

Last of the Whalers

Charles W. Morgan Preserved as Relic

By JOHN DICKINSON SHERMAN

LAST of the whalers—of the old-time square-rigged ships that sailed the Seven Seas for whale oil, whalebone, spermaceti and ambergris—is the Charles W. Morgan of New Bedford. Eighty-four years old, she's in her home port to stay. But she's no dismantled hulk, with which the elements will have their way. She's spick and span with fresh paint and a new suit of canvas and she lies in a concrete cradle on the waterfront of the estate of Col. E. H. R. Green at Round Hills. Henceforth her mission is that of object lesson of one of the country's greatest industries, of which she saw the rise, decline and fall. New Bedford sent out her first whaler in 1755. For many years she was the great whaling port of the world. Now the Morgan is as much a curiosity to most of her people as to the landsman visitor from the Middle West who thinks of a whale as "the big fish that swallowed Jonah."

Here's how Col. Edward Howland Robinson Green comes to be interested in the old whaler. She was named for Charles W. Morgan, her first owner. Her second owner was Edward Mott Robinson, father of Colonel Green's mother, the famous Hetty Green.

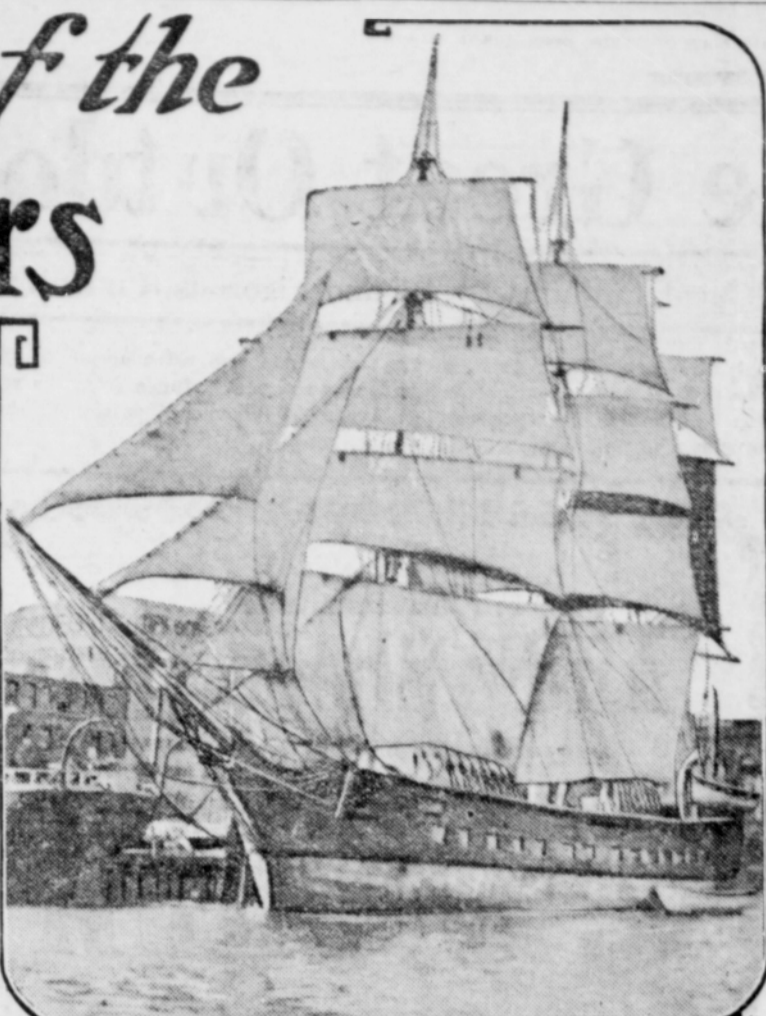
Capt. George Fred Tilton is the crowning touch. He's a veteran New Bedford whaling skipper who looks the part. And when he spins whaling yarns—why, the old days seem to live again.

Visitors? Well, rather. The old whaler has been alive with visitors all summer from all parts of the country. Most of them frankly admit complete ignorance on the subjects of whales and whaling and listen round-eyed. But lots of them have read "Moby Dick" or the "Cruise of the Cachalot" or "Stray Leaves from a Whaler's Log"—or all three. So they take on airs.

The Morgan's the real thing, all right. Old as she is, she was built to last. Jethro and Zachariah Hillman of New Bedford built her of live oak, with copper fastenings and sheathing. She has cruised over every whaling ground from the Arctic to the Antarctic. For twenty years or so she sailed out of San Francisco, until the steam whalers put her out of business. These steam whalers use modern methods and there's no adventure or romance in the business any more—it's just slaughter.

