PRETTY TOUGH YARN.

How a Drowning Mariner Was Rescued by an Accomplished Messmate.

"Talking of life-preservers," said the truthful mariner, as he knocked the ashes out of his pipe, "you remember the old steamer Roustabout that used to run from Buffalo to Chicago. I was mate on her the year before she was lost. We were about sixty miles out from Chicago when Mike Lanagan, who was doing something up on the mast, fell, struck on his head on the roof of the cabin and bounced clear out into the lake. Well, the captain he see him fall and he stopped and backed that old Roustabout quicker'n you could say 'scat.' Mike went down like a plummet, for he was knocked insensible, and I knowed that there was no use to heave a life-preserver for him, so I jest hurried up the boys in getting the boat down, although I didn't expect it 'ud do much good. We had Jim King on board, passenger from Chicago. You remember Jim King, don't you?"

"Can't say that I do," remarked a bystander.

"Well, Jim was champion quoit-thrower in them days. He's dead now, poor fellow but Jim was a hoss on throwing quoits. I tell you quoits were a great game them days. Every village had a quoit club, and the boys on the farms used to throw hoss-shoes. It was somethin' like base-ball is these times, although I never could see as much fun in base-ball as I could see in a good game o' quoits."

"Oh, come off," cried the impatient listener. "What did Jim do, or did he do any thing? Did the man drown?"

"Now, don't be too fly. Whose tellin' this yarn?"

"Well, *you* don't seem to be."

"Go on! Go on!" said the crowd.

"Well, you know, in quoits a 'ringer' was when you put the quoit round the stake. It counted double. Well, Jim, he picks up the round life-preserver, it's like a great big quoit, you know, and as the capp'n came running aft, Jim he sings out: 'Capp'n, I'll bet you five dollars that I'll make a ringer on that man, if he comes up within the length of this line.'"

"Bet you twenty dollars you can't," said the capp'n.

"'Take you,' said Jim, and just at thet minit up bobs Mike's head about sixty feet astern. Jim threw, and I'll be durned if that life-preserver didn't go plump over on Mike's head clean down on his shoulders, and there it stuck. We got down the boat, and when we got to Mike he hadn't come to yet and didn't for some time after. He'd been a goner if it hadn't been for that ringer, although it took the skin offen his nose."

"Did the captain pay the twenty dollars?"

"Pay it? You jist bet he did. And Jim he handed it over to Mike, and Mike he blew it all in when he got to Detroit. I wish some of it was here now fur I'm mighty dry. Thanks. don't mind if I do."—*Detroit Free Press.*

GENUINE CONTENT.

Good Men and Women Who, "Having Nothing, Yet Have All."

In one of the great cities of the West which have sprung up into full life in as many years as men take to totter through babyhood, an old gray house preaches the unusual lesson of content to all passers-by. The street on which it stands is filled with solid rows of massive banks and importing houses, the most valuable property in the city. Niched in between two towering, splendid buildings are two acres of ground, planted in grass, and an old-fashioned garden, with a cow-house and a plain little dwelling, such as might be built for a few hundred dollars. It is the property of a poor man, who lives on a moderate salary earned by his daily labor. A few years ago he bought three acres of this ground for six dollars, and afterwards sold enough to build a home for himself and his wife upon the rest of the lot. He has been offered half a million for it and refused.

"I have no children," was his answer. "I have all I want—a comfortable home, easy work, enough for our daily need. I do not wish to be rich."

Whatever we may think of his reasons, or the wisdom or folly of his course, there can be no doubt that he has acquired something beyond all jewels in value—content. If an honest man be the noblest work God, a contented man is assuredly the rarest.

There is an old story of a quizzical Irish nobleman, who put up a placard on a field: "This meadow shall be given to the man who can prove that he is absolutely satisfied with his lot." But as soon as the applicant had proved his content with his fortune, the joker asked him: "Then what do you want with my field?"

In actual life the contented men and women are those who are too much occupied with work for others to reflect upon their own wants or to cultivate their own ambitions. Love fills their brains and busy hands, and they, "having nothing, yet have all."—*Youth's Companion.*

—There is a watch in a Swiss museum only three-sixteenths of an inch in diameter, inserted in the top of a pencil case. Its little dial not only indicates hours, minutes and seconds, but also days of the month.

