Huron Signal.

WEEKLY EDITION.

W. T. COX, Editor and Proprietor.] "The Greatest Possible Good to the Greatest Possible Number."

$1.50 PER ANN. IN ADVANCE. $2.00 AT END OF YEAR. | GODERICH, ONTARIO, D. C., THURSDAY, OCT. 22, 1868. | VOL. XXI.—NO 39

Business Directory.

GRAIN, FLOUR, FEED AND PROVISION STORE.

ARCHIBALD HODGE,

PRODUCE MERCHANT,

Cameron' Block, Kingston Street, GODERICH.

GRAIN, FLOUR, OATMEAL, CORNMEAL, &c. Bran, Shorts, Potatoes, Bacon, Butter, &c. Highest market price paid for grain and all kinds of produce. w36

G. BARRY & BRO., CABINET MAKERS, WOOD-TURNERS! AND UNDERTAKERS, Hamilton St., Goderich,

KEEP constantly on hand for sale all articles in their line, such as Bedsteads, Chairs, Tables, Sofas, &c.

All kinds of wood-turning done, such as Newel posts, stair bannisters, neckyokes, &c. Always on hand, a complete ASSORTMENT OF COFFINS and a HEARSE to hire on reasonable term

Goderich, May 3rd, 1866 15w6m

Malcolm Nicholson SURGICAL OPERATIVE AND MECHANICAL DENTIST.

ELECTROPATHIST, &c.

TEETH inserted on Neither Platina, Gold, Silver or Vulcanite Rubber on reasonable terms. Office over the Post Office, West Street Goderich. w

LOOK HERE JAMES

THE subscriber having REMOVED to the store lately occupied by WM DUNCAN, first door south of Bingham's, Market Square, wishes to inform his friends in the Town of Goderich and surrounding country, that he now has the largest and most complete stock of Fall and Winter

Boots and Shoes

of any house in the country, combining every style of Ladies' and Children's goods, and that he has also a very large assortment of GENTLEMEN'S

WINTER BOOTS

coarse and fine, both imported and of his own manufacture, which will sell

Cheap for Cash!

Call and examine, as he is satisfied that he has just the goods you want.

SAM'L FIRSE.

Goderich, Sept. 24-1867. w4

VALUABLE PROPERTY FOR SALE.

THE undersigned offers for sale lots, con. 3, Goderich township.—88 acres, 55 cleared, frame barn, good land. The property is only a mile from present oil wells, and as the railway runs through it, better oil territory cannot be found.

WILLIAM ELLIOT, Goderich.

March 24, 1868. w40 tf

JUST ARRIVED. MADAME TAYLOR, With Her Great European Herb Remedy

THOSE suffering with Consumption, Rheumatism, Dyspepsia, Headache, Loss of Appetite, Bad Digestion, Catarrh and Noises in the Head, are advised to try this Remedy, in Bilious, Liver, and Stomach Complaint. It cures when others fail, in fever and ague, old worn and chills it was never known to fail. Recommended by Physicians throughout Europe. This is no humbug as one bottle of her medicine will prove. Do not suffer when you can get cure, by consulting Madame Taylor, at room No 6, Osborne House, Goderich. Ladies unable to call will be attended at their own homes.

Goderich, 10th Aug. 1868. w3

MRS. DAYS' HOTEL, WROXETER.

ON the direct road from Seaforth to Walkerton. Every necessary accommodation for the travelling public.

HANNAH DAYS.

Wroxeter, Nov. 5, 1867. w42

Commercial Hotel, Mitchell C. W.

JOHN HICKS, Proprietor. This is the largest and best Country Hotel in Western Canada, and charges as moderate as any House in Mitchell. Stage Proprietor. Good stabling for 200 Horses. Horses and Carriages for Hire on Shortest Notice. 147

COLONIAL HOUSE.

THE Subscriber always keeps the largest variety and best Stock of HOISERY & GLOVES! IN THE COUNTIES.

CHAS. E. ARCHIBALD.

Goderich, August 22nd, 1866. cw1mg

Business Directory.

PHOTOGRAPHS, Photographs! Photographs!

J. W. JOHNSTON,

Begs to inform the People of GODERICH AND SURROUNDING COUNTRY, that he has

RE-FITTED HIS GALLERY,

In such a style as will enable him to make pictures to compete with any in the Dominion, and is determined to give entire satisfaction to all who may

FAVOR HIM WITH A CALL.

Children's pictures taken between the hours of 10 a. m., and 2 p. m.

Remember the Place,

Two doors west of the Post Office—over the Glasgow House.

Extra Copies from the Plate always on hand.

J. W. Johnston.

Goderich, August 4th, 1868. w28 tf.

GODERICH MILL FLOUR AND FEED STORE. Crabb's Block Kingston Street.

FLOUR, Oat-meal, Corn-meal and Mill Feed.

ALSO, a lot of prime Sugar Cured HAMS and Rolled Bacon.

