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A Bar baric CUStOM
When a Japanese commander meets defeat in battle he
commits hara kiri, in accordance with the customs of his race.
When an American captain loses his vessel in shipwreck,
he goes down with the ship, in accordance with tradition of
the sea.
Such acts may be called relics of barbarism, survivals of
the Spartan discipline that required a man to return with his
shield or uppon it. They are supposed incentives to a man to
do his best, with his life as a forfeit for failure.
Yet it is questionable whether the sacrifice is of any value
to the world, whether humanity would not profit more by
the skill and trained services of those who have risen to
responsibility by merit and meet misfortune by aceident,
than by their loss which profits no one.
The ablest soldiers lose battles through circumstances over
which they have no control and the best navigators are help-
less in a dense fog amid uncharted reefs and drifts.
The Japanese could never develop a William of Orange
or a George Washington who became great soldiers
through repeated defeats that enabled them to win final
victory. And the sea loses the skill acquired in handling a
wreck when it bars those who have had the experience-
and the loss of life is the greater in consequence.
If the law of the sea was applied to other callings, the
world would be depopulated rapidly, for most people are
failures before they are successes. It is the lessons acquired failures before they are successes. If is the lessons acquire
by failure that build the most enduring success. Suceess is far more demoralizing than failure. It is a
character destroyer rather than a character builder. It
brings out the domineering, selfish and unlovely traits latent
in all, while failure develops human sympathy, unselfishness nd charitableness, The person who has never known fail It is far easier for a captain to perish with his. to live and endure the consequences. There is nothing heroic sea captain should always be the last to leave the ship, it borders on cowardice when he makes no effort to preserv
that which his Maker entrusted to his keeping.

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By IDAH MeGLONE GIBSON
The Noted Writer

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