

SLANG OF THE SAILOR

The Lingo That Is Used by Uncle Sam's Bluejackets.

MANY QUIANT EXPRESSIONS.

The Man-of-war's Man May Be a "Snowdigger" or a "Sloper," but He Uses the Language of Every Other Sailor.

There is a language that is neither English nor American, down east nor southern, western nor Yankee. It is just sailors' lingo.

No matter what part of the country may be the birthplace of a bluejacket or what his language at home, sooner or later he uses the language of every other sailor.

To the civilian a conversation between two bluejackets about his life on shipboard is hardly intelligible. The other day on the water front two sailors were overheard talking, says the San Francisco Bulletin.

"Oh, he's nothing but a beach combber. He was run up for breaking it once and got sent to the pie wagon," said one of them.

"I heard he got six months and a bob before he come here," replied the other. A small boy standing near asked what all those things meant. The sailors were in a good humor and explained.

"Beach combber," lad? Why, that's a fellow who hangs around a saloon ashore and never wants to work. "Breaking it" is staying overtime on shore, and "run up" is brought to the mast for offenses. The "pie wagon" is the place where they put prisoners, and "six months and a bob" is sentenced to six months in prison and given a dishonorable discharge.

There are many other terms and expressions that do not show their meaning on the surface.

A "rookie" is a recruit. A man who "ships over" enlists again. A man who is on the report for mast call is "down for a chance." Canned beef is known as "canned Willie," and a bottle of liquor is a "dog." All things lost on shipboard are put in a room called the "lucky bag." An honorable discharge is "a big ticket," and desertion by a sailor is "jumped." When the mail arrives on board and is ready for distribution "mallo" is the cry which carries the news. A ship's carpenter is called "chips," a coppersmith "coppers," a blacksmith "blacky" and the chief of the engineering department "the chief."

When a ship is traveling at sea it is "seagoing," and if it hurries it is "making knots." A prison on shore is a "stone frigate." When a man is disgraced to a lower rating he is "busted," when he deserts and voluntarily gives himself up within a period of six months he is a straggler, when he is sitting next the dealer in a friendly game of "draw" he is "under the gun," when he is continually quoting the naval regulations he has "swallowed the blue book," and when he thinks he knows more about the blue book than the captain he is a "sea lawyer."

"Pipe down" means in American slang "shut up." "Put in his oar" is "butt in." "Shove off, Jack," is a hint to move on. When a man is dishonorably discharged he gets a "straight kick." A sailor who draws more pay "draws more water." One who talks too much "blows off at a low pressure."

Wednesday afternoon, when the crew overhaul their clothing, is "rope yard Sunday." Any part of the United States is called "God's country," and the man from the eastern coast is a "snowdigger," while his brother from the west is called "sloper." The duty of calling the men in the morning falls to the master at arms, and he says "show a leg" or "rise up and shine." When a man has had no night watch and gets up in the morning with a good appetite it is "all night in and beans for breakfast."

One of the more familiar sea terms is "caught a crab," meaning caught an oar in the water. When a sailor has several enlistments to his credit he is called "a sea dog" or "an old salt."

A gentle hint from one sailor to another that he does not believe something which is being told to him is "tell it to a marine." To re-enlist is to "ship over," and when more than half the enlistment is in a sailor is "going downhill."

His Office Hours.
Pat, a miner, after struggling for years in a western mining district, finally giving up in despair, was about to turn his face eastward when suddenly he struck it rich. Soon afterward he was seen strutting along, dressed in fine clothes. One day an old friend stopped him, saying:
"And how are you, Pat? I'd like to talk to you."
Pat stretched himself proudly.
"If you want to talk to me I'll see you in the office. I hev an office now, and me hours is from a. m. in the mornin' to p. m. in the afternoon."
Northwestern Christian Advocate.

Crack or Break.
Edwin and his mother went for a walk Sunday afternoon. Coming to a tree of cherries, the mother bent a low limb so that the little fellow could pick some. Seeing some fine ones higher up, he begged to be allowed to climb the tree. "Oh, no," said his mother, "that would be breaking the Sabbath."

"And we are only cracking the Sabbath now, are we, mamma?" inquired Edwin.—Dellneator.