Just received this morning, 500 Bushels prime Potatoes. 1000 " oats.

T. B. VANEVRY & Co.

Goderich June 7, 1867. w20tf.

1868. Division Courts. FOR THE COUNTY OF HURON, WILL BE HELD IN THE YEAR 1868 AS FOLLOWS:

1st Division Court, GODERICH, Monday 29th June, 1868. " " Monday, 10th August, " " " Thursday, 1st October " " " Wednesday 2nd December "

2nd Division Court, SEAFORTH, Friday, 26th June, 1868. " " Tuesday, 4th August, " " " Tuesday, 8th September, " " " Tuesday, 8th November, "

5th Division Court, EXETER, Friday, 19th June, 1868. " " Friday, 7th August, " " " Saturday, 26th September, " " " Friday, 27th November, "

6th Division Court, DUNGANNON, Monday 22nd June, 1868. " " Tuesday 11th August, " " " Friday 2nd October, " " " Friday 4th December, "

7th Division Court, BAYFIELD, Saturday, 20th June, 1868. " " Wednesday, 12th August " " " Saturday, 3rd October, " " " Saturday, 5th December, "

10th Division Court, CLINTON, Saturday, 27th June, 1868. " " Monday, 3rd August, " " " Monday, 28th September " " " Monday, 23rd November, "

11th Division Court, ASHLEYVILLE, Wednesday, 24th June, " " " Thursday 24th September "

11th Division Court, WROXETER, Wednesday, 5th August, 1868. " " Wednesday 25th November "

The several Courts will open at 10 o'clock a. m., Goderich, 16th May, 1868.

S. BROUGH, J. C. C. Huron.

I certify the above to be a true copy as filed in this office and entered of Record.

DAN. LIZARS, Clerk of the Peace, Huron.

Office of the Clerk of the Peace, Goderich, 16th May, 1868. w17

CABINET WAREHOUSE

THE OLDEST IN THE COUNTY.

D. GORDON, CABINET MAKER AND UNDERTAKER,

Manufactures and has now on hand a complete assortment of Furniture, at his Warerooms, WEST STREET, GODERICH, SUCH AS

Sofas, Bureaus, Tables, Bedsteads, Hair, Cane and Wool-seated Chairs, Gilt Moulding and Looking Glasses, in variety, of

Home Manufacture and Imported

D. G. has always on hand a complete assortment of COFFINS. Also, HEARSES TO HIRE.

Lumber and Cordwood taken in exchange for Furniture

Goderich, 27th Oct. 1867 w2

NEW SMITHY!

STRACHAN & McKINNON

Beg to announce to the inhabitants of Goderich, and surrounding country, that they have opened a New Smithy

Near Dodd's Pump Factory, Nelson Street,

where they intend to do all kinds of Blacksmithing, such as

SHIP WORK, PLOUGH MAKING, Horse-Shoeing &c., Particular attention paid to Nope Feet.

Goderich, 22nd April, 1868. w14

COLONIAL HOUSE!

KID GLOVES! KID GLOVES

Josephine's, Alexander's, Jouvin's, Duchess Lace boots & Alexandras in white, black and colors. The largest Stock in the Counties.

CHAS. E. ARCHIBALD.

Goderich, August 22nd, 1868. cw10.

CHEESE! CHEESE!

Shephard & Strachan,

GROCERS, GODERICH.

HAVE been re-appointed sole agents at Goderich for the sale of the celebrated Exeter Factory Cheese.

Local dealers supplied at the Factory Prices.

SHEPHARD & STRACHAN.

Goderich, May 27, 1867. w18tf

LUCKNOW HOTEL AND STAGE OFFICE,

R. S. CUNNINGHAM, Proprietor.

SITUATED on the corner on the Northern Gravel Road, Lucknow. Stages leave every morning for Goderich and Walkerton. The hotel is fitted up with every accommodation for commercial travellers. A large Hall attached.

June24, 1867

ISAAC FREDERICK

WATCHMAKER & JEWELER, WEST ST., GODERICH,

Next door West of Mr. Stotts' Saddlery. And one door East of the Post office.

ALL KINDS OF WATCHES CLOCKS AND JEWELERY REPAIRED ON SHORT NOTICE. In the best Style & Warranted.

ALSO A GOOD ASSORTMENT OF Gold and Plated Jewelry Watches, Clocks, &c. &c.

Constantly on hand and warranted to be as represented, if not money refunded.

The stock will be sold cheap to make way for fresh goods. If you want a really good clock go to I. Frederick's.

Goderich, Oct. 22, 1867. w39.

SASH AND DOOR FACTORY.

THE undersigned having purchased the Planing Mill and Sash Factory owned, and occupied by Donald Cumming, are now prepared to carry on the business of manufacturing

Sash, Doors, Blinds, Mouldings, Flooring, Siding, and all kinds of CIRCLE WORK, such as Circle and Gothic Sash and Frames

They think from their experience in Factory Work, that they can give satisfaction to all who may favor them with a call.

