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The Captain of the Kansas

By LOUIS TRACY.

(Entered according to Act of Parliament of Canada, in the year nineteen hundred and seven, by McLeod & Allen, at the Department of Agriculture.)

"Then we shall join you at once." Notwithstanding the serious demeanor of the man, Elsie was far from guessing what had happened. But she was soon enlightened.

"In which bunker was the coal placed which we shipped at Valparaiso?" Courtney asked Boyle.

"In the forward cross bunker," was the instant answer.

"And that was the first coal used in the furnaces?"

"Yes, sir." The captain's tone was official, exceeding in formality that of the chief officer, who was sitting at the helm.

"There might have been a hundredweight or two lying loose in the stokehold, for all practical purposes, we have used nothing but the Valparaiso bunker since we left port."

"The rest of our coal was shipped at Coronel?"

"Yes, sir." "You hear? It is exactly as I have told you," said Courtney, glancing at the other.

"I do not find any harm in your statement, but I wish you to state the facts in front of witnesses before I give you any reasons for cross-examining you on the matter. Mr. Walker and I have been certain, all along, that the furnaces were blown up willfully. Now our suspicions are proved. This morning, after a careful scrutiny we came across a number of lumps of coal cleverly constructed out of small pieces glued together. In the centre of each lump was a stick of dynamite, protected by an asbestos wrapper. It was undoubtedly the intent of some miscreant to blow up the furnaces. This actually occurred, as we know, but by the mercy of Providence, the ship did not experience the full power of the explosion, or the blast would have been a disaster."

"Huh," grunted Boyle. "Who holds the insurance?"

"The shipper of the cargo, of course—Messrs. Baring, Thompson & Miguel."

"That's a quarter of a million sterling, isn't it?"

"Huh, it's a lot of money."

"There was a monetary silence. Elsie's eyes grew larger, and she became rather pale. As was her habit when puzzled, she placed a finger on her lips. Courtney noted her action. Indeed, he missed few of her characteristic habits or expressions. He laughed quietly.

"I think you are quite right. Miss Maxwell," he said. "This is one of the many instances in which silence is golden."

"Taken by surprise, she blushed and dropped her hand. But Courtney said promptly:

"There are some instances in which silence may be misinterpreted. Let me state at once that the shipper of the valuable cargo on board the Kansas will suffer a serious financial reverse if the ship is lost. Two thousand tons of copper may be worth a considerable fixed sum, but the lack of the metal on the London market at the end of January will have far-reaching consequences in a tight and shaky bull market in Paris, and that is why Mr. Baring made this heavy shipment."

"These consequences could be foreseen and discounted," put in Tollemache, dryly.

"Exactly. But by whom? By the men who sent his only daughter as a passenger on this vessel?"

Every one scouted that notion. But Tollemache, though disavowing any thought of Mr. Baring as a party to the scheme, stuck to his guns.

"Somebody will make a pile when the Kansas is reported missing," he said.

"The insurance money will not be paid for a long time," Courtney explained.

"No, but the copper market will respond instantly."

"Then the process has commenced already. The Kansas should have been reported yesterday from Sandy Point. The news that she has not arrived will soon reach the nearest cable station. There will be terrific excitement at Lloyd's when that becomes known."

"It is distinctly odd that Suarez should turn up last night, and tell us how gold slipped through his fingers five years ago. Let us hope the parallel will hold good for the gentleman who so amably endeavored to send the Kansas to the bottom of the Pacific," said Christobal.

"It is rather a rotten trick," broke in Tollemache. "Just a bit of Spanish roguery—Well, I'm sorry, Christobal, but I can't regard you as quite a Spaniard, you see."

"Nevertheless, I am one," and the doctor stiffened visibly.

"What Tollemache means is that he would expect you to take the English and straightforward view of a piece of rascality, doctor." Then Courtney passed in his turn. "By the way," he continued, with the flowing dexterity of one whose thoughts outstrip his words, "does any one here know a man named Ventana?"

Daily Fashion Hint for Times Readers.



DRECOLL MODEL ENDORSED AT THE HORSE SHOW.

This coat suit in deep hazy purple velveteen accompanied by a blouse of crepe de chine and dyed lace in the same shade, with a touch of white at the neck, is a foreign model seen on the opening day of the New York Horse Show last month, and since copied by many of the high-class makers to ultra fashionables. Heavy black lace embroideries in lace design simulate a collar and form bands on the Japanese sleeves, finished with a facing of purple satin like the neck and coat fronts. There is a colonial vest of white cloth embroidered in gold. The purple felt cloche hat is trimmed with a drapery of silk in the same shade, and greenish black corks for ties.

"It is a name common enough in Chile," said Christobal.

"If you mean Senor Pedro Ventana, who is associated with Mr. Baring in mining matters, I am acquainted with him," said Elsie. The men seemed to have forgotten her presence. They were wrapped up in the remarkable discovery which Courtney himself had made by diligent search among the coal ready for use in the furnaces when the explosion took place.