A clever man turns great troubles into little ones and little ones into none at all.—Chinese Proverb.

ALPINE GUIDES.

Some Are Experts in "Snow and Ice Work," Some in "Rock Work."

Some of the Alpine guides are experts in climbing. There are a number who are noted for their skill in what the Alpinist calls "snow and ice work." That means going up a peak which has so many snow fields and glaciers that its sides and summits may be nearly covered with them. The glacier guide can tell you all about "cornices"—snow masses which project from the edge of precipices and overhang the valley beneath like the roof of a house. Experience has told him whether a cornice can be crossed safely or whether it may break off if one ventures upon it. He is also an expert with the ice ax carried in his belt, cutting footholds in the glittering walls that may rise fifty or a hundred feet above your head. These ice precipices are frequently found at the heads of glaciers, which, as the schoolboy knows, are merely rivers of frozen water slowly moving down the face of a mountain on account of the force of gravity and the great pressure of the ice masses which form their source on the upper part of the slope. Other guides make a speciality of "rock work," conducting persons up peaks which may be only partly covered with snow and ice, but having sides of bare rock so steep that in places the cliffs may be almost straight up and down. Here it would seem that one must be as spry and as sure footed as the chamois—the rare goat that lives up amid the Alps. While the crevasse and other dangers of the snow and ice fields may be absent, the mountain may be so abrupt that the climber must ascend hundreds of feet pulling himself up with arms aiding his legs, while often the guide hauls him to the top of the most difficult slopes by main strength.—St. Nicholas.

A MANSFIELD FAILURE.

When the Famous Actor Fainted of Hunger in London.

Mansfield was taken to the Savage club, where his cleverness was attested by the leading entertainers of London. When Corney Grain was taken sick in the spring of 1877, Mansfield was at once recommended as his substitute in the German Reed entertainments. He was to receive £8 a week. This was a splendid salary for any young man as salaries went then or as they stand now on the London stage. To Mansfield it was a positive windfall.

As a member of this distinguished little coterie of entertainers Mansfield felt that his fortune was made. His whole interest, attention and hope now centered on April 20, the night of his debut. He was assigned the small role of the beadle in the comedietta "Charity Begins at Home," which opened the evening. After that he was to change to evening dress and hold the stage alone for half an hour after the manner established by Corney Grain. Every shilling he could scrape together went for a wardrobe, linen, boots, cravat, a boutonniere and other irreplaceable appurtenances.

His friends crowded St. George's hall for his first appearance. It was observed as he uttered the few lines of the beadle that he was excessively nervous. When later in the evening he sat down at the piano and struck a preliminary chord he fainted dead away.

Mr. Reed relieved him of his position at once. In discharging him he said: "You are the most nervous man I have ever seen." It was not all nervousness, however. Mansfield had not eaten for three days. He had fainted from hunger.

It was many a year before he again worked up to the munificence of £8 a week, but this pathetic incident was later made an asset as employed by him in an attractive little comedy of his own writing.—Paul Wiltach in Scribner's.

Iodine and Light.

If it is necessary to use iodine for painting the skin in medical treatment it is worth remembering that the painting should be done in the dark or in a red light such as is used in photography.

If this is done and the painted portion of the skin be covered without being exposed to white light it will not blister nor stain the flesh even if the painting is repeated a good many times.—New York Sun.

Deer.

Deer will eat almost any kind of grain or grass, even preferring the ranker weeds to the choicest hay. They should always have an abundant supply of clear, running water. About the greatest item of expense connected with raising deer is the cost of fencing. The fawns are usually born in the spring or early summer. Does, as a rule, have but one fawn at first, but subsequently twins are born and in rare cases triplets.—Kansas City Star.

British Army Intelligence.

An army order gave the following as the occasions on which the union Jack is to be flown:

(a) On anniversaries only, or when specially required for saluting purposes. (b) On Sundays and anniversaries. (c) Daily.

—Punch.

Not Like Father.

"Do you think Mr. Skinnum's baby will take after its father?"

"Not at all. The other day they persuaded it to cough up a nickel it had swallowed."—Washington Star.