N. B.—A liberal discount to the trade.

JAS BUCHANAN, DAVID LAWSON, WM ROBINSON.

Goderich, March 4th, 1867 w955

SAW CASTINGS.

THE Subscriber offers for sale a good MULLY SAW GEARING, complete, cheap for cash Apply to JAS. CRAWFORD.

Port Albert Mills, June 12th 1868. w644

ALLAN P. MACLEAN, C. O. THIER, TAILOR & DRAPER,

HAS JUST RECEIVED A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF CLOTHS

Consisting in part of West of England Broadcloths, Beavers, Whitneys, Beaverkins, Fancy English, Scotch, and French Tweeds, Cashmeres, Doeskins, and a variety of Canadian Cloths; Plain, Satin, and Flowered Vestings, Shirts, Gloves, Caps, &c., &c.

He feels confident of giving satisfaction to all who may favor him with their orders.

TWEED SUITS (all wool) $12 and upwards.

N. B.—Cutting done to Order.

Goderich, Sept 25th, 1866.

NEW GOODS AT BUTLER'S Stationery, Toy, & Fancy Goods Store.

BABY CABS! of all kinds, styles and prices, excellent quality and first class finish.

The Dominion Clothes-Wringer! The best in use; wholesale and retail.

50 Reams of Blue line cream-laid letter Paper. 150 Reams Cream laid, Blue laid, and Variously Tinted Note Papers. 50 Reams Blue and Cream laid FOOLSCAP! OF ALL WEIGHTS AND PRICES

75,000 ENVELOPES! All Colors, Quality, Sizes and Kinds.

All the Popular Magazines received as soon as published.

Miscellaneous Books on hand always. Also, an extensive stock of the Various School Books!

A very large and varied stock of Ladies' and Gentlemens'

FANCY & SPORTING GOODS always on hand, all of which are bought and imported direct from the Best European and American Manufacturers.

Everything in Stock will be sold at a very small advance on cost.

All the Popular Ballads Songs, Vocal and Instrumental Music, procured in two days' notice, and sold at Publisher's Prices.

At BUTLER'S. Goderich, June 28th, 1867. w46

STOVES! STOVES

GLEANER, PRINCE, LEADER, EMPIRE, &c. &c.

HAVE JOUGHEN & CONDUCTING FIRE

PLAIN AND FANCY TINWARE,

COAL OIL, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

Coal Oil Lamps, &c. &c. Old Iron, Copper, Brass, Wool Pickings, and Sheep Skins taken in exchange.

J. & J. STORY,

Sign of the Large Coal Oil Barrel, Goderich, March 1st, 1867 6-t

CCARTWRIGHT. SURGEON DENTIST OF STRATFORD.

WILL be at the BRITISH HOTEL Goderich, on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, Oct. 22nd, 23rd and 24th, 1868, for the practice of his profession.

Goderich, Aug. 22, 1868. sw104 y8.

Ashfield Council.

The Council met this day pursuant to adjournment at Donald McVae's, Port Albert, all the members present, the minutes of last meeting were read and approved. A letter from the County Clerk requiring the sum of $653.45 from the Township of Ashfield for County purposes, for the present year, was laid before the Council. The Clerk was instructed to pay that amount. By-law No 1 to establish a road through a portion of lot number seven in the fourth concession was read the third time and passed. By-law No 2 To levy and collect special school rates was read and passed. By-law No 3 To levy and collect the sum of one thousand dollars for local purposes was read and passed. Moved by Mr Armstrong, seconded by Mr Clare, that, at the request of Alexander Shiekly, the sum of ten dollars be granted for the purpose of repairing the road on the 2 and a concession opposite lot 5.—Carried. Moved by Mr McIntyre, seconded by Mr Johnston, that the collector be required to give security at the next meeting of Council.—Carried. Moved by Mr. Armstrong, seconded by Mr. Clare, that the Council are now adjourned to meet again at Ralph Miller's hotel, Lucknow, on Saturday, the 26 day of September next at the hour of ten o'clock.—Carried.

September 26 1868.

