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THE EVENING GUARD.

A GREAT BOAT RACE.

THE BENNINGTON'S CRACK CREW GOT A COSTLY SURPRISE.

The Story of a Fourth of July Rowing Contest at Honolulu Which Emptied the Pockets and Lacerated the Feelings of Uncle Sam's Jackies.

"About as dismal a Fourth of July as ever I experienced on board a man-of-war," said an ex-sailor of the navy now living in Washington to a reporter, "was Independence day not many years ago down in the harbor of Honolulu. The Bennington had an all star racing boat's crew. The eight had just happened to be assigned to the Bennington in a lurch before she left for her Pacific cruise, and several of the ex-sailors had been members of the Columbia's crack boat crew that walloped all of the British water's boats' crews in English waters a few years before.

The Bennington's cutter was one of the best in the navy, and she had been built for a race. Before we left the Mare Island yard for south Pacific waters the ship's racing crew had easily beaten all of the other crews of the ships lying at the yard, including the tip-top crew of the Olympia and the Boston's fine crew. We thought that we were about as warm as they make 'em after our crew put it on so many other man-of-war crews, giving them a couple of minutes the start of us, too, on numerous occasions and still beating them disgracefully.

"The people of Honolulu arranged an aquatic festival for the Fourth of July—the Americans down there celebrated the Fourth just as enthusiastically as we do up here—and the Bennington's crew figured in it largely. Our ship's colors were at the fore in the two races that were run with picked Kanaka crews, and the third and last race of the day was one in which our crack eight was to figure, the other races having been won by sub-crews practically picked at random from among the strongest seamen.

"We thought this race was at our mercy. It was to be a four sided affair—one crew of Kanaka sugar field workers, a crew of Kanaka policemen and the racing crew of the yacht Eleanor, belonging to Mr. Slater of Providence, that had pulled into Honolulu harbor from Japan a few days before. Our crew didn't pay much attention to the yacht's racing crew and were only figuring on the distance they could beat the crew of Kanaka policemen, which seemed the most formidable.

"The race was over the four mile course carefully block out in the harbor—which was very smooth—by the Honolulu aquatic sportsmen, and the start was first rate. There wasn't a man, few or aft, on the Bennington that didn't stand to go home to the extent of at least a month's pay on the success of the Bennington's crew, and we had to give it to it, too, for it was generally conceded that we had the race at our mercy.

"The start, as I said, was good, and the Bennington's crew showed in front first and started out apparently to make a runaway race of it. The Kanaka policemen's crew trailed after them, pulling steadily, then the Kanaka sugar workers and a good ten lengths to the rear, the Eleanor's crew. This was the way it looked for the finish when the Bennington's crew rounded the stake-boat and started for the return trip.

"Some of the Honolulu men who had their money up on the two Kanaka crews actually began to squawk accounts, and the cry, 'It's all over—Bennington!' was heard all over the bay. When the stake-boat was rounded, it was noticed that the Eleanor's boat was sort of getting a move on itself, and the men were working like machines at a long, steady stroke that certainly looked as if it was cutting down the Bennington's lead and the lead of the two Kanaka boats.

"Two minutes after the stake-boat was rounded the Eleanor's gang were right abreast of the Kanaka cutters and gaining on them with every stroke, and the cox' on of the Bennington's cutter, hearing the yells of warning from the Bennington bluejackets ashore, looked behind him and saw the Eleanor cutter only two lengths behind him and coming like an electric launch. Our crew was tired, and that's all there was about it.

"The Eleanor's crew had held their own for the finish, and they certainly did make a Garrison finish of it. The yacht's cutter shot ahead of our cutter a good mile from home, and then, to make the thing more galling, the crew actually stopped rowing until the Bennington's crew was alongside again. Then they took to the oars again, and from then on it was a howling farce. The Eleanor's crew just romped their cutter in ten lengths ahead of our cutter and the Kanakas a quarter of a mile in the rear.

"You never saw such a disgusted lot of men in your life as the men and officers on the Bennington. The Eleanor's ship company had taken all of the \$100 money they could get on board our ship, for they knew they had a good thing up their sleeve. The Eleanor's crew on the whole trip around the world that was wound up at San Francisco had not been beaten once in a cutter race, and the yacht's sailors had made all kinds of money in betting on their crew. It was a minor sort of consolation for us when we found out that five of the Eleanor's racing crew were ex-American man-of-war's men."

Washington Star.

Winning race horses are generally bays, chestnuts or browns, and for every hundred bays among them there are 50 chestnuts and 50 browns. There is no record of an important race being won by a pinto.

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INDIAN AND TIGER.

A Clever Trick by Which the Former Out-witted the Latter.

According to a good and true story in Comhill, an Indian who had learned some of the elementary principles of juggling and contortion went out one evening to walk upon a ridge plain. When he reached the top of one of the mounds, he saw a tiger ahead of him, 200 or 300 yards away. Before the tiger could hide behind a mound the man could hide behind a mound the tiger had seen him and began to bound toward him at its utmost speed.