Here's about the way a whale was captured and handled on the Morgan in the old days: When the lookout at the masthead hails the deck with "There she blows!" the whaleboats are lowered. There are five or six boats, each requiring at least six men. The boats race for the whale. The first boat runs almost up against the huge bulk. The harpoon in the bow hurls the barbed weapon. The rowers back the boat frantically. The whale plunges down, sometimes to a depth of 200 fathoms. The line smokes out of the tubs. Finally the whale comes up to breathe, usually in twenty minutes or so. Other boats fix harpoons. Again the whale goes down and so on. Finally the whale is killed by lances. The boats then tow the carcass to the ship, where it is made fast to the chains so that it will not sink. Unless there are other whales in sight, the men then cut up the outer layer with "blubber-spades." Great cubical chunks are hoisted to the deck to be "tried out" in huge kettles, strained and stored in casks.

But sometimes it doesn't happen just exactly this way. Suppose the line gets around a man—that's the end of him. Suppose the whale takes out all the line. The axman cuts—and that's the last of a thousand feet of line. Suppose in the dying hurries the great tail—25 feet by 7—hits a boat—that's the end of that boat and maybe several of her crew. Suppose a toothed whale bites the boat into splinters—that's one boat less. Suppose a big sperm whale gets mad and rams the whaler itself—that



LAST OF THE WHALERS



BATTLE WITH WHALE OPENS

may be the end of the whaler.

Now, all of these things used to happen in the old days. Once a whale smashed a boat and the crew floated all night on the carcass—that's a whaling classic. In J. T. Brown's book, "Stray Leaves from a Whaler's Log" is told in detail how Vera, the Portuguese boat steerer, uttered a cry and "the immense glistening lower jaw, armed with two rows of polished teeth, flashed from the water when the gigantic whale leaped into the air, carrying with it the head of the boat, which had snapped asunder, and the unfortunate Vera, whose head and long arms were suspended from the corners of the monster's mouth."

Two other men, the bow and midship oarsmen, were never seen again. The Essex of Nantucket in 1819 met this fate; The captain and first mate being fast to a big sperm whale, Owen Chase, second mate, headed the ship toward them. The whale came to the surface and fiercely rammed the ship bow on, stopping her as if she had struck a rock. It passed under the ship, scraping her keel, and coming up astern. After snapping its jaws and thrashing the water with its tail, the monster rammed the second time, with its head half out of water. It struck the ship directly under the cathead and completely stove in her bows. It then went under the ship and disappeared to leeward. The Essex sank. After ninety days of horrifying experiences in two boats, the crew were picked up, the mate's boat by the brig India of London and the captain's by the whaler Dauphin.

There's no chance for anything like this in modern steam whaling. The high-speed boat can run rings around the fastest whale. A big gun in the bow shoots a barbed harpoon carrying a bomb timed for three seconds. The explosion inside the whale kills instantly. The carcass is then pumped full of air. Ultimately the steamer tows its captures to its shore station where the oil is extracted and the meat canned by modern machinery.

And there's ice. In 1871 a fleet of forty-two whalers was caught in the Arctic and only one escaped. More than 1,200 men were shipwrecked, but escaped in boats. And New Bedford's loss was more than a million dollars.

St. Peter, so goes the old story, peeked out through the Pearly Gates and asked, "Who knocks so loudly?" "John Smith, the famous fisherman," was the answer.

"Well, I can't keep you out for that, but go easy on your fish stories." But John Smith told 'em, morning, noon and night, to admiring throngs. But always there was a man on the edge of the circle who sneered and

walked away. It got on John Smith's nerves and he asked St. Peter, "Who's that uppity chap who tries to queer my best fish stories?"

"Oh, that's Jonah," said St. Peter. Which raises the question, Has Jonah any right to take on airs? In other words, did the whale swallow Jonah?

Not wishing to be caught between the upper and nether millstones of the fundamentalists and modernists, this deponent further sayeth not. But as to whether the whale could have swallowed Jonah, why, bless you, that all depends upon the kind of whale it was. If Jonah's whale was like the one shown in the old print reproduced—why, one gulp could have done it.

For this is a toothed whale (cachalot, sperm whale, spermaceti whale). Its length often runs to sixty feet. Its head forms about one-half its bulk and extends more than one-third of its length. Its mouth is very large and wide and its throat is large enough to pass a man with ease.