The Council met this day pursuant to adjournment. The minutes of last meeting was read and approved. An application from A. M. Ross Lieut. Col. 33rd Battalion, for a small donation towards the funds for prizes at the annual prize rifle match, was laid before the council. Mr. Andrew Carrick, Inspector of Licenses, made a return of money received for Licenses for 1868. The following accounts for road work, certified by Mr. McIntyre, were ordered to be paid. John McRae $5.00 Donald McDonald $9.00 Angus McDonald $1.00 Kneil McDonald $28.60 Norman Smith $21.60 William Cowan $9.00. Certified by Mr. Clare. Patrick McNiff $6.75; John McNiff $5.75; Martin Whitely $12.00; Edward Hays $8.87½; William Moran $6.12½; certified by Mr Armstrong. William Andrews $14.00. An application being made by Wm O'Neil for the compensation for the loss of sheep killed by dogs, it was moved by Mr McIntyre, sec by Mr McIntyre, That from the evidence of Michael Cashen and Wm O'Neill himself given before the Reeve, it was the opinion of the Council that the owner of the dogs is known to some of Wm O'Neil's family and others, we, therefore commend the action of the Reeve and advise O'Neil to prosecute the owner of the dogs.—Carried. Moved by Mr McIntyre, sec by Mr Johnston, That Richard Treleaven be paid the sum of $8.00, and Mathew Conner be paid $9.00, for the loss of sheep killed by dogs—Carried. Moved by Mr Clare, sec. by Mr Armstrong, That the Inspector of Licenses be required to collect, if not already collected, all moneys due for tavern and store certificates and pay over the same forthwith to the Township Treasurer. Hoping this call will be responded to at once.—Carried. Moved by Mr Clare, sec. by Mr McIntyre, That the bridge on the creek at Phillips' mill be planked as soon as possible.—Carried. Moved by Mr Clare, sec. by Mr. Armstrong, That the Clerk be instructed to write to the Inspector of Taverns requesting his duties and send him a copy of motion carried at this meeting.—Carried. Moved by Mr Armstrong, sec. by Mr McIntyre, That the Clerk issue a debenture in favor of Roderick McDonald for the sum of $8.00 for the loss of a sheep killed by dogs, exclusive of costs.—Carried. Moved by Mr. Armstrong, sec. by Mr Clare, That the Collector is hereby instructed not to take silver for taxes unless at 4 per cent discount as the County Treasurer requires discount.—Carried.—Moved by Mr Johnston, sec by Mr McIntyre, That Andrew Mullen be paid $8.00 for sheep killed by dogs.—Carried. Moved by Mr Johnston, sec. by Mr. Clare, That the Clerk is hereby instructed to draft a By-Law prohibiting any person or persons from straying any log or logs over any bridge in the Township unless carried on a vehicle which will prevent said log or logs from touching the bridge.—Carried. Moved by Mr. McIntyre, sec. by Mr. Armstrong, That as the Collector of taxes has attended this meeting of Council but has not provided sufficient security, he is therefore required to attend the next meeting of Council with security to be approved by the Council.—Carried. Moved by Mr. McIntyre, sec. by Mr Armstrong, That the account from the "Star Office" amounting to $7.70 be paid.—Carried. Moved by Mr. McIntyre sec. by Mr Armstrong, That $1.00 be the Registrar's fee for recording this By-Law establishing a road through lot 7 con. 4, be paid.—Carried. Moved by Mr Johnston, sec by Mr. Armstrong, That Frances Scott be paid $8 for a sheep killed by dogs.—Carried. Moved by Mr. McIntyre, sec. by Mr. Armstrong, That this Council adjourn to meet again on the 5th of October, at Dean Swift's hotel, Dungannon.—Carried.

JOHN COOKE Township Clerk.

West Wawanosh.

Aug. 17th 1868.

The Council met this day, pursuant to adjournment, all the members present. The minutes of last meeting were read and approved. Estimate of amount required for County tax and for township purposes for the year 1868, was taken into consideration, and the sum of $4897.47 agreed to be raised as under,

For County purposes, per copy. Clerk's letter	$4305 47
For Salaries, and Councillors fees	352 00
" Stationary and printing	50 00
" Support of Indigents	150 00
" Contingencies	40 00
	4897 47

Moved by Mr. Cummings seconded by Mr. McIlwain, That the sum of $550 be added to the above amount for local improvements. Moved in amendment by Mr. Gaunt, sec. by Mr. Hunter, That the sum for local improvements be $750, motion carried by vote of Reeve. Moved by Mr. Hunter, sec. by Mr. Gaunt, That of the above amount, each Councillor expend $100, the balance of last years appropriated viz: $50 to be expended as previously ordered.—Carried. Moved by Mr. McIlwain, sec. by Mr. Hunter, That committees be appointed to inspect the roads in the township, with a view to the expenditure of the township funds in the most important places, and that said committees be, for the 8½ of township, the Reeve, McIlwain and Hunter, and for N½ Gaunt, Cummings and Hunter, both committees to be accompanied by the road Commissioner.—Carried. Warrants for the collector of local school rates were received and accepted from sections No. 2, 9 Kinloss, 3, and 5 Colborne, 8 Ashfield 7, 4 and 4. Warrant from North Lucknow, was examined and rejected on the ground of not being signed by a majority of trustees, as required by the common school Act. Letter from Mr. G. H. Parsons, respecting taxes on E½ lot 27, con. 14 for the year 1864 was read, it was therefore moved by Mr. Hunter, sec. by Mr. McIlwain, That the lot mentioned by Mr. Parsons, having been purchased before the revision of the roll for 1864 that the purchaser in April is liable for the taxes for that year.—Carried. Moved by Mr. Gaunt sec. by Mr. Cummings, That an order be issued in favor of J. Lockeridge, for 16.90 for crossways on division line. Also one in favor of Jas. Webster, for building bridge on side line between 18 and 19, con. 10 for $20.—Carried. The following persons were proposed and accepted as collector's sureties viz: Robt. Wilson, Chas. Miller, Thos. McLoughlin and John Beecroft. Magistrates' certificates of sheep destroyed by dogs were presented by Wm. Fluker, for $6.00 Wm. Miller $4.00 Thos. Hamlen $2.00, ordered to be paid out of dog fund. Council then adjourned to meet again on the 18th Sept. next.

