

Selected Miscellany.

DOUBLING CAPE HORN.

About midnight, when the star-board watch, to which I belonged, was below, the boatswain's whistle was heard, followed by the shrill cry of—

"All hands take in sail! Jump men, and save ship!"

Springing to our hammocks, we found the frigate leaning over to so steeply that it was with difficulty we could climb the ladders leading to the upper deck. Here the scene was awful. The vessel seemed to be sailing on her side. The main-deck guns had, several days previously, been run in and housed, and the port-holes closed; but the lee carrounades on the quarter-deck and the forecater were plunging through the sea, which undulated over them in milk-white billows of foam. With every lurch to the leeward the yard-arm ends seemed to dip in the sea, while forward, the spray dashed over the bows in cataracts, and drenched the men who were on the fore-yard.

By this time the deck was alive with the whole strength of the ship's company, five hundred men, officers and all, mostly clinging to the weather bulwarks. The occasional phosphorescence of the yeasty sea cast a glare upon their uplifted faces, as a night-fire it a populous city lights up the panic-stricken crowd.

In a sudden gale, or when a large quantity of sail is suddenly to be furled, it is the custom for the first lieutenant to take the trumpet from whoever happens then to be officer of the deck. But Mad Jack had the trumpet that watch, nor did the first lieutenant now seek to wrest it from his hands. Every eye was upon him, as we had chosen him from among us all to decide this battle with the elements by single combat with the spirit of the Cape—for Mad Jack was the saving genius of the ship, and so proved himself that night. I owe this right hand, that is this moment flying over my sheet and all my present being, to Mad Jack.

The ship's bows were now butting, battering, ramming, and thundering over and upon the head seas, and with horrible wallowing sound our whole hull was rolling in the trough of the foam. The gale came astir, the deck, and every sail seemed bursting with its wild breath.—All the quarter-masters, and several of the forecatermen, were swarming round the double-wheel on the quarter-deck, some jumping up and down, with their hands upon their spokes,—for the whole helm and galvanized keel were fiercely foreshaken with the life imparted to them by the tempest.

"Hard up the helm!" shouted Captain Claret, bursting from his cabin like a ghost in his night dress;—"you!" roared Mad Jack to the quarter-master, "hard down—hard down, I say, and be d—d to you?" Contrary orders! but Mad Jack's were obeyed. His object was to throw the ship into the wind, so as the better to admit of close-reefing the top-sails. But though the bulwarks were let go, it was impossible to clew down the yards, owing to the enormous horizontal strain on the canvas.

It now blew a hurricane. The spray flew over the ship in floods. The gigantic masts seemed about to snap under the world-wide strain of the three entire top-sails. "Clew down! clew down!" shouted Mad Jack, husky with excitement, and in a frenzy, beating his trumpet against one of the shrouds; but owing to the slant of the ship, the thing could not be done. It was obvious that before many minutes something must go—either sails, rigging, or sticks; perhaps hull itself, and all hands.

Presently a voice from the top exclaimed that there was a rent in the top-sail; and instantly we heard a report like two or three muskets discharged together; the vast sail was rent up and down, like the Vail of the Temple. This saved the main-mast, for the yard was now clewed down with comparative ease, and the top-men laid out to stow the shattered canvas. Soon, the two remaining top-sails were also clewed down and close-reefed.

Above all the roar of the tempest and the shouts of the crew was heard the dismal tolling of the ship's bell (almost as large as that of a village church), which the violent rolling of the ship was occasioning. Imagination cannot conceive the horror of such a sound in the night-tempest at sea. "Stop that ghost!" roared Mad Jack; "away one of you, and wrench off the clapper."

But no sooner was this ghost gagged than a still more appalling sound was heard—the rolling and to of the heavy shot, which, on the gun-deck, had broken loose from the gun-locks, had converted that part of the ship into an immense bowling-alley. Some hands were sent down to secure them; but it was as much as their lives were worth. Several were maimed, and the midship-men who were ordered to see the duty performed, reported it impossible until the storm abated.

The most terrific job of all was to furl the main-sail, which, at the commencement of the squall, had been clewed up, unaxed and quieted as much as possible with the hant-lines and slab-lines. Mad Jack waited some time for a lull, ere he gave an order so perilous to be executed; for, to furl this enormous sail, in such a gale, required at the least fifty men on the yard, whose weight, superadded to the ponderous stick itself, still further jeopardized their lives. But there was no prospect of a cessation of the gale, and the order was at last given. At this time a hurricane of slanting sleet and hail was descending upon us; the rigging was coated with a thin glare of ice, formed within an hour.

