

BROWNSON'S SMILE.

A STORY OF THE COMMANDER THAT SAILORMEN LOVE TO TELL.

How the Detroit Broke Up What the Insurgent Admiral Called a "Blockade." An Incident That Pleases Men Who Have Seen Smiling Men Fight.

It was in January, 1864, that the civil war in Brazil was coming to a climax in the harbor at Rio. Admiral da Gama of the insurgents was in the harbor with several ships of war. The government held the city, but while the insurgent admiral held the water no shipping could go up to the front as long as he said it couldn't, and he said so. Various governments were affected by this embargo—"blockade" the admiral called it. Great Britain was concerned chiefly, but the United States was a good second, with Germany and other nations as well.

Europe looked to America to do something in the matter and was naturally diffident about interfering in family rows on this side of the water. At last Admiral Beuhm was sent down to take charge of the United States fleet in Rio harbor. The flagship was the San Francisco, and on Sunday, Jan. 28, Admiral Beuhm called on his captains to come aboard. Among them was Commander Brownson of the Detroit. It is said that after the conference this commander came back to his ship smiling. However that may be, he certainly smiled next morning. Just after 5 o'clock that evening—it was calm as could be, almost—the Yankee naval ships were seen to be in a huddle. The canvas awnings faded away, and in the night certain sounds were heard aboard them, at which various listeners put their hands cup shaped behind their ears to listen harder. On the morning of the 29th there was a change in the appearance of the Yankee fleet. It had taken off its coat, waistcoat and shirt, so to speak, and was just eyeing itself when day dawned to see how good its training had been.

The insurgent ships Aquidaban and Tamandare were up the bay above Vianna island with their cables short, ready to trip. The Trajano and Guanabara, as well as the fleet of armed tugs, were crowded with men from the garisons of Cobras and Villegation. The Liberdade flew the little blue ensign, for Admiral de Gama was aboard her, lying with the Trajano and Guanabara north of Enechados island, a few yards from the American bark Amy, one of the boats kept out by the blockade. The Parahyba was lying with its teeth, so to speak, at the throat of the Yankee barkentine Good News.

Commander Brownson on the Detroit got his ship under way, having hoisted anchor at 6 o'clock, and headed toward the city between Enechados and Cobras islands. Her crew was at her guns, and as eager a lot of men as one could see anywhere at that time. The anchor got fouled in the Detroit's hawse hole, and that was ample excuse for proceeding slowly, which was convenient, while a couple of insurgent tugs made a spatter at the northern littoral of the city, as they had been doing a long time. After a couple of men had been killed aboard the tugs they drew back, and the Detroit, with everything clear, rounded Enechados island and came along starboard side to starboard of the Trajano. The men looked through their sights and then up at Commander Brownson on the bridge. The story of what they saw is a tradition in the navy now and always will be so long as men like Brownson are in command. The commander was smiling.

A man on the Trajano raised a musket and fired a bullet over the heads of sailors pulling away in a boat with a line from the Amy to a ship at anchor that the Amy might be warped to the forbidden docks. Two heavy insurgent tugs came around with their rams pointed at the side of the Detroit. On the San Francisco the red flag of battle had been run up to the fore truck in stops. A quartermaster stood with his hand on the halyards eager to break it out, with his eyes fixed on the admiral, who was looking at the Detroit for the sign which would cause him to give the quartermaster the order so ardently desired.

When the insurgent shot was fired, Commander Brownson turned to the gunner at a one pounder, and with a scarcely perceptible increase of the smile ordered the man to shoot into the Trajano at the water line six feet abaft the stern. The shot was misunderstood, and the order went across the insurgents' bow. Thereupon Captain Brownson bailed:

"Trajano, ahoy!" he shouted. "If you fire again, I will return the fire, and if you persist I will sink you." The Trajano's crews were excited. If a nervous finger had pulled a trigger, the light would have been on.

But the shot did not sound. The sailors on the Amy's yawl waited to see what they were to do next.

"You go ahead," Commander Brownson shouted, "and I'll protect you!"

The sailors went.

"Aim at the Guanabara!" ordered Commander Brownson. And the greasy black muzzles of the Detroit's broadside and the two pivot guns swung around, looking bigger and bigger every moment, till they stopped, leveled at the cruiser. One particularly nervous gun crew aboard the insurgent was conspicuous. Commander Brownson waved his hand, with a half smile, and this crew fell back.

Then the Yankee ships led the way to the docks, with other ships crowding in with them, and after awhile the rebellion collapsed. But the sailors who were on the Detroit at that time have told the story of Commander Brownson's smile to other sailors, and these to still others, till it has rippled to every water where the starry flag flies, and it is heard with marked interest by men on the ships of other nations—men who have seen smiling men fight.—New York Sun.

Revival of an Ancient Jest.
The ancient jest regarding the ditto sign was revived in Cleveland not long ago, and it loses little of its sparkle because of its age.

Into the office of a local manufacturer concerning whose product in wire and wire hardware specialties, an elderly customer from out of town recently stalked.

"This here bill," he remarked, "is wrong. You've added where you should have subtracted."

"How's that?" inquired the bookkeeper.

"You've got me charged with \$20 when I don't owe you but \$12," replied the stranger.

