

SHIPWRECKED ON A DESERT ISLAND

TERRIBLE EXPERIENCE ENDURED BY J. DEWITT MEIKELL.

Schooner on Which He Was Going to Alaska Went Aground on a Reef, But the Passengers Succeeded in Reaching an Uninhabited Island, Where for Forty-Five Days They Had to Subsist as Best They Could. Rescued by a Fishing Schooner.

J. DeWitt Meikell, of Wilkes-Barre, a member of the leather firm of Fry Brothers and Meikell, of North Main street, returned Sunday after being absent from that city for nine months. Mr. Meikell left that city last winter for California and during his absence he underwent an experience the recital of which reads like one of Robinson Crusoe's adventures on the island of Juan Fernandez or one of Jules Verne's most imaginative works of fiction says the Wilkes-Barre Times. Here it is:

"After spending three months in California, Mr. Meikell went to Seattle, Washington, and in the latter part of March he and twenty-nine other men left on the schooner Elsie, 1,000 tons burden, for Kotzebue Sound, in the extreme northern portion of Alaska. After being out twenty-one days the schooner ran aground on a reef. It was about one o'clock in the morning and impenetrable darkness enveloped the fated schooner. The men aboard, aroused from their sleep by the violence of the shock, emerged from their berths and attempted to dress. But it was impossible, as the water had attained a depth of a foot and a half in the ship and it was rapidly rising. The men saw that it was a desperate fight for their lives and, without waiting longer to strive to cover their almost naked persons, they attempted to go up the hatchway. But they were swept back by a deluge of water and knocked down in the cabin, which by this time was filled with water to a depth of four and a half feet.

ALMOST ABANDONED HOPE.

"The unfortunate men almost abandoned hope of escape. But they succeeded to make a desperate attempt to ascend the hatchway. Another herculean, almost superhuman effort, and they succeeded in reaching the deck, where they clutched the rigging and clung to it with all the tenacity of drowning men with one chance in a hundred of escape. Surrounded by Cimmerian darkness, they could see only a few feet beyond them. No sign of land—only the tossing, black waters on every side. For four hours the men clung to the rigging, fighting with the sea in the cold water. At last, after a seemingly interminable period, day broke at 4.30.

"As the rays of morn gradually dispelled the gloom about them and they were enabled to see some distance, their hearts sank as they saw that no eyes discovered no sign of land. But as the morn broke more fully and they were able to see farther and more distinctly their hearts again leaped with hope to discern land in the distance, a half mile away. By this time the life-boat they were able to reach the beach; it was with great difficulty, for their limbs were stiff and almost frozen and their strength and endurance had almost given out during the long and terrible hours which they had spent wrestling with the sea. When they reached the beach, after two hours' wrestling with the life-boat.

"They found the island on which they were stranded to be one almost entirely of sand, with some scrubby, most scanty vegetation upon it. Upon exploring the place, they looked around in vain for some signs of human life and habitation. To their dismay, they found that, besides themselves, there was not another living soul upon the island.

"THEY WERE MONARCHS. "Like Solikirk they were monarchs of all they surveyed; to their right there was none to dispute. Like the balloonists they were landed on a mysterious island. The men were arrayed only in their underclothing, all the rest of their clothing, together with provisions, tools and everything else being on the wrecked schooner. No clothing, no food, no shelter, on a cold, sandy, sterile, uninhabited, and almost uninhabitable, island—their situation was indeed bleak; yet, almost hopeless.

"The thirty men were strong, able-bodied and fearless, as they determined that they must die they would meet their fate like men and it would be only after a desperate struggle for existence. When they had sufficiently recovered from their dismay to use their wits to any purpose, they set themselves to work to secure the necessities, without which they could not long survive. Food and fire they must have, and have quickly, and after that, clothing if they could get it. There were a few matches among the party and after waiting for them to dry they built a fire of driftwood, of which there was an abundance on the island.

"Then they went upon a search for food. It was with slight hope that they started upon their search, for the island was nothing more than a barren waste. After looking around for some time they came upon a stream in which they were delighted to find sea salmon in large numbers. With sticks they were able to kill a considerable number of the salmon, which they carried to the fire and, after cooking them as best they could by penetrating them with a stick and holding them over the flames, they devoured them voraciously.