J. Scott, Tp Clerk.

Sept. 18th, 1868.

The Council met this day pursuant to adjournment, all the members present, minutes of last meeting were read over and approved. Magistrates' cirtificates of sheep killed by dogs, were presented from John Mills, for $6, Elijah Bennett $9.50, Wm. Mills $4.50 and Geo. McKenzie $21, which sums were ordered to be paid out of dog fund. Cameron & Miller's bill for mending scraper $1.50. Also one from Wm. Crawford for 50 cents certified by the Reeve were ordered to be paid. Mr. Bay's bill for surveying side line between lots 24 and 25, con. 3 and 4 amounting to $8.50 was ordered to be paid. Robert Sturgeon, paid $10 for certificate for tavern licence for the house formerly occupied by Mr. McCroskie, for the remainder of the year. Moved by Mr McIlwain, sec. by Mr. Cummings, That the sum for local improvements be $700 instead of $550.—Carried. The council then adjourned to meet again on the 5th day of Nov. next.

J. Scott, Tp Clerk

Field Roots.

The show of Roots in connection with the S. H. Ag. Society were judged on the 18th inst. G. Anderson, Stanley; J. Anderson, Usborne and W. Robbins, Stephen, being the judges, who awarded the prizes as follows, viz:—

Best 2 acres Swede turnips J Pickard, 2nd W Sanders, 3rd W Hodgson; best ½ acre mangles J Pickard, 2nd W Sanders, 3rd R Lang; best ½ acre carrots J Pickard, 2nd W Sanders; best potatoes W Sanders.

The judges were of the opinion that taken as a whole, the roots were a very good crop for the season.

HUGH LOVE, Sen., Secretary, S. H. A. S.

EXCELLENT WHITEWASH.—As house cleaning time has arrived it may not be amiss to say a few words in regard to whitewashing. There are many receipts published, but we believe the following to be the best substitute for lime wash. A very fine and brilliant whitewash preparation of chalk is called "Paris White." This we buy at the paint stores for three cents a pound, retail. For each sixteen pounds of Paris White we procure half a pound of the white transparent glue, costing twenty-five cents (fifty cents a pound). The sixteen pounds of Paris White is about as much as a person will use in a day. It is prepared as follows: The glue is covered with cold water at night, and in the morning is carefully heated, without scorching, until dissolved. The Paris White is stirred in with hot water enough to give it the proper milky consistancy for applying to the walls, and the dissolved glue is then added and throughly mixed. It is then applied with a brush like the common lime whitewash. Except on very dark and smoky walls and ceilings, a single coat is sufficient. It is nearly equal in brilliancy to "zinc white," a far more expensive article.

PAY OF THE BRITISH ARMY.—As there are persons who, unable to ascertain the daily pay of an ordinary infantry regiment of the line of the service of the United Kingdom, wish to know it, we present the following table, copied from the Army Estimates for 1868-69—Colonel 17s., variable according to circumstances; Lieut. Colonel, 17s; Major 16s; Captain 11s 8d; Lieutenant 6s 6d; Adjutant 10s; Quartermaster 6s 6d; Surgeon 17s 6d to £1 7s according to circumstances; Assistant Surgeon 10s to 17s 6d, according to circumstances; Sergeant-Major 3s 6d; Quartermaster Sergeant 2s 10d; Band-master 3s 4d; Drum Major 2s 2d; Paymaster-Sergeant 2s 2d; Armorer-Sergeant 5s 2d; Hospital-Sergeant 2s 4d; Orderly room Clerks 2s 2d; Color-Sergeant 2s 8d; Sergeant-Cook 2s 2d; Sergeant Instructor in Musketry 2s 2d; Sergeant 2s 2d; Drummer 1s 3d; Corporal 1s 6d; Private 1s 2d.

A fashionably dressed lady, desirous of purchasing a watch was shown a very beautiful one the shopkeeper remarking that it went thirty six hours. What in one day? she asked.

—Two new vessels exceeding the *Germany* in proportions are being built for the Montreal Ocean Steamship Company. They will be at the *Scandinavian*, 3,500 tons, and *European*, 3,250 tons. This will make the line consist of 18 ships of, in the aggregate, 42,000 tons.

—The negroes of the middle peninsula of Virginia are degenerating into absolute barbarians, and the whole country is growing up into weeds.

—The busy season in New Orleans has opened in earnest. The levee, as far as the eye can reach, is covered with bales of cotton and merchandize.