"But I don't see how you make that out," said the bookkeeper as he glanced at the bill. "Here's one item of \$10 and another of \$4. That certainly aggregates \$20."

"Well," said the aged party, "I'm perfectly willing to stand by the bill. It's your own bill, you know, and I'll pay you just what it calls for."

"Well, it calls for \$20."

"Yes, it does, added, but not subtracted."

"What in the world do you mean?"

"I mean this," said the aged patron. And he spread the bill flat on the counter. The bookkeeper glanced at it again. These are the items he read:

4 iron wheelbarrows at \$4..... 16
1 wooden do at \$4..... 4
\$20

"Kindly tell me," said the bookkeeper, "how you figure that total any lower."

The aged customer's eyes flashed triumphantly.

"Easy," he cried. "Here you've charged me with four wheelbarrows, \$16. That's all right. And then right below you say that one wouldn't do, but instead of taking off the \$4 you add it on. Here's your \$12."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

A Curious Legal Decision.
The following anecdote is sent by a Kentucky correspondent, who says it is the exact truth:

"A young man who had not found it convenient to pay a tailor's bill was brought up on a creditor's bill by the cruel tailor before a very kind hearted vice chancellor, who liked the youth. He was handsomely dressed and wore a costly diamond stud in his shirt bosom, but declared under oath that he had no property except his wearing apparel. The tailor's lawyer claimed that a diamond stud was not an article of exempt apparel and asked for its surrender, but the judge ruled that the diamond button held the parts of the shirt together and its removal would lead to indecent exposure of the person. Then the lawyer urged that the shirt was of a new kind which buttoned in the back, but the judge met this by saying: 'The presumption of the law is that shirts button in front, and the court does not judicially know that shirts ever button in the back. The court will not require the defendant to submit to an examination to rebut the presumption.' And so the diamond remained in the bosom which cherished it."

Etiquette at Nice.
One feature of life on the Riviera that particularly strikes the sojourner from this side of the Atlantic is the utter absence of the piazza life that is such an institution at American summer and winter resorts. A recent visitor at Nice writes to the New York Times: "A man may show himself here on the Promenade des Anglais, either on foot or in coach, within certain well defined hours and with well understood restrictions as to his costume, but he must under no circumstances be seen sitting in front of his own dwelling, be it villa or hotel. The front of the premises must be clean and well kept, with as many plants and flowers as you like, but there must be no array of comfortable chairs and little tables, as we have them, or any other outward sign, in fact, that some one lives within and some one who knows how to take life comfortably. To sit in front of a hotel here after breakfast, smoking the cigar of contentment, would be a brazen defiance of all social usages."

How He Shot.
A Texas military company was out on the range practicing at rifle shooting. The lieutenant in command suddenly became exasperated at the poor shooting, and seizing a gun from one of the privates cried sharply:

"I'll show you fellows how to shoot."

Taking a long aim, and a strong aim, and an aim altogether, he fired and missed. Coolly turning to the private who owned the gun, he said:

"That's the way you shoot."

He again loaded the weapon and missed. Turning to the second man in the ranks, he remarked:

"This is the way you shoot."

In this way he missed about a dozen times, illustrating to each soldier his personal incapacity, and finally he accidentally hit the target.

"And that," he ejaculated, handing the gun back to the private, "is the way I shoot."—Los Angeles Express.

ALLEGHENY VALLEY RAILWAY COMPANY, in effect Sunday, December 19, 1897, Low Grade Division.

EASTWARD.		WESTWARD.	
STATIONS.	No. 1 No. 3 No. 9 No. 10	No. 2 No. 4 No. 6 No. 8	No. 11 No. 12
Red Bank	10:50 4:25	11:00 4:35	11:10 4:45
Lawsonham	11:00 4:35	11:10 4:45	11:20 4:55
New Bethlehem	11:10 4:45	11:20 4:55	11:30 5:05
Brookville	11:20 4:55	11:30 5:05	11:40 5:15
Summersville	11:30 5:15	11:40 5:25	11:50 5:35
Brookville	11:40 5:25	11:50 5:35	12:00 5:45
Hell	11:50 5:45	12:00 5:55	12:10 6:05
Reynoldsville	12:00 5:55	12:10 6:05	12:20 6:15
Pancoat	12:10 6:15	12:20 6:25	12:30 6:35
Falls Creek	12:20 6:25	12:30 6:35	12:40 6:45
DuBois	12:30 6:35	12:40 6:45	12:50 6:55
Sabits	12:40 6:45	12:50 6:55	1:00 7:05
Winterburn	12:50 6:55	1:00 7:05	1:10 7:15
Yler	1:00 7:05	1:10 7:15	1:20 7:25
Yerkes	1:10 7:15	1:20 7:25	1:30 7:35
Yerkes	1:20 7:25	1:30 7:35	1:40 7:45
Yerkes	1:30 7:35	1:40 7:45	1:50 7:55
Yerkes	1:40 7:45	1:50 7:55	2:00 8:05
Yerkes	1:50 7:55	2:00 8:05	2:10 8:15
Yerkes	2:00 8:05	2:10 8:15	2:20 8:25
Yerkes	2:10 8:15	2:20 8:25	2:30 8:35
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Yerkes	2:30 8:35	2:40 8:45	2:50 8:55
Yerkes	2:40 8:45	2:50 8:55	3:00 9:05
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