a couple of strokes aport, and then east his eyes again upon the woman, whose features were lighted by the binicle lamp.

spider right on your hair. No-not there off, and a man came forth from the rem-Here, I'll-Ugh!" This last elaculation Dan made, as ho

seemed to pull something from the woman's the Ugh above mentioned. Chertiy afterwards the presenger went

below, and ere long Tucker came on deck. "Commodere," said Carter, with a remarkable degree of enruestness in his manner, "is the oman turned in?"

the compass. 'Look out, look out, Car ter! Why man elive, you're two points to the southward of your course."

"Blow me so I am," said the man bring ing the helm smartly aport. "But, say didn't-ye notice anything peculiar about

"Why, Dan, you seem deeply interested about her!

"So I am, commodere an' so I am about and I to overhaul it?"

"Bshaw! you are as seared as a child in graveyard." "Not a bit. Just hark a bit. That

oman sin't no 'eman." The commodore prononced the name of his saturie majesty in the most emphatic

"It's the truth, commodore-I can swear to it. I purtended there was a spider on der. her bair, and I rubbed my hand ngin her face. By Sam Hyde, if it wasen't as rough as an holystone. You see she told me how I'd let the boom gibe, if I didn't look out. I know there wasn't no 'oman there,

and so I tried her. Call somedody to the

wheel, and let's go and look at the coffin ' The commodore was wonderstruck by what he had heard, but with that calm presence of mind that made him what he was, sat coolly to thinking; in a few moments he called one of the men aft to relieve Carter, and then he went down to look after his passenger. The latter had turned in, and appeared to be sleeping. Tucker returned and took Carter one side.

"No noise, now, Carter; follow me, as though nothing had happened."

"Sartin."

The two approached the main hatch, and stopped to raise it, when Dan's hand touched a small ball that seemed to have been pinned up under the afterbreak of the

"Tis a ball of twine," said he. tern." replied Tucker.

The wind was light from the eastward, turned, a number of men had gathered grave." but Tucker had no fear of the frigate now about the spot. The hatch was raised, and the commodore earefully picked up the ball In the evening, the lady passenger came of twine, and found that it was made fast on deck, and the commodore assured her to something below. He descended to the ever returns her will get his head broke. that he would be able to land her early on hole, and there he found the ball of twine As to trusting her, anybody can do so if

that, before she retired, she would like to was mischiel below, and he sent Carter for l see that her husband's corpse was safe. something that might answer for a screw This was of course granted, and one of driver. The man soon returned with a them litted off the hatch that she might stout knife, and the commodore set to work. He werked very enefully, however, at the "I declare," muttered Daniel Carter, an same time keeping a bright lookout for

At length the serews were out, and the lid very carefully lifted from its place. "Great God in heaven!" burst from the

lips of the commodore. "By Sam Hyde?" dropped like a thun-"No," said Tucker, only 'twas swoolen derelap from the tongue of young Sam.

> "God bless you, Dan I" said the commo-"Know'd it!" uttered Dan.

The men stood for a moment, and gazed upon the coffin. There was no dead man there, but in the place thereof there was material for the death of a score. The coffin was filled with gunpowder and pitchwood. Upon a light frame work in the schooner for a few moments, and then centre were arranged four pistols, all cocked went off. There was something in her ap, and the string entering the coffin from pearance that puzzled Carter. He had been without, communicated with the tricker of

The first movement of the commodore was to call for water, and when it was its owner. The woman's eye ran over brought, he dashed three or four buckets the schoolers deck with a strange quick full into the infernal contrivance, and then he breathed more freely.

"No, no," he ultered, as he leaped from the stern-boat, and then she came and the hold. "No, no-men. Do nothing live so long as in a normal condition of rashly. Let me go into the cabin first You may follow me."

Commodore Tucker strode into the cabin walked up to the bunk where his passenger lay, and grosping hold of the female dress, he dragged its wearer out upon the floor. There was a sharp resistance, and "Thanks, ma'am, said Dan, "Ha- the passenger drew a pistol, but it was hold on-why, bless my soul, there's a big quickly knocked sway -- the gown was torn nauts of callco and linen.

The fellow was assured that his whole plot had been discovered, and at length hair, which he threw upon the deck with owned that it had been his plan to turn out in the course of the night and get hold of the twine, which he had left in a convenient place; he intended to have gone aft, earefully unwinding the string as he went along; then to have got into the boat, cutthe falls, and, as the boat fell into the wa. "Eather think so," said Tucker, looking ter, he would have pulled the twined.

'And I think you know," he continued, with a wicked look, "what would have followed. I should not have been noticed in the tues -I'd have got out of the way with the boat, and you'd all have been in the next world in short order. And all I can say is, that I'm sorry I didn't do it."