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News Items.

What kind of horn is easiest seen through? A greenhorn.

The poorest man in the world is one who has nothing but money.

A fool's heart is in his tongue, but a wise man's tongue is in his heart.

A panther, seven feet long, was killed recently near Vicksburg, Miss.

An immense peach crop is expected in Delaware, perhaps two millions of baskets.

Perhaps angels are less blessed than man from being able to remember no childhood.

Mrs. H. B. Stowe has turned orange woman. She has some three hundred acres planted in Florida.

The Republican candidate for Governor of California was a newsboy in Connecticut twenty years ago.

A destitute lady in Baltimore has been provided with a comfortable home by one of her former slaves.

The petition of Tennessee citizens asking protection against Brownlow is forty feet long.

Barnum has secured the Connecticut pig with an elephant's trunk and an eye in the center of its forehead.

Prattice says: "We won't believe that to kiss a pretty girl is so delicious till we have it from her own lips."

Governor Geary has become a Good Templar, it is good news to hear that Geary has become a good anything.

In a speech delivered eight years ago Brownlow said "negroes are only monkeys with their tails cut off."

The Pennsylvania oil regions have lost fully one-third of their population, and the number is lessening every day.

A man who had been insane for thirty years recently recovered his senses on his death bed. There is still hope for Wendell Phillips.

Judge Kelley lost his hat in the Mobile riot. Won't General Pope issue a military order that the corporation buy him a new one?

A person asked an Irishman why he wore his stockings wrong side outward. "Because," said he, "there's a hole on the other side."

The President's Trip.

President Johnson arrived in Boston on Saturday last, to take part in the Masonic celebration on Monday. He was accompanied by Secretary Seward, Postmaster Randall, and others. Many thousands of people were gathered at the depot, the President being received with military escort and salute, and loudly cheered by the populace. The Mayor of Boston met the Presidential party and welcomed it to the city. The President was escorted to the Tremont House, where he was received by Governor Bullock who addressed him in appropriate words of welcome. The President briefly replied, complimenting Massachusetts generally, and returning thanks for the welcome extended him. On Sunday morning the President and party, accompanied by a committee of the municipal authorities, visited the State school-ship having been conveyed thither from the wharf in a tug. The boys were ranged at their desks in the lower cabin. The President was seated at the head of the cabin, in company with Postmaster General Randall, General Banks, ex-Governor Andrew, and others. Collector of Customs Russell conducted the religious services, according to the Episcopal form, and at intervals the boys, over a hundred in number, sang religious songs. Ex-Governor Banks and Judge Russell delivered appropriate addresses to the boys, as also Postmaster General Randall by request. Father Taylor, a remarkable missionary and seaman's preacher, then delivered a discourse appropriate to the occasion, affecting nearly all the audience to tears. Some hours were passed on the ship, and the party returned to the hotel about half-past one. On Tuesday the Presidential party were received at the Massachusetts State Capitol by Governor Bullock, in the presence of an immense audience of ladies and gentlemen. They were severally introduced to the people, and were each received with cordial demonstrations of enthusiasm. United States Senator Henry Wilson was among those who paid their respects to the President. On leaving the State House, the party were escorted with renewed honors to the Bunker Hill Monument, whence they visited the Charlestown Navy Yard, and then took a sail down the harbor in the school ship George M. Barnard. The party left Boston on Wednesday for Hartford.

German Toys.

A correspondent of the London Telegraph gossips pleasantly of German toys: "Germany has always been eminent in the manufacture of mechanical figures—I mean those prolific figures, which by an ingenious mechanism concealed behind the painted background, are made to go through a variety of droll movements common to humanity. Thus we see an indignant papa kicking the sweetheart, of whose attention to his daughter he does not approve, down stairs; a schoolmaster caning a squalling urchin; a cobbler drawing his double thread, winking his eyes and jolling out his tongue meanwhile; an old black man sweeping; a bootblack polishing a gentleman's upper leathers; a girl milking; an old woman coercing a refractory pig, and the like. The funniest thing is when a number of frames containing the mechanical tableaux are placed together. Then the cruel parent kicks, and the pedagogue scourges, and the urchin squalls, and the cobbler sews, and the old negro sweeps, and the bootblack polishes, and the girl milks, and the old woman drives the pig to market—all in unison. If you come back in half an hour's time they are still hard at it. If you visit the German Court in a week or a fortnight, or a month, you will still find the same thing going. You begin to think at last that perpetual motion has been discovered, and that these puppets will continue kicking and threshing, and polishing, and milking, and sewing, forever and ever.