"MONOTONOUS LIFE. "It would be a long story to tell of the life of the little colony on the island. They were able to reach portions of the wrecked vessel, and, piece by piece, they recovered enough of their clothing to save them from freezing to death. Each succeeding day of their lives on the island grew more gloomy. They were isolated from the world and civilization, and as the days grew into weeks, they began to abandon all hope of rescue. At one time the shipwrecked men seemed determined to hang the captain of the vessel, whose incompetency they were blaming for the wreck. Nearly all the men were typical Westerners and most of them were strongly in favor of meting out summary punishment to the captain who had brought the disaster upon them. But the more moderate members of the party pleaded for the captain and prevailed upon his would-be executioners to spare him.

ANNUAL REPORT OF BOARD OF CONTROL

IT IS SENT TO STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

Report Is for the Fiscal Year Ending June 1 and Contains an Array of Interesting Figures of a Statistical and Financial Character. Compiled by President Francois and Mrs. E. D. Fellows, Secretary of the Board of Control.

Several days ago the annual report of the school board of control was sent to Superintendent Schaeffer, of the state department of education. The report was for the fiscal year ending June 1, 1898, and was compiled at the expense of much labor on the part of President Francois and Mrs. E. D. Fellows, the secretary. Its introductory statistics were furnished by Superintendent of Schools Howell. Following is the report:

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Includes: No. of schools, Average number months taught, No. male teachers employed, etc.

CELEBRATION AT LAKE ARIEL.

Members of Young Men's Institute Will Be There Sept. 20. The Young Men's institute of this valley is actively engaged in arranging for a celebration at Lake Ariel, September 20, in honor of the anniversary of Charles Carroll, of Carrolltown, whose signature was affixed to the declaration of independence.

A meeting of the executive committee in charge of the affair was held Sunday in the rooms of Barry council at Wilkes-Barre. John E. Gibbons, of Hudson, was grand first vice-president of the Pennsylvania order, was chosen general manager of the celebration. Sunday next another meeting will take place at Pittston.

WAS ILLEGALLY ARRESTED.

Now Clark Wants to Collect Damages in the Sum of \$5,000. Through Attorneys Vosburg & Dawson, William N. Clark has brought suit to recover \$5,000 damages from Edwin Northup and William N. Clark. The parties live in the Abingtons. On April 15, 1897, the defendants, it is alleged, illegally caused Clark's arrest for illegal fishing.

CITY NOTES

JANITORS' PAY.—Janitors of the public school buildings began receiving their August salaries yesterday.

MEETS TODAY.—Regular meeting of the Central Woman's Christian Temperance Union today at 2 o'clock.

CONVENTION TODAY.—The Democrats of the Third district will convene at Coyne's hotel, Altoona, this afternoon to select a candidate for the legislature.

MORTALITY REPORT.—Last week's mortality report of the board of health shows thirty-seven deaths from all causes and one death from diphtheria and one death from whooping cough.

FURNISHED RAIL.—John Yulicz, of Dunmore, committed to jail last week in default of bail on the charge of selling liquor without license, was released yesterday, bail having been secured for him.

MINER BURNED.—John Warrock, of Plymouth, a miner at the Avondale, was badly burned about the exposed portions of his body by an explosion of gas early yesterday morning. He is being cared for at the Moses Taylor hospital.

ARE HOME.—Scranton division of the Uniform Rank, No. 69, Knights of Pythias, returned to this city Sunday from Indianapolis, Ind., where they have been attending the supreme lodge and national encampment during the past week.

BUSH MEETING.—Rev. H. A. Grant, pastor of the African Methodist Episcopal church, of Howard place, is arranging for a bush meeting to be conducted by his congregation next Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock in Nay Aug park. A free will offering will be taken up.

SONS OF VETERANS.—Camp No. 5, Sons of Veterans, will meet this evening to complete arrangements for the fraternal visit to be made to the Jermyn camp tomorrow night. Word has been received from Jermyn that plans have been made for entertaining the ladies with the Scranton party.

BURIED YESTERDAY.—The funeral of Katherine, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. F. Rielly, who met such a shocking death Sunday, took place yesterday afternoon. Interment was made in Mount Carmel cemetery. Dunmore, James Howley, Austin Kane, John Dougherty and James Manley were the pall-bearers.

TOOK A FIT.—Frank Hoban, a newsboy, whose home is on Emmet street, was attacked with an epileptic fit on the corner of Third and Delaware, Lackawanna and Western station yesterday afternoon and caused much excitement until the Lackawanna hospital ambulance came to his aid. He revived soon after being taken to the hospital and was conveyed to his home.