—It costs St Louis merchants ten cents to send a barrel of flour 1,500 feet across the Mississippi river, and only twenty cents to New Orleans, 1,250 miles.

—The Titusville "Herald" says that the winter promises to be the busiest ever known in Pennsylvania oil regions.

—In response to the appeal from Gen. Sibley, of Minnesota, for aid to the Red River settlers, the Chamber of Commerce of Milwaukee honored his draft on the 22nd ult., for $1,000.

—At a logging bee in Minto a quarrel arose between two men named McWhinnie and Scroggie. The letter finding Scroggie becoming infuriated left for a neighbor's house, but McWhinnie followed him, burst in the door, and plunged a bayonet, fixed on a rifle, into his body, the bayonet coming out of his back. The wounded man died almost instantaneously. At last accounts McWhinnie was still at large.

A QUADROON'S REVENGE.

A Story of the Slave Coast.

CHAPTER I.

ONWARD BOUND.

Our story opens in the summer of 184-, in that broad, fan-reaching expanse of water which lies deep and blue between the two hemispheres, some fifteen degrees north of the equator, in the latitude of Cuba and the Cape Verd Islands. The delightful trade winds had not fanned the sea on a finer summer's day for a twelvemonth, and the waves were daintily swelling upon the heaving bosom of the deep, as though indicating the respiration of the ocean. It was scarcely a day's sail beyond the view of the Caribbean sea that one of those noblest results of man's handiwork, a fine ship, might have been seen gracefully ploughing her course through the sky-blue waters of the Atlantic. She was close-hauled on the larboard track, steering east-southeast, and to a sailor's eye presented a certain indescribable something that may her taut rig and saucy air a dash of mystery, which would have set him to speculating at once as to her character and the trade she followed.

Few things can be named that more potently challenge our admiration than a full-sized ship under way: her myriad of ropes, sails and appurtenants, all so complete and well-controlled, the power of her volition, the promptness with which she obeys the slightest movement of her helm, the majestic grace of her inclination to the power of the winds, and the foaming prow and long glistening wake, all go to make up the charm and peculiarity of a nautical picture. There is true poetry in such a scene as this, beauty fit to move the heart of an anchorite. No wonder the sailor loves his ship like a mistress; no wonder he discourses of her charms with theelequence of true love and confiding trust; no landsman can be more enamored with his promised bride.

But the craft to which we especially refer at the present writing, was a coquette of the first class, beautiful in the extreme, and richly meriting the name that her owners had placed in golden letters on her stern—the "Sea Witch." She was one of that class of vessels known as flat upon the floor, a model that caused her to draw but little water, and enabled her to run free over a sand-bar or to an inlet, where an ordinary ship's long-boat would have grounded. She was very long and sharp, with graceful concave lines, and might have measured some five hundred tons. Speed had the main object aimed at in her construction, the flatness of her floor giving her great buoyancy, and her length ensuring fleetness. These were points that would at once have struck a sailor's eye, as he beheld the ship bowing gracefully on her course to the power of the trade winds that so constantly befriend the mariners in these latitudes.

We have said that the "Sea Witch" was of peculiar model and so indeed she was. Contrary to the usual rig of what are called clipper ships, her masts, instead of raking, were perfectly upright, for the purpose of enabling her to carry more press of sail when need be, and to hold on longer when speed should be at vital importance; that the straighter construction of the masts furthers this object, is a fact long since proven in naval architecture. She was very low, too, in her rigging, having tremendous square yards, enabling the canvas to act more immediately upon the hull, instead of operating as a lever aloft, and keeping the ship constantly off an even keel. Though low in the waist, yet her model rises gracefully in a curve towards the terminations, fore and aft, making her very dry on deck, the quarter-deck or forecastle. She might have numbered fifty men for her crew, and if you had looked in board over her bulwarks, you would have seen that her complement was made up of men. There were none there but real able-bodied seamen—sea dogs—who had roughed it in all weathers, and on all sorts of allowance.

There was a quiet and orderly mien about the deck and about the watch, that spoke of the silent yet potent arm of authority. The men spoke to each other now and then, but mean under tone, and there was no open levity. A few then were lounging about the heel of the bow-sprit on the forecastle, one or two were busy in the waist coiling cable, an officer of second or third cabin—a quiet, but decided character, to judge from his features—stood with folded arms just abaft the mizzen mast, and a youthful figure, almost too young, seemingly, for so responsible a post, leaned idly against the monkey-rail, near the sage old tar who was at the helm. At first you might have supposed him a supercargo, an owner's son as passenger, or something of that sort, from the quite-at-home air he exhibited; but now and then he cast one of those searching and understanding glances aloft and fore and aft, taking in the whole range of the ship's trim, and the way she did her duty, that led you to suppose at once the fact of his position—and you could not mistake the fact that he was her commander.