Incidentally, there's a new book out—"Our Naval Heritage," by Lieutenant Commander Fitzhugh Green, U. S. N., F. A. G. S., M. Sc. The jacket says it's "officially approved; read and checked by the historical section of the Navy department." And in the very first chapter we find this:

Moreover, it is really surprising how many of the early sea tales were founded on facts that defied exaggeration. Take the whale and Jonah yarn. Our own Literary Digest has printed a true story of a whaler launching two whale boats of a full equipment of men in an attempt to capture a gigantic sperm whale. In the battle with the monster the whale capsized one of the boats. All of the men were saved except two who were supposed to have been drowned. The whale was subsequently killed. Two days later it was cut up, and to their vast astonishment, the men found one of their shipmates whom they had thought dead lying unconscious in the belly of the whale. The man's name was John Bartley, and he finally recovered.

On the other hand, if Jonah met up with a toothless whale—why, there was nothing doing, except by way of miracle. The toothless whale may be just as big as a toothed whale and have just as large a mouth, but that mouth is chock full of whalebone, through which is strained the food. Besides, the gullet is absurdly small for so huge a creature.

Those who think of a whale as a "big fish" should think again. It's big enough—the only bigger living thing is the Big Tree of California. But the whale is as much an animal as a horse or a sheep. It has lungs; breathes air; gives birth to its young and suckles it. Moreover, the mother whale displays great affection for her 12-foot offspring.

how countless the poets inspired by the open fire, how endless the scenes portrayed by painters of words before the blazing hearth, what tender memories evoked thereby! In the hectic rush of modern life it may be that the people of the world still have need in their hearts and homes for the calming influence of the friendly fire.—"B. F." in Christian Science Monitor.

Use Natural Gas

Oklahoma is the only state of the Union without an artificial gas plant.

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL Sunday School Lesson

(By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D.D., Dean of the Evening School, Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)
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Lesson for November 22

PAUL BEFORE FELIX

LESSON TEXT—Acts 24:1-27.
GOLDEN TEXT—"Herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offense toward God, and toward men."—Acts 24:16.
PRIMARY TOPIC—Why Paul Was Not Afraid.
JUNIOR TOPIC—Paul Before Felix.
INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Paul Before Felix: A Contrast.
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—How to Have a Good Conscience.

1. Paul Accused (vv. 1-9).

Paul was now in the hands of Felix who determined to hear his case after his accusers had come from Jerusalem. Ananias, the high priest, and elders came with Tertullus, perhaps a Roman barrister, who formally made the accusation according to Roman law. He began with flattery. He gave Felix the fullest praise when he and all the people knew that he lied, for Felix was one of the worst governors, destitute of morals and justice. He brought a four-fold charge against Paul:

1. "A Pestilent Fellow" (v. 5). This would indicate a fellow utterly base and corrupt—a plague.
2. An Inciter of Rebellion, a Mover of Sedition (v. 5).
3. That He Was the Ringleader of a Sect—a Schismatical Party—a Heretic (v. 5).

This was designed to throw contempt and suspicion upon the Christians, by this means to bring Paul into deeper trouble.

4. That He Had Profaned the Temple (v. 6).

In this charge we see the wickedness again, they willfully suppressed facts.

11. Paul's Defense (vv. 10-21).

This is a splendid example of the strength and dignity of a man whose life is controlled by a noble purpose, and who has nothing to conceal, and will not distort or suppress facts.

1. Paul's Frankness and Courtesy (v. 10).

Flattery is entirely wanting. He gave recognition of the fact that Felix had been ruler of this people long enough to be able to judge justly, as the habits and ways of the Jews were familiar to him; he then in a dignified manner assumes that Felix will render a just decision based on the facts of the case.

2. The Charge of Sedition Denied (vv. 11-12).

He flatly and scornfully denied this charge, showing its utter falsity since the time was too short, it being but twelve days since he went to Jerusalem, and half of that time had been spent as a prisoner of the Romans.

3. The Charge of Heresy (vv. 14-16).

This he met by a concession and a denial. He admitted that he was of this "way" which they called heresy, but denied that Christians were schismatics. He showed clearly that his actions were in keeping with the Hebrew religion.

(1) He worshiped the same God (v. 14).

(2) He fully believed in the same Scriptures (v. 14).

(3) He had the same hope of a coming resurrection of the dead (v. 15).

He declared that he had as the principle of life a conscience void of offense before God and man.