PERMISSION TO WED.—Marriage licenses were yesterday granted to John W. Kirby, of 562 Broadway, and Kathryn Armour Fitzpatrick, of Dunmore; Joseph A. Riener, of Jacksonville, and Bertha C. Notz, of Scranton; Samuel R. Nichols, of Olyphant, and Mary A. Major, of Blakely; John T. Nolan, of 511 Harrison avenue, and Sadie G. Duggan, of 295 Railroad avenue.

FUNERAL OF MRS. GILMARTIN.—The funeral of Mrs. Donnie Gilmartin, of Silex street, took place yesterday morning. A mass of requiem was sung at St. Peter's cathedral by Rev. D. J. MacGouldrick. The pall-bearers were Michael Corby, John Gerrity, Michael McPladden, Patrick Thomas, Thomas Scanlon and Patrick Hopkins. Interment was made in the Cathedral cemetery.

BOARD OF TRADE.—The first meeting of the board of trade since early summer will be held Monday evening, September 28. It will be an important session. Probably the latter part of this week the manufacturers committee will be called together. Several matters relative to the establishment of new industries here are to be considered, two of them with prospects of success. One of these involves a local enterprise of considerable magnitude.

TEMPERANCE REUNION TODAY.—The temperance reunion today at Mountain park, among whom will be Dr. S. C. Swallow, Rev. W. V. Kirk, of New York; Mrs. Frances Yell of Scranton; Mrs. A. M. Holvey and Mrs. C. H. Cool, of West Pittston. There will also be a temperance choir of twelve voices. The programme is unusually interesting. Train will leave Scranton at 8.30, returning at 5 p. m.

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FIREMEN HAD AN EXCITING RUN TO MADISON AVENUE AND MULBERRY STREET ALL FOR NOTHING.

The fool-joker was abroad in the city last night. He made himself liable to a fine of \$25 or imprisonment for not more than one year or both by sending in a false fire alarm.

FALSE ALARM GIVEN.

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MAY BOX IN SCRANTON.

Joe Fairburn and Joe Hopkins are now negotiating. Yesterday's Philadelphia Inquirer says in relation to a prospective glove contest in Scranton:

Joe Fairburn, the popular lightweight, of this city, and Joe Hopkins, of New York, are likely to be matched for a 20-round set-to before the American Sporting Club, of Scranton. The club has offered a liberal purse for the men to fight at 125 pounds, to weigh in at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

Improvement of the Park. Editor of The Tribune: Sir: Thousands of people at park Sunday. We are more than pleased that they enjoyed the quartered. It was fine. Professor John T. Watkins thinks he would like to sing with his quartette at there. So next Sunday at 3, he will sing you with ice singing. Now, if there is any other good quartette in the city or vicinity let us know. We will give a trial and let the people judge which they like best. We are sorry we did not have seats for you. Next year if the commissioners have plenty of money, we would like a war auditorium, and seats in front. The following subscriptions were received yesterday:

Enclosed find \$10. I do not desire any public acknowledgment for this contribution, but you do not talk on the street very much, but your heart is all right.

Bully for you, Doc! Please find enclosed \$1 from one who likes to keep dry.

Enclosed find \$2 which expresses in a very small box the interest I feel in Nay Aug park. G. M. Mulley, Providence Supply store.

Your efforts to provide shelter at the park are most commendable. I enclose a note of aid, \$5. William H. Richmond. Thanks, Mr. Richmond, if I could have had the tents up two days before your efforts would have saved a ducking at the picnic.

Now, we are asking for \$1 bills only, we will not find fault if you send in lots of them. We will put it to good use at the park. Yes, Andy, we will help all we can to give the newboys a good time at the park Thursday. G. E. Hill. Scranton, Pa., Aug. 28.

THE SCRANTON ELECTRICAL WORKS

Have removed to No 504 Lackawanna Avenue, where they will carry a complete line of electrical machinery. Special motor made to order. A kinds of electrical apparatus repaired.

THE SCRANTON ELECTRICAL WORKS

504 Lackawanna Avenue.

FELL FROM A TROLLEY CAR.

Mrs. George E. Starbird, of Wilkes-Barre, Killed.

Mrs. George E. Starbird, of Wilkes-Barre, got aboard a trolley car Sunday afternoon to pay a visit to the home of her father-in-law, who resides at 43 College street, Kingston. As she was nearing her destination she stepped down upon the foot-board and was about to signal the conductor to stop the car, when she lost her balance and fell, striking the back of her head against the ground.