He wore a glazed tarpaulin hat of coarse texture, and his dress was of little better material than that of the crew he commanded, but it sat somehow quite jauntily upon his fine, well-developed form, and there was an unmistakable air of tomacious authority about him, that showed him to be no stranger to control, or the position which he filled. The hair, escaping in glossy curls from beneath his hat, added to a set of very regular features the effect; while a clear, full blue eye, and an open, ingenuous expression of countenance, told of manliness of heart and chivalric hardihood of character. Exposure to the elements had bronzed his skin, but there were no wrinkles there; and Captain Bill Rattlin could not have seen more than two-and-twenty years, though most of them had doubtless been passed upon the ocean, for his well-knit form showed him to be one thoroughly inured to service.

"She does her work daintily, Captain Rattlin," said he who was evidently an officer, and who had been standing by the mainmast, but now walked aft.

"Yes, Mr. Faulkner, daintily is the word. I will our beauty could be a little more spunky; time is money in our business, sir," was the prompt reply.

"But the willing craft does all she can, sir!"

"I don't know, Mr. Faulkner; we can make her do almost anything."

"But tall," added the mate.

"Ay, she will do that in her own way, and elegantly, too," continued his superior.

"In coming out of Matanzas, when you made her back and fill like a saddle horse. I thought she was little less than a human being" said the mate, admiringly.

"She minds her helm like a beauty, and acts the slightest pull upon her sheets."

"I gave an a vessel in closer to the wind," said the mate; "she cats right into it, and yet has not shaken a foot of canvas this half hour."

"That is well."

"It's uncommon, sir," continued the other.

"She must and can do better, though," said the young commander, with an air of slight annoyance.

"Call the watch below, Mr Faulkner; we will trust our mistress to a new dress, this bright day, and fetter her pride a little. She is of the coquette school, and will bear a little dallying."

"Ay, ay, sir," responded the officer without further parley, walking forward to the fore hatch; and with a few quick blows with a hand-spike, and a clear call, he announced that portion of the crew whose hours of release from duty permitted them below. The signal rang sharply through the ship, and caused an instant response.

A score of dark forms leaped forth from the forecastle, embracing representatives from nearly half the nations of the globe; but they were sturdy sailors, and need to obey the word of command—men to be relied upon in an emergency, rough in exterior, but within either soft as women, or hard as steel, according to the occasion.

Now it was that an observer not conversant with the "Sea Witch," and looking at her from a distance, would have naturally concluded that she was most appropriately named—for how she could her singular manœuvres, and the result that followed, he explained. Suddenly the mizzen royal disappeared, followed by the top-gallantsail, topsail and cross jack course, seeming to melt away under the eye like a misty veil; while almost in a moment of time, there appeared a spanker, gaff-topsail and gaff-topgallantsail in their place, while the vessel still held on her course.

A moment later, and the royal-topgallantsail, topsail and mainsail disappear from the mainmast, upon which appears a regular fore-and-aft suit of canvas, consisting of mainsail, gaff-topsail and gaff-topgallantsail, reducing the vessel to a square rig forward, and a plain fore-and-aft rig aft. A few minutes more, and the foremast passed through the same metamorphose, leaving the "Sea Witch" a three-masted schooner, with fore-and-aft sails on every mast and every stay. All this had been accomplished with a celerity that showed the crew to be no novices in the manœuvres through which the vessel had passed, each man requiring to work with marked intelligence. Fifty well-drilled men, through one despotic form, a fine hundred feet long! Indeed, if the controlling mind understands his profession on the quarter-deck.

"She wears that dress as though it suited her fancy exactly, Mr. Faulkner," said the captain, running his eye over the vessel, and glancing over her side to mark her headway.

"Any rig becomes the Sea Witch," answered the officer, with evident pride.

"That is true," returned the captain. "Eight, six, half a bit—so, well," he continued to the man at the helm. "We will have all of her sensibility points that she will give."

"The wind is rather more westerly than it was an hour ago," said Mr. Faulkner.

"Rather pretty, and twice I thought it would have kept about; but here we have it still from the north'rd and easterd," replied the captain.

"How is it again," asked the mate, as the wind baffled once more.

The immediate object of the change in the vessel's rig, which we have described, was to enable her to lay closer to the wind in her course, as well as giving her increased velocity by bringing more canvas to draw; then a square rig would have been hauled. But a close observer would have learned, to ask, what other reason, save that of elegance, could have been the actuating motive in thus altering the rig? Yes, there was another and important reason, which could at times be thus gained, as we have seen, yet which, on other occasions, would have been sought in vain. Circumstances that was necessary to conceal, to say nothing of the imperative necessity of a vessel's being very strongly manned, in order to enable her to thus change her active aspect with any ordinary degree of ease and so had just been accomplished.

CHAPTER II.

CAPTAIN WILL RATLIN.