—In the City of Mexico every body lives over a shop, if the house be two stories, or uses the lower floor for stabling the horses, quartering the servants, etc. Even millionaires often rent the ground floor of their swell residences for business purposes.—*Boston Budget.*

—The thistle, that notorious pest of the agriculturist, now covers extensive tracts of country in Southern Chili. It was introduced by an Englishman, who imported a bushel of the seed and sowed it under the delusion that it would be valuable as a fodder plant.—*N. Y. Ledger.*

—The highest number of works exhibited in the Champs Elysees was in 1880, when the total was 7,259, comprising 5,012 pictures and 731 sculptures and medals. The grand total of works of all kinds exhibited in the salons since 1872 is 74,403, including 54,147 pictures.

SALT-WATER DAY.

An Old New Jersey Festival That Is Rapidly Going Out.

The custom of observing Salt-water Day is so old that it is supposed to be of Dutch origin; but long before the Dutch came to New Jersey—the State in which the day is celebrated—the Indians had a custom which might very well have furnished the model. It is a fact established in history that the New Jersey Indians were in the periodical habit of assembling in the neighborhood of the salt water for the purpose of feasting upon oysters, and the gathering and eating of oysters was one of the chief features of Salt-water Day observed among the Monmouth County farmers in later years. Before oysters became private property, and when there were natural beds of them along the Jersey shore, farmers living within twenty or thirty miles felt a keen oyster hunger about the first of every August, and on Salt-water Day, which occurs at this season, the beds were made to suffer. They suffered so much that the New Jersey Legislature finally passed a law refraining people from taking oysters by any means except the unsupplemented feet and hands, so that for several years previous to the time when oysters ceased to be public property the farmers on Salt-water Day could obtain this delicate food only by "treading" it; that is, by working the oysters from the bottom, and skillfully bringing them to the surface with their toes.

South Amboy used to be a favorite place of gathering on Salt-water Day, and so lately as five years ago as many as one hundred tent-top wagons brought in their loads of people from the back-lying farms to assist in this celebration. At South Amboy the festivities are concluded in a single day, but at other places—and notably at Point Pleasant, or Sea Girt, as it is now called, a part of the village of Squan—three days are devoted to them. Of course at these festivals at the edge of the sea there have come to be other joys than the joy of eating oysters. Bathing, dancing and miscellaneous feasting are to be reckoned among the delights of Salt-water Day. There are stores of cold fowl, sandwiches, home-made pies, cider and pink lemonade, and some of the wagon-tops keep the sun off from a keg or a demijohn of apple-jack. The bathing suits worn by the farmers and their wives and daughters are home-made, the same as the pies, and are commendable for their comfort and serviceability rather than their fit.

But the observance of Salt-water Day is not what it used to be. Railroads have brought the sea and the oysters nearer to the farmers, and the season for the celebration is largely gone. The colored people still observe the day with considerable fervor at Long Branch, but the festival, speaking generally, is one which is rapidly going out.—*Harper's Weekly.*

CHINA'S WEST POINT.

How Military Cadets are Educated in the Flowery Kingdom.

Nearly three years ago the Chinese Government, at the instigation of Li Hung Chang, decided to establish an academy for forming a staff of well-instructed native officers. With this object the first body of Chinese cadets were brought together and installed in the office of the admiralty at Tien-Tsin. This was in March, 1885, and very soon afterward the construction of a separate building for them was commenced. This is now completed, and it is to serve as the model of similar buildings, one of which is to be erected in the capital of each of the eighteen provinces. The academy of Tien-Tsin is situated on the Peiho, and occupies a space of more than six hundred square yards. It is excellently adapted to the requirements of such a building, while its architectural appearance is in harmony with the local surroundings. Besides a large number of reception and dining rooms and the dormitories, there are four great lecture halls, two large saloons, a room for military games, another for photographical work, and a third for printing, two chemistry halls, and an apartment for drawing. The building is capable of accommodating three hundred students and the administrative staff. On a wide plain adjoining the building are encamped under tents a considerable body of infantry and artillery. At the head of the corps of the cadets is a Chinese officer, the Taotai Yang Tsung Pan. His colleague is, however, Major Pauli, of the German artillery. The masters and instructors are also foreign officers, chiefly Germans, and the system of training is borrowed from the German. The sons of the upper classes are alone admitted between the ages of fourteen and fifteen. At first this rule was not observed, and there was one instance of a cadet being as old as thirty-five. Each student is expected to remain four years in the general class, where he is taught Chinese, writing, foreign languages, geography and natural science. After the termination of this preliminary course he is transferred for a year to one of the school companies attached to the corps. He then serves for a year with the regular army, and finally returns to the military school for a year's instruction in military science. After passing his examination the cadet receives his commission and joins one of the regiments of the Chinese army.