She was taken into the house of William Boyd of Wyoming avenue and physicians summoned. They found that the skull had been crushed in. The accident occurred at 11.50 a. m. and death came about twenty minutes later. Deceased was about fifty years of age and is survived by her husband, one daughter, Mrs. Madge Baxter. Mrs. Starbird was an aunt of Jury Commissioner Charles Wiggins, of this city.

POOR DIRECTORS' CONVENTION.

Will Be Held in Harrisburg During Last Week of October.

Attorney John F. Seragg, of this city, president of the state association of directors of the poor and charities, has completed the program for the twenty-fourth annual convention of the association at Harrisburg, Oct. 25, 26 and 27. Mr. Seragg will call the convention to order on Oct. 25 at 9 a. m. in the Chestnut street hall. Mayor Patterson will deliver the address of welcome.

During the convention a large number of papers will be read by prominent public men. At the evening session of the opening day of the convention, Hon. T. V. Powderly will read a paper "The Labor Question and Its Effect on Charities." Hon. John R. Farr will read a paper "Compulsory Education as a Preventative of Pauperism." George W. Beecher, superintendent of the Hillside Home of the Scranton district, will also read a paper. His topic will be "What rules, supervision and powers should a superintendent make, have and exercise in a well regulated almshouse."

HEALTH AND PLEASURE

HOOD'S PILLS cure all liver ills. Mailed for 5 cents by C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.

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Spring House

Heart Lake, Pa.

Thoroughly renovated and furnished, has hot and cold water bath.

STANDARD SHOE STORE,

HANDIEST STORE IN THE CITY. 217 LACKA AVE.

THE VERY BEST YET.

The Last Three Days of August Are the Last Three of Our Great House-Cleaning Sale.

We have closed out entirely a great many lines of Summer Shoes, but have a number of very desirable ones still. The sizes are not complete and to close these out we lower their price still more for the last.

THREE DAYS OF AUGUST.

We will give \$2 value for every \$1 now in what we have left of our Summer Shoes. Our House-Cleaning Sale has been the most successful sale we ever held, and to emphasize it still more we offer Our \$3.50 Ladies' Colored Shoes for \$1.49, nearly all sizes. 3 DAYS ONLY.

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FALL NOVELTIES

In Wall Paper Carpets and Draperies

Lowest prices consistent with reliable goods and good workmanship.

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SPECIAL SALE

ONYX TOP TABLES

If you have ever wanted a Table, you should get it now, as you have never had them offered at the prices we have put on these. They are not a cheap, trashy lot bought for this sale, but are our regular goods, and there are no better made.

Table with 2 columns: Regular Price, Special Sale Price. Includes: \$6.00 to \$30.00.

China Hall.

All Kinds of Soft Drinks bottled at the East Mountain Lithia Water Spring for family use.

One Fare—G. A. R.—Cincinnati

via Lehigh Valley, Sept. 2nd and 4th.

EXPERIENCE TEACHES

the value of Hood's Sarsaparilla. It is constantly accomplishing wonderful cures and people in all sections take it, knowing it will do them good.

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WASH BOILERS

Made of the best tin, has coppered bottom, with cover, any size you want, No. 7, 8 or 9, well worth 75c to \$1. For this week they go quick at 49c

Wash Board

That can be used only on one side, true, but it is the best of zinc, in a good strong cedar frame, well worth more than our price, 10c

Galvanized Wash Tub

Would be the next thing in order. Try one and you'll buy no other. The largest size this week is but, 64c

Clothes Line

50 feet long, braided and made of the best Sea Island cotton, are here at 8c

Mop Sticks

Spring catch for Mop, never slip. Sold at 10c. Now 7c

Broom

No. 6 size, 3 sewings, worth 10c., are 10c

Peaches, Pears, Plums, Corn, Tomatoes, Canteloupes

Fresh Eggs, Creamery Butter

Pierce's Market

WOLF & WENZEL, 240 Adams Ave., Opp. Court House.

THE GREAT 4c. STORE

310 Lacka. Ave. JOHN H. LADWIG.

Scranton Cash Store

Peaches, Fancy Melons, Sweet Potatoes

At Lowest Market Prices. A. F. KIZER, Prop. Telephone Connection.

Steam and Hot Water HEATING

Gas, Electric And Combination FIXTURES

Electric Light... WIRING

Charles B. Scott, 119 Franklin Ave.