It was with much difficulty that the commodere prevented his men from killing the vilidia on the spot. He proved to be one the coffin, too. Wouldn't it be well for you of the enemy's officers, and he was to have a heavy reward if he succeeded in destroy-

ing the commodere and his erew The prisoner was carried on deck and lashed to the main rigging, where he was told to remain untill the vessel got into

"What a horrid death that villain ment for us!" said Carter.

"Yes, he did," said Tucker, with a shud,

"He belongs to the same gang that's been robbin' and burnin' the poor folks' houses on the coast," said one of the men. "Yes," said the commodore, with a ner. vons twitch of the muscles about the

A bitter curse from the prisoner now broke on the air, and with clunched fist the commodore went beloow. In the morning, when Tucker came on

deck, Seguin was in sight upon the starboard bow, but when he looked for the prisoner he was gone.

"Carter, where's the vellain I lashed here last night?" "I'm sure I don't know where he is,

commodore. Perhaps he's jumped over. The old commodore looked steruly in Carter's eyes, and he saw a twinkle of satis. faction gleaming there. He hesitated a

to himself: "Well, well-I cau't blame them. If the murderous villain's gone to death, he "Don't touch it, but run and get a laus has only met a fate which he richly deserved. Better far it be him than that my Carter sprang to obey, and when he re- noble crew were now all in the ocean's cold

A Husband advertises thus; "My wife Maria has strayed or been stolen. Whothe next morning. She expressed her ran in beneath the lid of the coffin He they see fit; for as I never pay my own times, but beyond that epoch the chances

LONG LIFE.

The art of attaining to extreme old age divested of all superfluous details, consists simply in the strict observance of the\_ natural laws. Every day ought to be so apportioned as to permit of bodily exercise, useful employment of the intellectual pow. ors, the cultivation and gratification of the moral and religious sentiments, the taking of food and sleep, and the gratification of the animal faculties; but the gratification of the organic and moral laws should, like the gratification of the animal faculties, be in moderation, all excess or abuse as invariably entails unhappiness, pain, or disense, as moderate use insures the contrary. Every act that is conducive to health and happiness is also conductive to long life; while every infringement of the natural laws entails an opposite condition, and tends to shorten life. The strict observance of the natural laws is, then, the real and only secret of long life-always barring accidents, which are beyond the control of hu. man provision: But even here Providence by implanting the feeling of caution in human beings, has put it in their power to greatly avoid misfortunes, by teaching them not to place themselves in situations or no-

sitions in which such are likely to occur. There is no question that man does not things he ought to do God prasied Solomon because he asked for wisdom instead of long life. Why so? Because [wisdomthat is to say, the strict observance of the natural laws-entails of itself long life, . Roger Bacon believes that man could live a thousand years, if he only knew how to economize his provision of vital force. Tle celebrated physiologist. Floureus, also deduced from his study of the nervous centres that man'ought to live much longer than he does. It has been shown by statistical tables that married men live longer than the unmarried. The reason is simple : unmarried men do not fulfill one of the natural laws; married men also lead more steady lives, in other words, do not so often infringe the natural laws. Unfortunately, many mistake idleness for economy of force. It is not so. Economy of force lies in the moderate use of the powers, facul. ties, and appeties; but to disuse them is to abuse them almost as much by excess, Others, again, are perfectly intimate with the natural laws, and yet have so little control over themselves that they frequently abuse them. This seems to be one of the pains and penalties of our fallen nature-

the most grievous of them all. Long life is so exceptional a thing, that the Greeks and Romans used to chronicle all remarkable cases of longevity. Hensier and other writers have shown that the year before Abraham consisted of only three months; that it reckoned eight after the time of the Patriarch; but that it counted twelve only after the time of Joseph, who introduced the Egyptian met. hed among the Jews. The age of Methuselah prescuts, then, nothing so very ex. traordinary when we proceed upon this calculation. It was after the ere of Joseph that the prophet sang: "The days of our cars are threescore years and ten, and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away."

But it is well attested that in our days some people attain a much greater age. Samit Mungo, a Scotchman, and Peter Cearten, a Hungarian, are quoted as having attained a hundred and eighty-five years of age. Below that figure the instances of ongevity became much more numerous.

The particular habits of perons who have lived to an extreme old age do not, however, always throw light upon the cause of longevity, and are even sometimes coutradictory. Francis Mongo, who died at Smyrna at the age of a hundred and fourteen, drank nothing but scorzonera water, Jean d'Outrego, who died in Galicia at a hundred and forty seven, ate naught but flour of maize. Widow Legier, who died moment-then turned away, and muttered at a hundred and seven, always went naked footed. Maulmy, who died at a hundred and nineteen, was a vegetarian, and drank water. He was never known to be angry. Favrot, who died at a hundred and four, had his pipe constantly in his mouth; and centenarians Lave been known to have procticed anything but moderation in eating and drinking. Old Parr died at the age of a hundred and fifty two from a surfeit at the court of Charles II. According to Dr. Noirot, the average chances of life un to seventy have augmented in our own have diminished.