—In a recent paper on the coincidence of certain solar phenomena with the perturbations of terrestrial magnetism, M. E. Marchand shows, from a comparative study of the solar observations made at the Lyons Observatory, in 1883–86, with the curves of the Mascart magnetic recorder, that there exists a direct relation between the terrestrial magnetic disturbances and the displacement of certain solar elements accompanying the spots and the faculæ.

—Lady Arden, of Scotland, recently had a troublesome tooth. A dentist was called in to extract it, but she then declared that she couldn't get up nerve enough to stand the operation unless she saw the experiment tried on some one else. For the sake of peace in the family Lord Arden sat down and had a sound tooth pulled without wincing. He took his revenge in seeing her agonies when her turn came.

USES FOR BIRCH BARK.

Some of the Really Charming Things That Ladies Can Make from It.

There are so many pretty things can be made from birch bark that it is strange it is not more popular for decoration. The gray birch bark is sometimes used, but it is not as nice in any way as the white. Most people who have spent any time in the country know how to remove the bark from the tree, but for those who do not know it is a very easy thing to do if the directions are followed. Select a half-grown tree, as from too young a tree the bark does not peel as easily, and the layers are hard to divide, and too old a tree is usually so knotty that it is almost impossible to get a smooth piece of any size, for the bark will tear in being removed from the tree where there are knots. After selecting your tree, with a sharp pen-knife make a perpendicular slit, any length you wish, taking care there are no knots in the piece you wish to remove, loosening one side at top and bottom, and if a large piece it is well to loosen a little along the entire length, as very large pieces are liable to split in the center if not loosened. Take a firm hold of top and bottom, and with very little exertion on your part the piece can be removed, leaving a broad, bare circle around the trunk or limb of the tree. The work of dividing the layers should be done as soon after removal from the tree as convenient, as the longer it is let remain without being separated the harder it will be to accomplish, and the layers will not be as smooth and nice as if separated earlier. These layers are of very pretty shades, being pure white, cream-yellow, and some delicate shades of pink, and make very nice ornamental and useful articles of decoration.

Many people while away for the season are fond of using smooth sheets of bark for note paper, sending them to their friends as souvenirs of their summer in the country. Envelopes are also made of it, using paper ones for patterns, and are very unique. A pretty whisk-broom holder is made by cutting out of card-board two pieces the shape of the broom, cover with smooth pieces of bark, and on one side in each corner paste a group of tiny ferns and in the center a bunch of pressed autumn leaves and ferns, sew or glue together, and bind with some bright shade of ribbon. At each upper corner place a bow of the ribbon. Sew a small brass ring to the center of the back piece next the wall, and suspend the holder by a loop of ribbon, with pretty bow drooping over the nail from which it hangs. Line with any material you like. A spool box is made by cutting a circle of card-board about the size of the bottom of a collar box, glue around this a perpendicular rim about two inches deep, cover with bark, around the lower part of rim, where it joins the bottom, tie a band of narrow ribbon; line with pretty silk and sew around the top a ruching of ribbon. Ornament with ferns or autumn leaves.