Having no means of defense, there was nothing for the man to do but to race for the nearest tree, but though he tried it and put forth his utmost strength the tiger steadily gained upon him.

What was he to do? In sheer desperation he resolved upon an unusual scheme. Just as he disappeared for an instant from the tiger's sight in running over a log he halted, stretched out his legs at right angles, curled down his head so as to look between his legs to the rear and extended his arms upward in a fantastic manner, like the sails of a windmill.

In a few seconds the tiger hove in sight, and at that instant the face of the object assumed a hideous grimace. A prolonged yell arose, such as had perhaps never before pierced the ear of any tiger, and the eyes of the windmill began to revolve backward and forward as if a sudden whirlwind had burst upon the scene.

The tiger recoiled. What, he evidently thought, is this? There stood a ferocious star shaped monster, gigantic against the sky. Its hideous head was situated in the very center of its body—may, its viselike jaws, between which those floundering roars were issuing, were actually placed above its two fiery eyes. Its limbs were furiously clanking for action, and the man he had been chasing, where was he? Already devoured by this terrible beast? The tiger could not pause to reflect. He turned tail, and as he disappeared over a friendly ridge a last awful yell caused him to redouble his pace. He was conquered by the unknown.

THE POWER OF SHADOWS.

A Gloomy View of the Power of Certain Popular Superstitions.

As antique runners passed from hand to hand the sacred torch, so the generations transmit to the generations which succeed them all that they have of light and knowledge, leaving them as a heritage the care of continuing the divine work of enfranchisement and of helping to dissipate the shadows of ignorance.

Little by little these clouds are vanquished and disappear, and the touch of intelligence flames the more radiantly in the midst of the travelling masses.

But all of a sudden a veil covers the torch—something surges up which seems like the darkness of another age. One feels that in a corner of this civilization monstrous things have place.

Here they burn a woman accused of sorcery; there in Siam a tribunal condemns to four days of imprisonment a laborer who had disinterred the corpse of an infant. He wanted to make bracelets of its finger nails, which, according to a belief held in that country, constitute a sovereign remedy against cholera.

And all the stories of vampires, of elf, return to the mind with all the victims they have made and are making still.

It seems in reading such things that the "power of shadows" is still imperceptible to all that science has done and that, as I have said, the effort is vain.—Figaro.

On the Eating of Loons.

Man is a creature of prejudice. In Scotland he will not eat eels; in Connecticut he will not eat starurgeon, the royal fish of England, where the first one taken in the Thames goes to the queen's table; in New York he will not eat lampreys, mis-called "lampers eels," which are delicacies in Connecticut, and in England some old king—I never could keep a record of kings—died from a surfeit of lampreys. With these prejudices in mind, and I hate all prejudices except those which I entertain, I decided to eat the loon.

There may be differences among loons, as there are between pigeons and squabs, there is better chewing on it, but if a man wants real hard chewing, with a flavor of raw fish, let him tackle an adult loon. That bird could not be picked. It was washed, and in its stomach there was a catfish, recently swallowed, one partly digested and the bones of another. The triggers of the pectoral fins of the catfish were set, but the stomach of the loon did not seem to be troubled by that fact.—Fred Mather in Forest and Stream.

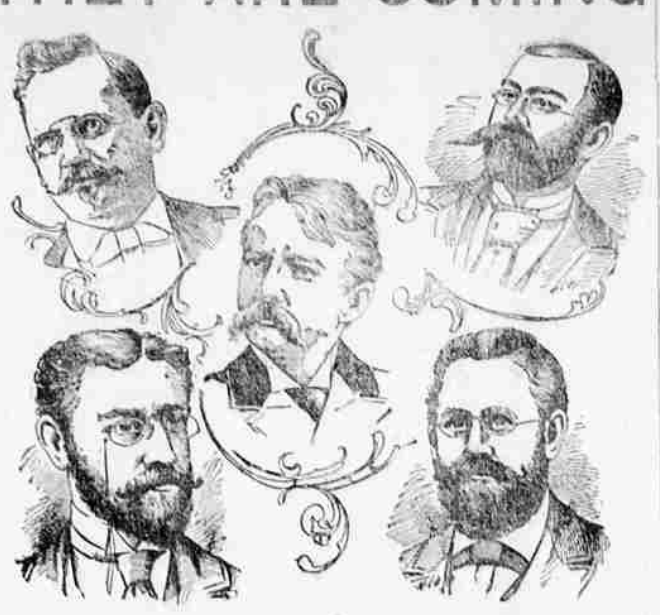
A Baldheaded Reply.

A naval officer, very well and favorably known in London, has for some unknown reason been advanced in his profession very slowly, though he has grown gray in the service and indeed lamentably bald. Recently one of his juniors was bold enough to question him as to his remarkable absence of hair.

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