

ing close hauled on the starboard tack with a moderate breeze from the Southward. The Pelican was on the weather quarter of the Argus bearing down under a press of sail to close her, nor did the latter make any attempt to escape; her commander had been first Lieutenant of the United States in her action with the Macedonian and was confident he could "whip any English 22 gun sloop of war in ten minutes."

The Pelican mounted 16 carronades, 32 pounders, two long sixes, with a 12 pounder boat carronade—recently at Jamaica ten brass 6 pounders had been shipped which were mounted through the stern ports and were obliged to be kept constantly in board as the helm had to be shifted every time they were fired, in fact guns in such a position in a vessel of this class were perfectly useless; her crew consisted of 101 men and 12 boys. The Argus mounted 18 carronades, 14 pdrs., and two long 12 pounders belonging to the Macedonian; her crew numbered 125 men and boys.

At 4h. 30m. a.m., being unable to get the weathergage, the Argus shortened sail to give the Pelican the opportunity of closing. At 5h. 55m. a. m., St. David's Head being East distant about five leagues, the Pelican hoisted her colors, the Argus immediately did the same; and at 6 a.m. having wore round opened her port guns within grape distance, receiving in return the starboard broadside of the Pelican—in about four minutes Captain Allen was severely wounded—the main braces, main spring stay, gaff and trysail mast of the Argus was shot away. At 6h. 14m, the Pelican bore up to pass but the Argus threw all aback and frustrated the attempt by throwing in an inefficient raking fire. At 6h. 18m. on having shot away her opponent's preventive brace and main topsail tie, thus depriving her of the use of her after sails, the Pelican passed astern of and raked the Argus, and then ranged up on her starboard quarter pouring in her fire with destructive effect—having had her tiller ropes and running rigging of every description shot away the Argus became unmanageable; and at 6h. 45m. was carried by boarding with hardly any resistance.

The damages incurred by the Pelican in this well fought action, consisted of two shots through her boatswain's and carpenter's cabins, her sides filled with grape shot, rigging and sails much injured, foremast and main topmast slightly wounded, and so were her royal masts, but no spar was seriously hurt; two of her carronades were dismounted; she had two men (including her master's mate) killed and five slightly wounded.

The Argus was badly cut up in the hull, both her lower masts were wounded, but not badly; and her fore-shrouds on one side nearly shot away; several of her carronades were dismounted. She lost 13 killed including her Captain, two Midshipmen and carpenter, and 14 wounded.

The comparative forces of the two vessels were as follows:—

Pelican—Broadside guns,	9
Weight of Broadside,	262 lbs.
Crew, men only,	101
Tonnage,	384
Argus—Broadside guns,	10
Weight of Broadside,	228 lbs.
Crew, men only,	123
Tonnage,	316

It is evident the fate of the action was determined by the superior seamanship and power of the Pelican, the surrender of a larger to a smaller vessel can only be accounted for, accidents apart, by bad conduct on the part of the commanding officers or seamen of the captured ship. It may be all very well to fill the columns of newspapers with elegant descriptions of sea fights in which the weaker and less disciplined are always conquerors, actual experience proves the facts to be contrary; a nearly equal amount of force, superior conduct and above all strict discipline are the only means by which victory can be secured.

SINGULAR INCIDENT OF THE WAR.

In one of Stonewall Jackson's periodical attacks upon Winchester, on his way down the glorious old Valley of Virginia, Captain Dave Workman, a brave and gallant officer of the Ninth Louisiana Regiment, who subsequently lost his life in the shadow of the Blue Ridge, was wounded in the body—painfully, but not dangerously. On the capture of the town he was removed from the field to a large hospital, established by the enemy, and in company with many Federal soldiers, wounded in the attack, waited with such patience as he could muster, his turn for attendance from the overworked surgeons. The groans of the wounded and dying, and the misery of a stiffening, undressed wound, lengthened the tedious night, but amidst it all, Captain Workman was struck with the stoicism of a stalwart Yankee, occupying an adjoining cot, who was evidently mortally wounded, but whose torture failed to wring a murmur from his lips. Day broke at last, and with it came one of the Captain's company to inquire after his welfare. Approaching his cot he addressed him by name, but was interrupted by the Yankee next to Workman, over whose eye the glaze of death seemed setting. Rousing himself, and with great effort, raising in his bed, he said: "Are you Captain Workman?" "Yes," "Captain Dave Workman, of the Ninth Louisiana Regiment?" "Yes." "Well, then sir, I have something for you. Two weeks ago, my captain was mortally wounded. Calling me to his bed side in the midst of the fight, he gave me this package, with instructions to send it across the lines the first chance. I didn't think then," continued he, with a wan smile, "I would be able to deliver it so soon in person; but here it is." "And your Captain, who was he?" "Your brother, Captain James Workman, of the Ninth New York Cavalry." And with a gasp, the faithful fellow, as if he had only lived to fulfill his promise, fell back on his pallet and died.

AN ORDER TO MILITARY DANCERS.

Lieutenant General Hodgson, we learn from the *Army and Navy Gazette*, has issued the following general order:—"The lieutenant-general commanding the troops in Ceylon and the Straits Settlement must again desire that no officer under his command will appear at balls or other parties except in uniform. If an officer of the army is ashamed or unwilling to wear the dress prescribed by the Sovereign, he had better relinquish the service."

Dancing in the tropics must, under all circumstances, be the pursuit of pleasure under considerable drawbacks, and Lieut. General Hodson appears anxious to add to its natural difficulties aggravations of his own finding. In England, officers in the army dance in black coats, and yet the efficiency of the service does not suffer. What, then, is there in Ceylon to make this usage inconsistent with proper military discipline? If young ladies were consulted in any part of the world, it is probable that they would wish their partners to appear in all the pomp and pride of glorious war. At militia balls and other such gatherings, a slim young gentleman in uniform stands a better chance with the fair sex than a slim young gentleman out of uniform. But generals in command of troops are supposed to be a little wiser than young ladies. General Hodgson, however, is not content with a simple order—he favors the world with his opinion of the course which an officer who ventures to disagree with him should follow. "If," he says, "An officer of the army is ashamed or unwilling to wear the dress which his Sovereign prescribes, he had better relinquish the service." We agree with him in thinking that an officer should not be ashamed of his uniform; but surely it does not follow as a necessary consequence, that because some stout major is unwilling to dance valses for several consecutive hours with thermometer about 100 deg. Fahr., in a stiff, heavy uniform, he is necessarily ashamed of wearing it. Many judges compromise the effect of their decisions by giving their reasons for forming them, and Lieutenant General Hodgson has rendered a foolish general order doubly absurd, by appending to it a recommendation which we imagine will be more honored in the breach than in the observance by those officers who are not, for their sins, obliged to obey his behests.—*Daily News*.

The battalions to be sent out to India next season will be the 1st battalions 17th, 66th, 63rd and 65th Regiments, from Ireland, all of which returned from foreign service in 1865, and a battalion now serving in the colonies, the selection of which will, no doubt, depend upon the general measures to be taken by the Government with reference to the colonial garrisons. The cavalry regiment to relieve the Bays will, it is finally settled, be the 15th Hussars, now at York, and not the 13th Hussars. The latter corps will return from Canada in the spring, but will not be sent to take its regular turn of service in India for a year or two.

Colonel his Serene Highness Prince Edward of Saxe Weimer, C. B., Grenadier Guards, is first on the list for promotion to the rank of Major General. It is reported that the vacancy caused by the promotion will be filled up from the half-pay list.