Birch bark pictures are very pretty for home decoration. Take a nice smooth sheet of bark any size desired, and fasten firmly with mucilage to a piece of thin cardboard; decorate with the brush or arrange pressed autumn leaves and ferns upon it in any way desired. Pretty frames for pictures of this kind are made by cutting from thin, unplaned boards pieces the size desired, and glue together. At each corner, or, if the frames are large, at equal distances apart, arrange groups of tiny acorns in their cups and glue firmly to the frames, and gild the whole. The unplaned wood when gilded gives the appearance of rough gilt. Cornucopias are nice made of bark bound with ribbon decorated with autumn leaves and ferns and filled with dried grasses. Place at the points pretty bows of ribbon, to the ends of which attach tiny gilded acorns in their cups. Another pretty receptacle for dried grasses is a round box any depth and width desired, covered with bark, ornamented in front a little above half way with a bunch of pine or hemlock burrs glued on firmly, varished or bronzed, or both. At the bottom of the bunch is fastened a broad satin ribbon. The width of the ribbon depends upon the size of the box. A pretty ornament for the front of this box instead of the burrs is a small bunch of dried grasses tied with a bow of ribbon. The burrs at the ends of the ribbon may be fastened by small brass-headed tacks. These are only a few of the things for which birch bark can be used, and as it serves the purpose of perforated carboard, the making of one article will suggest the making of another.—*Boston Budget.*

A Delicate Situation.

"Uncle James," said Miss Penelope Waldo, of Boston, who is visiting in the country, "I was out walking this morning and young Mr. Smith, who was with me, killed a snake. When I asked him what kind of snake it was he seemed embarrassed and changed the subject."

"The only kind o' snakes we hev about here, Penelope," said her Uncle James, "is garter snakes."

Then Miss Waldo realized the innate delicacy of young Mr. Smith, and was deeply grateful to him.—*Judge.*

—M. Ligner, an Austrian meteorologist, claims to have ascertained after careful investigation that the moon has an influence on a magnetized needle varying with its phases and its declination. The phenomenon is said to be more prominently noticeable when the moon is near the earth, and to be very marked when she is passing from the full to her first or second quarter. The disturbances are found to be at their maximum when the moon is in the plane of the equator, and greater during the southern than it is during the northern declination.—*Chicago Times.*

—The meanest man in Boston has been reported. He calls himself a practical joker, and it is said that, having noticed that on a certain day of the week a pudding was placed on the ledge of a window to cool, he bought a bean blower and a box of mandrake pills, and when the pudding next appeared he blew it full of pills. It is also said that puddings are no longer exposed on that back window.

An ordinary elephant produces 110 pounds of ivory, worth $60. England consumes 650 tons (of which Sheffield uses one-third), for which it is necessary to kill 12,000 elephants yearly.

WRETCHED, INDEED,

Are those whom a confirmed tendency to biliousness, subject to the various and changeful symptoms indicative of liver complaint, Nausea, sick headache, constipation, furred tongue, an unpleasant breath, a dull or sharp pain in the neighborhood of the affected organ, impurity of the blood and loss of appetite, signalize it as one of the most distressing, as it is one of the most common of maladies. There is, however, a benign specific for the disease and all its unpleasant manifestations. It is the concurrent testimony of the public and the medical profession, that Hostetter's Stomach Bitters is a medicine which achieves results speedily felt, thorough and benign. Besides rectifying liver disorder, it invigorates the feeble, conquers kidney and bladder complaints, and hastens the convalescence of those recovering from enfeebling diseases. Moreover, it is the grand specific for fever and ague.

The steamer Matthew Bean was wrecked off Cape Finistere and ten persons were drowned.

COMING HOME TO DIE.

At a period of life when budding womanhood requires all her strength to meet the demands nature makes upon it, many a young woman returns home from the severe mental strain of school with a broken-down constitution, and her functions disarranged, to go to an early grave. If she had been wisely counseled and given the benefit of Dr. Pierce's "Favorite Prescription" her bodily development might have kept pace with her mental growth, and health and beauty would not have given way to decline and death.

There were fifty-five boiler explosions in England last year.

A FACT TO BE REMEMBERED.

Do not be deceived by misrepresentation. Ask your druggist for ALLCOCK'S POROUS PLASTERS and let no explanation or solicitation induce you to accept a substitute. ALLCOCK'S PLASTERS are a purely vegetable preparation, the formula of which is known only to the manufacturers. Their valuable curative qualities are due to the employment of the highest medical and chemical skill. They act safely, promptly and effectually. Over 1,000,000 persons have been cured by ALLCOCK'S POROUS PLASTERS.

