

Two days later we overhauled a fishing vessel. I hailed those on board and inquired for the course to Halifax to which they replied that the course was northeast-by-east, a half east. I set the ship on that course and the next day about eight o'clock in the morning I sighted the pilot boat. Just then a heavy fog engulfed us and the pilot was unable to board until around 11 o'clock.

The Ship Reaches Halifax

When the pilot came on board, I turned the vessel over to him and explained what had happened, and upon arriving in Halifax harbor a short while afterwards, we dropped anchor.

No sooner had the anchor been dropped than the harbor master came on board to inspect the ship's papers. The pilot told him of the murder, whereupon he left the ship immediately and summoned the police. We

were all arrested and placed in jail until the American consul was notified.

Due to the fact that the vessel's home port was Boston, and under American registry, the police could do nothing further than hold an examination in order to place the guilt.

All the Crew Put in Jail

After holding us in jail at Halifax for four days, during which time I slept most of the time, they put us in irons and took us aboard a steamer bound for Boston, and upon arrival there we were taken to the Charles Street jail. The next day we were all taken to court and given an examination.

Monks, the passenger was set free, but was to appear in court when the trial came up. I was the only one who was allowed bail, which was set at \$1,000. I guess the authorities must have known that I was poor and would be unable to furnish that amount of bail.

It seemed, however, that luck was with me, for there was a man in the court room who had heard my story of what I had gone through in order to bring the ship back with the dead bodies. He was wealthy—a doctor, by the name of Dickson.

The Steward Bailed Out

He came to me in the court room and said, "Spencer, do you want me to bail you out?" I replied, "Sir, if I am bailed out I will lose the dollar a day they will pay me if I remain in jail." "Do not let a little thing like that worry you as I am your friend," said he.

The doctor had some trouble in obtaining my release on bail, but his great influence finally induced them to let me go until the trial. I then took the train to New York to see my wife, spent one day with her and then returned to Boston. Upon my arrival there I was again arrested and thrown into jail.

Their reason for putting me in jail again was that they were afraid I would talk too much, being a man who liked to talk. Dr. Dickson again came to my rescue and obtained my release.

Public opinion was with me and everyone in Boston was praising my deed with the exception of Captain Nash's brother, who had a dislike for colored people and would not give

me credit for bringing the bodies back for a decent burial.

The Herbert Fuller was again sent to sea with a new crew to complete its voyage and on its return the trial was held.

The Mate Is Convicted

During the trial, each member of the crew was placed on the stand and each told all that he knew about the murders.

Charlie Brown turned state's evidence and said that he saw Mr. Bram kill the captain. I related all I knew and told the court how I had not had any sleep from the time the passenger had called me until eight days afterwards when I was put in jail at Halifax. A doctor for the state said that it was an impossi-

bility for any man to stay up for eight days and nights. My story was corroborated by each member of the crew.

At the end of the trial, the jury convicted Bram of murder in the first degree and he was sentenced to be hanged.

Bram's lawyer made an appeal for a new trial and it was granted. The second trial ended somewhat similar to the first in that he was found guilty but was sentenced to serve life imprisonment. After serving fifteen years he was granted a full pardon by President Wilson.

The Case Remains a Mystery

To this day there is still a mystery as to who the murderer was. Who killed the captain's wife and the second mate and for what reasons? Did Brown help kill them? or did the second mate assault Mrs. Nash and the captain kill both of them, or did the second mate kill the captain and his wife and in turn was killed by Bram?

It is one of the sea mysteries that has never been solved and will always remain as such.

The author is still following the same vocation as steward on the S.S. Luckinbach. The Herbert Fuller was sunk during the World War.

John Henery Goes to Work



John Henery was a layin' up in my nice warm feather bed just a snorin' away, and all at once it seems I get blood mad.

"I ain't tole yo bout me makin' John Henery go out an git hisself a job, is it? No, cose I aint, caus he jes went to work day befo yistiddy.

"Yo member that mawnin we had that big snow? Well that was a mawnin I woke up mean an onery an when I looked out the winder an seen all that snow I got meaner an onerier.

"Ol John Henery was a layin up in my nice warm feather bed jes a snorin away an all at once it seem like I git blood mad, for I thought bout me gittin out in all that snow an leavin him layin up there all warm an evrything. So I jes jumped outa bed an give one pull at the bed cloes an when that cole air hit John Henery he hollered, 'What in the world is yo doin Lizzie pullin the cloes off me this a way? Does yo want me to ketch my death er cold?'

"'What I wants yo to do,' say I, 'is to git out er that bed an go out an git yosef a job, caus I is sick an tired er havin yo layin roun doin nothing as yo has been the las three years.'

"'Yo no as well as I does,' say John Henery, 'that the doctah say that I am liable to drop dead from my heart if I does any kind of work.'

"'Well the doctah is rite bout yo droppin dead,' say I, 'but it wont be frum yo heart it will be frum this big fis of mine caus if yo dont git out of here this mawnin an git yosef a job I is sho Gawd goin to try my bes to kill yo, yo lazy no count scounrel.'

"'Well mam, Ol John Henery looked at me an he seen frum my face that I mean evry word I say an he noes frum sperience that I kin whip him same as his many used to do any time I feel like.

"'So he puts on his cloes kinder fas like an beats it out er there an I aint seen him no more till I cum home that nite an the first thing I say to him is, 'Did yo git a job?' 'Yes,

'Lizzie,' he sey, 'I got a job sweepin out the halls in a pahmen hous, but the work is mighty hard an it dont seem like I is goin to be able to keep it.'

"'Oh, yes yo is,' sey I, 'yo is goin to keep it an like it, yo unnerstan that?' and believe me, mam, I is goin to see that he sho does keep it.

"'But to tell the trufe, if I hadn't a woke up mean an onery like I did an seen all that snow mos likely, Ol John Henery would be layin up in that nice warm bed rite now. Yes mam.'

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