(4) The Charge of Sacrilege or Profanation of the Temple (v. 17-21).

This charge he refuted by showing: (1) That he had come all the way from Greece (v. 17), to worship at the feast.

(2) That he did not come up empty-handed but had brought alms for his nation (v. 17).

(3) That there were not competent witnesses present to testify of his behavior in the temple (v. 19).

(4) By challenging his enemies to testify as to his conduct in the council (v. 20).

111. Felix Trembles Before Paul (vv. 22-27).

This is a sort of a sequel to the trial. Wicked as Felix was, Paul's manner somehow won his favor, though he did not release him. His sentence was indulgent imprisonment, which kept him free from his enemies while under Roman protection. Felix sent for Paul that he might hear of Christ from him. Paul behaved himself aright before these sinners in high life. He reasoned of righteousness, self-control and of judgment to come, before Felix and his sinful wife with such power that Felix was terrified, and declared that he would hear Paul further at a convenient time. This was a most timely excuse for not changing his life and granting justice to Paul.

Increasing Burdens

The man who increases the burdens of his brother will find his own load growing heavier.—Western Christian Advocate.

Revenge

Revenge is sweet to the taste but bitter in the heart.—Western Christian Advocate.

Faith

Faith means surrender of the will.—Western Christian Advocate.

"She praises it to everybody!"

Mrs. Crane had indigestion for ten years; Tanlac brought immediate relief.

As a climax to long years of suffering, Mrs. Hattie Crane got so bad she couldn't sleep and there were days when she couldn't walk across the floor. At times the gas pressure was so great she could scarcely breathe. She was faint and dizzy.

She writes: "Tanlac brought immediate relief and six bottles were enough to rid me of my troubles and bring back the joy of living. My health is better than ever and I am so pleased with Tanlac I praise it to everybody."

*Authentic statement from our files.



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NOTE: For Constipation, take Tanlac Vegetable Pills, Nature's own harmless laxative.

TANLAC FOR YOUR HEALTH

Success Rules

There are scores of starters to every finisher. Every person who gets ahead recognizes, consciously or unconsciously, four rules for success: First, he makes up his mind; second, he's happy and keen at his work; third, he studies and thinks; fourth, he finishes what he starts.—Grit.

Wright's Indian Vegetable Pills are not only a purgative. They exert a tonic action on the digestion. Test them yourself now. 372 Pearl St., N. Y. Adv.

There is usually a vast difference between a man's worth and what he is worth.

If some people practice humility it is because they are looking for the underhold.

Economy

"But isn't it expensive running a country house every summer?"
"No; I save money. We can't get help to stay out there and my wife has to do all her own work."

Stop the Pain.

The hurt of a burn or a cut stops when Cole's Carbolic is applied. It heals quickly without scars. 30c and 50c by all druggists, or send 30c to The J. W. Cole Co., 127 S. Euclid Ave., Oak Park, Ill.—Advertisement.

Autumn Musings

We can see very plainly that our new family isn't going to be very popular in our neighborhood. They moved in after dark the other night, and nobody got a good look at their furniture.—Kansas City Star.



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Conservation

"Your wife says you can't keep anything from her."
"She is mistaken. I have a quarter inside the lining of my vest at this very moment."—Judge.

Verification

Officer—Say! You can't swim there!
Bather—I know I can't. I'm drownin'!

Founts of Sweets

According to a recent statistical survey, the chief centers of candy manufacture in the United States are New York, Chicago, Boston, Cambridge, Mass.; Cleveland, Pittsburgh and San Francisco.

Best of all psychoanalysts is a man's conscience. It knows and he knows it knows.

CHILDREN CRY FOR

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To avoid imitations, always look for the signature of Dr. J. C. Fletcher. Absolutely Harmless—No Opium. Physicians everywhere recommend it.

Clever Japanese Thieves

Theft from a temple of the apex of an almost priceless jade tower, has given the Peking detective bureau a problem. The tower in question was constructed more than 2,000 years ago within the Hsi Huang Ssu, a Lama temple. Its top contained 300 ounces of gold with a market value of about \$6,200. Priests guarded the temple by day and by night—not with any idea that the top would be removed from

the tower, but because of valuable objects stored within. Expert burglars, however, managed to enter, scale the tower, remove its jade and gold top, and make off with a number of golden images.

Tribute to the Open Fire

Pictures in the fire! The plumber with all his modern art falls to produce the crudest daub. His background of piped calories gives forth no romantic coloring. No chord of fancy vibrates in harmony with thermodynamics. But