. . . THE . . . Ocean

Graveyard.

A Mystery of the Atlantic.

By DAVID WECHSLER.

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We never knew his real name. Everyone called him Capt. George; and Capt, George he remained, from the first day he entered Landport harbor until the night I parted from him in Ply-mouth sound, about four years later. His arrival at Landport was announced in the Northern Post and Shipping Gazette in this manner:

"Landport, Sunday. Steam Yacht Wanderer arrived from Stockton, with machinery damaged. Owner, Captain

What was he like? Well, if you had put the question to the gentry of the place some would have answered it with a shrug of the shoulders, as much as to say they couldn't well make him gators of the day, Capt. Roberts, the out; others would have told you he man who commanded the Sirius, seemed a haughty, reserved, stand-off the sort of man. If you had asked any of the near that he was "charming," but that they believed him to be a pirate chief ing ship, left New Orleans for Bristol. in disguise, or some nonsense of that kind. Among us divers he was looked upon as a bold, gallant sailor, who loved the sea, and everything connected with it, a man we all admired and looked up to.

He frequently put into Landport after that-at odd times, summer and winter-but came round regularly every June. He never made friends in the place, and few acquaintances. People still held pretty much the same opinion concerning him. On different occasions, as he passed along by the sea wall, I have seen more than one lovely head turned to take a sly look at his tall figure, and heard the whisper:

There's that strange man, Capt. George; isn't he handsome?" Towards the end of August I was engaged with two other divers to remove eargo from the steamer Magellan, which had run on an outlying reef about twen miles down the coast. The surveyor of the Landport Salvage association, Capt. Lorton, was in charge of the wreck, and had orders to make a push to get her cleared out while the weather held fine. We put up at a neighboring village, a place called St. Nevin, a

top of a small landlocked bay. On the third morning it was blowing rather fresh. While I was waiting in 1860 and 1870, no less than eighteen vesthe little parlor of the Mariner's Rest, only thing in the shape of a hotel of which St. Nevin could boast-Capt. we have the Crusader-the old Crusader Lorton came in. He went up to the barometer on the wall, tapped it, and

pretty little spot hidden away at the

"Glass falling; this breeze will freshen during the day, and most likely run up to a gale before night. If it does, there won't be much of the Magellan left by morning, Lawrenceson. At any lantic, the Thanemore, a British steamrate it would be too risky to venture er, and the Roman Empire, a splendid out with the wind rising in this way."

siderable stir amongst the fishermen on and reported 'all well.' But, perhaps the beach. Looking seaward, I saw a the strangest case of all was that of the large steam yacht entering the bay. I German ship, the Maria Rickmers, recognized her at once. It was the about which there has been so much talk lately in the shipping world."

Capt. George came on shore during the afternoon, and looked in to the Capt. Lorton, "She was a five-masted Mariner's Rest. It seemed he had bark, I think, and said to be the largest heard of the wreck, and was anxious to visit the scene of the disaster.

"It's blowing hard outside," he said. "and very thick, too. I saw the fishing



"There's That Strange Man."

morning, a sure sign of dirty weather at sea. We're in for a stiff sou'wester. I fancy, and I shouldn't be surprised if it brought down the rain before even-

He was right. As the wind increased a thick mist crept up from the sea, and presently a sudden squall drove a tor-rent of rain against the window. There was just six of us present; myself, the two other divers, Moxly and Williams, Capt. Lorton, Capt. George and Capt. Linklater, a retired master mariner who lived in St. Nevin.

We had a cozy fire in the room, for the weather was unusually cold, and erland-afterwards wrecked, you may sat around it spinning yarns. The heat inside and the cold without, had you might call a clipper, though a good, duiled the glass of the window, so that safe boat in a heavy sea. Her qualities it almost looked as if it had been muffed were well tested on that voyage, at any wate; we came in for one of the stiffest on the beach below, followed by a deep rumble. like distant threads rumble, like distant thunder, as the tic. After trying to hold her on her backward rush of of the water tore the course for some hours, I had to give it toose shingle from the beach. loose shingle from the beach.

Capt. George," I remarked, in a pause part of two days in a nor westerly diof the conversation.

"I'm half sorry to miss it," he returned, getting up and approaching the window. He cleared a space on the beat back to our former course. It was the window. He cleared a space on the glass, and stood looking out over the bay. "There's nothing I like better running high, and the clouds showing

'Ay, there's worse danger at sea than storms," put in Capt. Linklater. "I'm inclined to agree with you there," said Capt. Lorton. "When I had command of a North Atlantic boat, I'd rather have faced a three-day atle than be walled up for ten hours in a fog. A gale of wind is a straightforward, honest kind of thing; you can see at a glance how matters stand, and know where the danger lies. But Heaven defend me from a fog! I always felt like a child out in a strange place on a dark night, groping my way along and never knowing at what moment I might bump up against some

obstruction!" "There's worse dangers than fogs," returned the old captain, blinking his eyes at the fire, smoking very hard. 'Icebergs?'

"Worse still." "Derellets?"

"Worse." "What then?" "Rocks:

"Rocks!" exclaimed the surveyor. Why you have them plainly marked | more startling tones; on your chart, and know exactly where

to expect them."
"Ay, but when they are not marked on your chart, and you come across them where you don't expect them,' the other replied in a rather mysterious

I noticed that Capt. George had turned from the window, and was listening attentively to the conversation. "I should like to know where such a rock exists?" said Captain Lorton, in a way that showed plainly he had very little faith in anything of the kind.