To Threshers: I have a few of the celebrated Wes inghouse Threshers yet, and for the purpose of closing out will sell them on next year's terms at bottom figures. Also, a few second-hand machines of other make. Write for bargains Z. T. WRIGHT, foot of Morrison Street Portland Oregon.

Japan has in contemplation the survey of all her large rivers.

Young or middle-aged men suffering from nervous debility, loss of memory, premature old age, as the result of bad habits, should send 10 cents in stamps for large illustrated treatise suggesting unfailing cure. Address World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, New York.

Six persons perished in a fire in the insane asylum at Cleveland, O.

IF SUFFERERS FROM CONSUMPTION,

Scrofula, Bronchitis, and General Debility, will try **Scott's Emulsion** of Cod Liver Oil with Hypophosphites, they will find immediate relief and permanate benefit. The Medical Profession universally declare it a remedy of the greatest value and very palatable. Read: "I have used Scott's Emulsion in several cases of Scrofula and Debility in children. Results most gratifying. My little patients take it with pleasure."—W. A. HULBERT, M.D., Salisbury, Ill.

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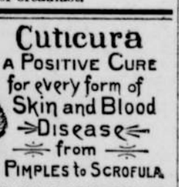

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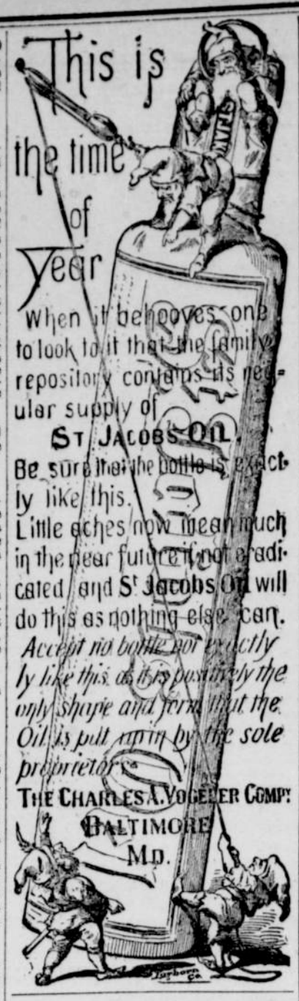

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SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

—Daytona, Fla., ships on an average of 250 boxes of oranges a day to Northern markets.

—Isabella Y. Prince, of California, has been called to Tokio, Japan, to establish a school of domestic science. Her pupils will be ladies of the highest rank.

—A new absorbent preparation is made from the cocoanut fiber. It is called cofferdam, and will hold like a sponge from twelve to fourteen times its own weight of water.—*Springfield Times.*

—At the close of 1886 the American Association of Science, according to the report of the permanent secretary, had 1,886 members. Of these, 631, being specially engaged in scientific work, have been elected to the rank of fellows.

—M. Lacombe, a Frenchman, has succeeded in taking long-distance photographs by fixing a telescope in front of the objective of the camera. The apparatus promises usefulness to tourists and other amateurs.

—A scientist, after a careful analysis of the impression made upon the retina by different degrees of light, concludes that both white and black are colors, and both should have a proper place upon the chromatic scale.

—George Sampson was firmly resolved to know his fate that very night. "Miss Clara," he began tenderly, "you are not quite your usual self this evening." "No, Mr. Sampson," the girl replied, "I am suffering from acute indigestion." So he postponed knowing his fate until a more favorable opportunity.—*N. Y. Sun.*

—Miller's Son (just returned from college)—"Father, do you believe the center of that shaft is turning?" (pointing to a revolving shaft.) Miller—"No, I know it isn't." Son (somewhat disconcerted)—"Er—but can you explain why it doesn't?" Miller—"Certainly; it is hollow."—*Detroit Free Press.*

—"Johnny," says a fond mother to her boy," which would you rather do, speak French or Spanish?" "I would rather," said Johnny, rubbing his waistband and looking expressively at the table, "I would rather talk turkey."

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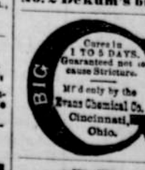

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