THE watch below, after completing the work which had summoned them for the time being on deck, tumbled helter skelter down the fore hatch once more, and left on the deck of the "Sea Witch" about a dozen able seamen who formed the watch upon deck. A number of these were now gathered in a knot on the forecastle, and while they were sitting across logger, picking old rope, and preparing it in suitable form for caulking the ship's seams, one of their number was spinning a yarn, the hero of which was evidently he who now filled the post or commander on board their vessel. The object of their remarks, meanwhile, stood once more quietly leaning over the monkey-rail on the weather side of the quarter-deck, quite unconscious that he was supplying a theme of entertainment to the forecastle.

There was an absent expression in his handsome face—a look as though his heart was far distant from the scene about him; and yet a habit of watchful caution seemed over and anon to recall his senses, and his quick, keen glance would run over the craft from stern to stem with a searching and comprehensive power that showed him master of his profession, and worthy his trust. Trust! what was the trust he held? Surely, no legitimate commerce could warrant the outfit of such a vessel as he controlled. A man-of-war could hardly have been more fully equipped with means of offence and defence. Amidship, beneath the long boat, was a heavy-metalled gun that worked on a traverse, and which could command nearly every point of the compass, while the ship kept her course. Just inside the rise of the low quarter deck—the cabin being entered from the deck by the descent of a couple of steps—there were ranged boarding-pikes, muskets, carbines and pistols, ready for instant use. In shape they formed stars, hearts and diamonds—dangerous but fantastic ornaments.

The brightness of these arms, and the handy way in which they were arranged in the sockets made to receive them, showed at once that they were designed for use; while the various other fixtures of the cabin and decks plainly bespoke preparation for conflict. A strong and lofty boarding-netting being stowed, also, told of the readiness of the "Sea Witch" to repel boarders. That all these preparations had been made merely as ordinary precautions in a peaceful trade, was by no means probable; and yet there they were, and there stood the bright-eyed, handsome and youthful commander upon the quarter-deck. But he did not look the desperado; such a term would have poorly accorded with his open and manly countenance, his quiet and gentlemanly mien. A pirate would hardly have dared to lay the course he steered in these latitudes, where an English or French cruiser was very likely to cross his track.

"He handles a ship as prettily as ever a true blue did yet," said one of the forecastle group, replying to some remark of a comrade concerning the commander.

"That's true," answered another; "he seems to have a sort of natural way with him, as though he'd been born aboard ship, never seen the land at all; and as to that matter, there be them on board who say as much of him."

"That isn't far from the truth, "answered Bill Marline; "seein' he started so airly on the sea, he can't tell when he wasn't there himself."

"How was that matter, Bill?" asked one of his messmates. "They say you have kept the captain's reckoning, man and boy, these fifteen years."

"That have I, and never a truer heart floated than the man you see yonder leaning over the rail on the quarter-deck, where he belongs," answered Bill Marline.

"How did you first fall in with him, Bill? Tell us that," said one of the crew.

"Well, do you see, messmates, it must have been the matter of thirteen years ago, there or thereabouts, I can't exactly say, seeing's I never have kept a log and can't write; but it must have been about that length of time, when I was a foremast hand on board the 'Sea Lion,' as fine an Indiaman as you would wish to see. We were lying in the Liverpool docks, with sails bent and cargo stowed, under sailing orders, when one afternoon there strolled alongside a boy, rather ragged and dirty, but with such eyes and such a countenance as would make him a passport anywhere. Well, do ye see, we were laying away time on board, and waiting the captain's coming before we hauled out into the stream, and so we coaxed the lad aboard. He either didn't know where he came from, or or wouldn't tell; and when we proposed to take him to sea with us, he readily agreed, and, sure enough he sailed in the 'Sea Lion.'

"Well, have ahead, Bill," said one of the group, as the narrator stopped to stow a fresh installment of the Virginia weed in his larboard cheek; "heave ahead."

"We hadn't got fairly clear of the channel," continued Bill Marline, "before the boy had become a general favorite all over the ship. We washed him up and bent on a new suit of toggery on him, with a reg'lar tarpaulin, and there was almost a fight whether the forecastle or the cabin should have him. At last it was left to the boy himself, and he choose to remain with us in the forecastle. The boy wasn't sick on the passage until after we left the Cape of Good Hope, when the flag halliards getting fouled, he was sent up to the peak to loosen it, and by some lurch of the ship was thrown upon deck. Why it didn't kill him, was the wonder of all; but the boy was crazy for near a month from the blow on his head, which he got in falling, but he gradually got cured under our captain's care.

"Well, do you see, our captain was a reg'lar whole-souled fellow, though he did sometimes work up a hand's old iron pretty close for him, and so he took the boy into the cabin and gave him a berth alongside his own; as he grew better, took to teaching him the use of instruments, and mathematics, and the like. The boy, they said, was wonderful ready, and learned like a book, and could take the sun and work up the ship's course as well as the captain; but when was the funniest of all, was, that after he got well, he didn't know one of us! He had forgotten, even, how he came on board the ship; the injury had left such a stagnation on his brain, that he had forgotten all that went forward before it. We say asked, however, to teach him more to forget, seeing he was little better than a baby, and finds it hard to see at all; and you know there's enough words knocking on shore, mate's one,