No man has ever by complaining of his ill luck induced others to have confidence in him.—Chicago Record-Herald.

FOR LOOKS ONLY.

One of General Robert E. Lee's Wartime Dinners.

The great simplicity of the habits of General Robert E. Lee was one reason for his popularity with his soldiers. He fared no better than his troops. There were times when for weeks the southern army had but short rations, often doing entirely without meat. In "The Old South and the New" Mr. Charles Morris tells an amusing story of one of these periods of scarcity.

On a very stormy day several corps and division generals arrived at headquarters and were waiting for the rain to abate before riding to their camps when General Lee's cook announced dinner. The general invited his visitors to dine with him. On repairing to the table a tray of hot corn bread, a boiled head of cabbage seasoned with a very small piece of bacon and a bucket of water constituted the repast.

The piece of meat was so small that all politely declined taking any, expressing themselves as "very fond of boiled cabbage and corn bread," on which they dined.

Of course the general was too polite to eat meat in the presence of guests who had declined it. But later in the afternoon, when they had all gone, feeling very hungry, he called his servant and asked him to bring him a piece of bread and meat.

The darky looked perplexed and embarrassed and said in a deprecating tone: "Well, Mars Robert, dat meat what I sot before you at dinner wa'n't ours. I jest borrowed dat piece of middlin' from one of de couriers to season de cabbage in de pot, and, seel'n' as you was gwine to have company at dinner, I put it on de dish wid de cabbage for looks. But when I seed you an' none of de gentlemen touched it I 'cluded you all knowed it was borrowed, and so after dinner I sent it back to de boy what it belong to."

A SHREWD LAWYER.

The Way Jeremiah Mason Floored an Important Witness.

Jeremiah Mason, a celebrated American lawyer, possessed to a marked degree the instinct for finding the weak point.

He was once cross examining a witness who had previously testified to having heard Mason's client make a certain statement, and so important was this statement that the adversary's case was based on it alone.

Several questions were asked by Mason, all of which the witness answered with more or less hesitation. Then he was asked to repeat once more the statement he had heard made. Without hesitation he gave it word for word as he had given it in the direct examination. A third time Mason led the witness round to this statement, and again it was repeated verbatim.

Then, without warning, he walked to the witness stand and, pointing straight at the witness, said in a perfectly unimpassioned voice, "Let's see that paper you have in your waistcoat pocket." Taken completely by surprise, the witness mechanically took a paper from the pocket indicated and handed it to the lawyer.

There was profound silence in the courtroom as the lawyer slowly read in a cold, calm voice the exact words of the witness in regard to the statement and called attention to the fact that they were in the handwriting of counsel on the other side. He then gathered up his papers with great deliberation, remarked that there seemed to be no further need for his services and departed from the courtroom.

Mason was asked how he knew that the paper was in the witness' pocket.

"Well," explained Mason, "it seemed to me that he gave that part of his testimony more as if he'd learned it than as if he had heard it. Then, too, I noticed that at each repetition of his testimony he put his hand to his waistcoat pocket and then let it fall again when he got through."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Baffling Old Age.

We have it on excellent authority that in a hundred years' time people will only suffer from old age just as we do now from bronchitis or tonsillitis or some other preventable disease. "I haven't seen you lately," our grandsons will be saying to a man at the Twenty-first Century club, to which he will make reply, "Been seedy, had a nasty attack of old age and have just come back from a little aeroplane trip to shake it off."—London World.

A Narrow "Street."

The English town of Great Yarmouth contains a street that well may be considered the narrowest built up street in the world. This thoroughfare is known as Kitty Witches row, and measurement gives its greatest width as fifty-six inches. The entrance would seriously inconvenience a stout person, as twenty-nine inches is all that is spared from wall to wall. The town contains many such streets as Kitty Witches.—Westminster Gazette.

Remarkable.

"Flavia Filips is the most remarkable girl I know."

"In what special respect?"
"Why, there isn't a milliner in the world who can make her spend one penny more on a hat than she started out to spend."—London Globe.

Well Up.

"Is your son derelict in his studies, Mrs. Comeup?"

"Yes. Indeed he is, and it makes us so proud of the dear boy to have all his teachers say so."—Baltimore American.

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