"Well, I'll tell you," returned the old skipper, knocking the ashes out of his pipe, and laying it on the mantel-shelf. "It exists in the broad Atlantic-out in mid-ocean—somewhere between the Azores and the coast of Nova Scotia." "A pretty wide range, that," remarked Capt. Lorton,

"Yes, but a dangerous one." Linlater stood up , turned his back to the fire, and seemed striving to recall heart."

some half-forgotten facts. Every eye was fixed upon his weather-beaten face; we saw he had a strange story to tell. "It is a well-known fact," he began "that every year three or four vessels sometimes more-disappear in the Atlantic, and their fate has always remained a mystery. As far back as 1834, the President sailed from Liverpool, in

charge of one of the most skillful navi-

Atlantic, She foundered in the young ladies, you would very likely mid-ocean with all hands. In 1846 the Savannah, an American sail-

first steamer that



We Saw He Had a Strange Story to Tell. She was sighted off the Bahamas, but from that day to this nothing more was heard of her. In 1850 the Southern Cross disappeared in the same manner. A few years later an emigrant steamer -the Nomad, I think-went down with eight hundrer souls, and the cause of the disaster was never known. Between sels disappeared in the same mysterlous way. Coming down to a later date I mean,-the Cleptic, the White Slave, the Ontario, an American liner, and a host of others. In 1890 we have the Erin, of the National line, the Italian bark Silvio, which sailed from Holyhead in January of that year and was subsequently spoken in the North Atiron ship which was passed on the 11th About twelve o'clock I noticed a con- of June by a homeward bound vessel,

"I remember hearing of her," said

salling ship affoat." "Well, this magnificent vessel, fully manned, and in charge of experienced officers, salled from Salgon for Bremen. boats running in for Widmouth this on the lath of July, 1882. It was only her second voyage, mind you. She was sighted in the Atlantic, about three hundred miles west of the Azores, and the total disappearance of such a ship, in comparatively fine weather, is one of the most remarkable of these ocean mysteries. From all those vessels, not one soul escaped to tell of the disaster, and save in one or two instances, not even a boat or life buoy belonging to them was picked up. How did they disappear? You will say they foundered in a gale; possibly some of them might have done so, but not all. How do you account for the fact that dozens of other vessels crossed the Atlantic in safety at the very same time, often without encountering unusually bad weather T'

> scems strange, certainly," remarked Moxly.

"It just comes to this," continued the skipper, in a rather excited way, for be was now thoroughly warmed into the subject. "It just comes to this: An unknown danger lay in the path of those vessels-or some of them, at any rate-they came upon it suddenly, perhaps in the dead of night when they were least prepared, and the result was an appalling disaster'

'But I don't see how all this proves the existence of a mid-Atlantic rock,'

said Capt. Lorton. "Wait a minute; I'm coming to that presently," replied Linklater. "In '76 I was bound from Pensacola, in Florida, to Falmouth, with a cargo of grain. My vessel-the bark St. Kilda, of Suth-'It's well you won't be at sea tonight, ran away before the wind for the best

rection. "When the gale stackened a bit, I than driving full speed through a gale,"
the went on, "provided I have a good
sea boat under me, and no fear of a
sea boat under me, and no fear of a
turn in, the man in the bows suddenly

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" 'Breakers ahead!" "My first impression was that the fellow had got hold of a rum cask, and had been imbibling very freely. I took no notice of the warning, but as I stood there, the man turned and shouted in

> "Breakers ahead, sir!" "Now, if he had said: "The sea-serpent ahead' or 'a mermaid ahead,' I mightn't have been so surprised, but 'breakers ahead'-in mid-ocean, mind you-fairly took my breath away. I rushed forward. As I stood in the bows, peering out over the tossing wa-

ters, I could distinctly hear the roar of breakers somewhere in front. "The moon was showing out through the broken clouds, and just then I caught sight of a dark spot straight ahead, round which the water swirled and tossed. I had barely time to ho! loa out: 'Hard a-port!'to the helms men in order to clear it. Without any mistake it was a rock. I could see its black top appear for a second or two and then it was covered in a cloud of foam. Sometimes a big wave swept

would have struck terror to your (To be Continued.)

REASON RATHER THAN WAR. International Disputes That Have Been

smashed with a roar that I can tell you

over it, but generally they

Settled by Peaceful Arbitration. Since the offer of the United States to mediate between China and Japan was made public attention has been again directed to arbitration as a means of settling international disputes. Follow ing are a few instances in which arbi tration has been successful: Between Great Britain and the United

States in 1794. Between France and the United States

In 1803. Btween Spain and the United States In 1818.

Between Great Britain and the United States in 1826. Between Belgium and Holland in 1834 Between France and Holland in 1835. Between Great Britain and the Unit-

d States in 1838. Between Portugal and the United States in 1850.

Between Great Britain and the Unitd States in 1853. Between Great Britain and the Unit-

Between Chile and the United States in 1858. Between Paraguay and the United

Between Canada, Costa Rica and the nited States in 1866. Between Great Britain and Brazil in

Between Peru and the United States in 1863,

Between Great Britain and the United States in 1864. Between Ecuador and the United

States in 1864. Between France and Prussia in 1867. Between Turkey and Greece in 1867. Between Great Britain and Spain in

Between Great Britain and th United States in 1871. Between Great Britain and the United States in 1872.

Between Italy and Switzerland in Between Great Britain and Portugal in 1875.

Between China and Japan in 1876, Between Persia and Afghanistan in

Between Spain and the United State In 1879.

Between Great Britain and Nicaragua in 1879. Between France and the United States in in 1880.

Between Costa Rica and the United States in 1881. 1881.

Between Chile and Colombia in 1881. Between Chile and Argentina in 1881 Between Great Britain and Nicara-

Becween Great Britain and the United States in 1881. Between Holland and Hayti in 1882.

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