The number of military toys in the German Courts is very remarkable.—There are whole corps d'armee in tin, lead and zinc; with encampments on the vastest scale of which miniature is susceptible—squadrons of cavalry, parks of artillery and gabions, fascines and pontoon bridges without number. It is significant to note that the smaller German States contribute the larger number of these bellcoso playthings. The Prussian toys are comparatively peaceful. The Austrian are miscellaneous, if chiefly tending toward miniature furniture, are excellent throughout. But to the fierce martial display of Bavaria, Hesse and Wurtemberg there is no end."

POTATO YEAST.—Take four potatoes, slice them and boil in two or three quarts of water, together with a double handful of hops in a bag, and a handful of salt, then pour the liquid over enough wheat flour to make it of the consistency of thick mush, and when milk-warm add a bowl of yeast and set in a warm place. In twelve hours it will be fit for use.

Prize Fighting.

Such disgusting scenes as those which have lately occurred at Aquia Creek are among the outcroppings of the demoralized state into which the public mind has lately fallen. An exhibition in itself brutal and brutalizing drew together thousands, some of whom were curiosity seekers, others gamblers and pickpockets, while generally the crowd embraced all the various classes of disorderly spirits. So powerful in number was the gathering of ruffians that, according to one of our correspondents, it was unsafe to except to their conduct, although the scenes attendant upon the prize fight were of the most disgraceful character.

It will be recollected that about six months ago a similar exhibition brought together a crowd of ruffians and thieves, who actually took possession of the train on which they were proceeding from this city into Pennsylvania "going through it," to use their favorite phrase, from end to end, plundering the passengers, forcing their way into the ladies' cars, and appalling the women on board by their frightful conduct and demeanor. The same class of characters will always be drawn together by such exhibitions, and the same deeds of violence, robbery and other crime convert the scenes of the prize ring into a Pandemonium. It is painful to think that the officers of the law are unable to prevent the repetition of such shocking disturbances of public order and decorum, and outrages upon order and decency. In the law of Maryland defining the duties of the police board of this city, it is made their duty when they believe persons within the limits of the city intend leaving it for the purpose of violating any law of the State, on land or water within the State, to cause them to be followed and arrested for an attempted outrage, but no direct provision is made requiring such arrest where parties leave the city for the purpose of committing a breach of the peace outside of Maryland.

Is there no mode of devising more efficient legislation by which such things can be reached in their incipency, such as a law prohibiting the training for fights within the limits of the State, or of leaving the State for the purpose of fighting, like the provision of the code with reference to dueling, which declares that if any person shall leave the State for the purpose of eluding the provisions of the law against dueling, "the person so offending shall be deemed as guilty and be subject to the like penalties as if the offense had been committed within this State," and which authorizes any magistrate suspecting any person of such an intention to bind them over to keep the peace, inserting in the condition that they shall not be concerned in a duel with the person suspected, or any other person, within the time limited by the recognizance.

Of course, much depends in these matters on public opinion, which may be made an effective means of putting a stop to the scandalous and growing nuisance. People who have anything stake in the preservation of peace and order, of property, and even life, should refrain from encouraging, by their presence, the spirit of brutality, barbarism and lawlessness developed by these prize fights, and which periodically expose peaceful and law-abiding communities to an irruption more terrible than of Goths and Vandals.

It is stated that the fight between Collyer and Aaron would have taken place in Pennsylvania but for the prompt measures adopted by Governor Geary for capturing and punishing the entire party, spectators as well as participants. It is to be hoped that the anomalous state of things in Virginia will soon be succeeded by the establishment of civil government, when she too may be able to prevent such outrages upon her soil. Never having anticipated acts of this sort by human beings within her borders, she has no special law against them. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the military authorities, to which she is now subject, will protect her against them till a law can be passed. The District of Columbia, through the kindly guardianship of Congress, is also without proper laws to prevent these brutal offenses.—Baltimore Sun.

At a mass convention of the Alabama blacks they declared themselves a part of the Republican party of the United States, and demanded a standing army for their protection, and confiscation as necessary for their support.

It is said that fourteen thousand four hundred and twenty three lbs of stone were thrown out by a single blast, with three kegs of powder, at a quarry in Middletown, Conn., on the 17th ult., the largest blast ever made there.

Gough, in his lecture on 'Curiosity,' startled his audience by announcing that the next style of bonnet, to be worn by fashionable ladies will be a postage stamp tied on with a hair, 'Bad' feller!

Selected Poem.

THE HAUNTED HOUSE.

The sunbeams came in their glory
To play on the sunken floor;
And the moonbeams told their story
Thro' the chinks in the shaking door.

And up the stairs went creeping
With a quiet step and slow,
Or, like a sentinel sleeping,
Lay still in the hall below.

The storm, with its bitter howling,
Drove in through the shattered pane;
And the thunder, dark and scowling,
Sang there its wild refrain.

On the wall the tattered hanging
Was swayed by the passing wind;
And through the corridor clanging
Came a sound of a step behind.

Wherever the moon shone brightly,
Wherever it lay in gloom,
Now loud, now falling lightly,
It strode from room to room.

Ah, Presence! why do you linger,
And sit by the hearth so cold,
To mark Time's ruthless finger
Turn into dross the gold?

Dost thou hear in thine ancient dwelling,
The well-remembered strain,
And list to its music swelling
In household tones again?

Or doth thy heart, in its yearning,
Seek here its peace and rest;
From the shadowy land returning
Full oft on its bootless quest?

Ah, spirit so sad and weary!—
So sad with thy restless head,—
Back, back from this world so dreary,
To rest in thy quiet bed.

In sorrow and pain thou hast striven,
In a life thou hadst no part;
Let the ties of this world be riven
Away from thy aching heart.

"ROMANTIC."—A Scotch emigrant passed through Milwaukee one day last week, en route for Minnesota. In his family was his eldest daughter, who is described as of extraordinary beauty, with a form of faultless symmetry. Her every movement was graceful and lady-like; her eyes were brilliant and sparkling, fairly electrifying whoever caught their glances; her nose finely chiselled, and of the pure Grecian style, and her complexion of rare beauty. After dinner, the head of the family sauntered out to obtain a glimpse of Milwaukee.—In his rambles he found a young fellow countryman who had preceded him about six years. The two were soon engaged in conversation about auld Scotia, closing with an invitation from the old gentleman to the young man to come and visit his family. This was accepted. The moment the young man was introduced to the daughter he was blindly in love, and before the interview closed, proposed and was referred to the father. The old gentleman took the matter into consideration, made due inquiry into the character and prospects of the young man, and was abundantly satisfied, and within twenty-four hours from their first meeting the two were made one. The parents proceeded west, and the bride and groom came eastward on a wedding tour.—Exchange.

A NOVEL LOVE STORY.—A young couple, the girl the daughter of one of our wealthy citizens, the young man, "poor but honest," met and "fell in love." The parents doted upon their pretty and accomplished daughter and disapproved the visits of the young man. Meetings by stealth were planned, and finally an elopement was agreed upon. All this was kept a profound secret, as was supposed, from the parents. The night and the hour came. Quietly, noiselessly, the young Miss descended the ladder improvised for the occasion, and the train were making their exit from the gate, when they were suddenly surrounded by two men, one the father of the lady, the other a stranger, and captured. They were taken half willingly, half reluctantly, into the house and the parlor. The stranger threw off the mask and discovered to the couple a minister; the father produced a marriage license, simultaneously the mother, brother, brothers and sisters made their appearance, and the couple were immediately united with the blessing of all present.

The parents were apprised of their mutual love and resolved to let things take their own course, while their good sense made a happy denouement of what might have been otherwise a serious and unfortunate affair for life. God will bless these noble-hearted parents. The son-in-law was doing as well as could be expected under the circumstances, and peace and happiness smiled on the whole family.—Merion (O.) Mirror.

The Mayors of cities and villages generally are issuing proclamations requiring owners of dogs to muzzle their canines. Down south the military satraps permit the dogs to go free and require the owners to be muzzled if they are white men.

Burlington, Vt., June 27.
Last evening the Rev. S. M. Merrill, formerly of North Adams, Mass., was drowned in the Saranac River, at Plattsburg, New York, by falling out of a boat while fishing. He was in company with his two sons and another person. The body has not been recovered.

The small pox is said to be raging at Williamsport, but the inhabitants don't care so much about that as the meeting of the Radical convention.

—What you do read, read carefully.