"For no reason in particular, save the unexpectedness of it, Elsie's statement was received with surprise. They all looked at her, and some of them wondered, perhaps, why her smiling eyes had lost their mirth. Yet there was nothing unreasonable in the mere fact that a certain Chilean named Ventana, who had business relations with Mr. Baring, should make the acquaintance of Isabel Baring's friend. As quickly as it had arisen, the feeling of strangeness passed.

Courtney again laughed. Elsie as the journal of the ship was a quaint conceit.

"I mentioned Ventana because I was told he took some part of the insurance on his own account," he explained. "But he was a member of Baring's copper syndicate, and, indeed, was spoken of as a mining engineer of high repute. Believe me, I was not jumping to conclusions on that account."

"I know him to be a very bad man," said Elsie, slowly. Her face was white and her eyes downcast. It was evident that the sudden introduction of Ventana's personality was distressing to her, but Courtney, preoccupied with the dastardly attempt made to sink his ship, did not observe this feature of a peculiar discussion.

"Bad! In what sense, Miss Maxwell?" he asked unguardedly.

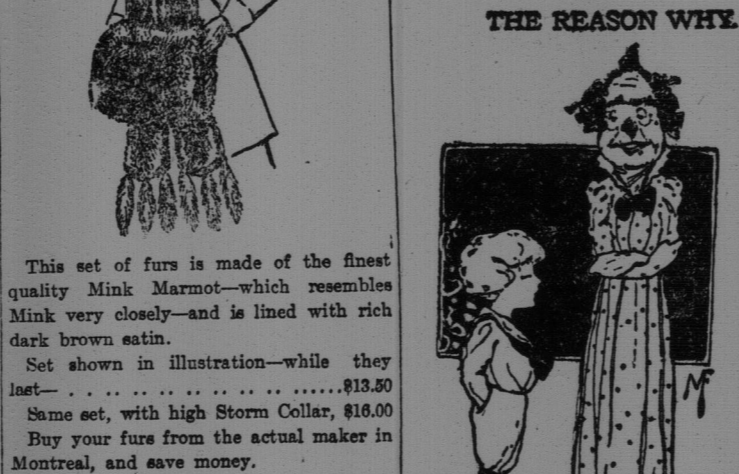
"In the most loathsome sense. He is evil-minded, vicious, altogether detestable. If Mr. Baring knew his character as I know it, Ventana would not be allowed to engage in office."

"Pedro Ventana?" interrupted Christobal. "Is he a half-breed or a tall brown-skinned man, who affects an American drawl when he speaks English—a man prominent in Santiago society and in mining circles generally?"

"Yes," said Elsie.

"(To be continued.)"

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WAS SHE POISONED?

Thamesville, Ont.—The wife of a prominent citizen of Thamesville was the heroine of a mysterious case which has just been successfully solved. About a year ago, Mrs. J. W. Dulong began to suffer with headaches. There was no apparent cause for them. After trying the ordinary "headache remedies," and failing to get relief, Mrs. Dulong consulted several physicians who pool-pooped the idea of anything out of the ordinary and told her she "would be all right."

Vague hints became rumors. Was Mrs. Dulong being poisoned? Yes, she was—intentionally—nor with drugs—but nevertheless, she was slowly poisoning herself.

Headaches are a sign of blood poisoning. Bowels, skin and kidneys are absorbed by the blood—and irritates the nerves and makes the headaches.

"I have tried 'Fruit-tives' and found them splendid for headaches," writes Mrs. Dulong after her recovery. "I feel so much better since I commenced taking them. I think they are a splendid medicine and" (note this) "I am recommending them to my friends." Everybody who takes Fruit-tives, is grateful for the cures they effect. It is a wonderful how quickly "Fruit-tives" give relief in all cases of stomach, liver, kidney and bowel trouble. If you suffer, get a box today; 50c, 6 boxes for \$2.50. At your druggist or sent on receipt of price. Fruit-tives Limited, Ottawa, Ont.

THE ATLAS HAD A TRAGIC VOYAGE 'ROUND THE HORN

Fatal Collision, Deaths and Mutiny Were Incidents of 275 Day Passage.

San Francisco, Cal., Dec. 25.—The American ship Atlas, dropped anchor here last night, 275 days out from Baltimore. It ended a voyage made tragic by a collision off Cape Horn, attended by the sinking of another vessel, the drowning of the ill-fated craft's captain and the captain's wife, mutiny on its decks and death among its crew.

On June 6 at 6 o'clock p. m., the Atlas struck the Norwegian bark Viking, Captain Peterson, bound from Hamburg to Callao. Both were badly damaged by the contact, but the bark fared worse. In the terror of the night thirteen of the crew of the Norwegian bark boarded the American ship, crawling over tangled shrouds and dangling booms, but Captain Peterson and his wife were not among those who made the dangerous transit, but it was too dark to render aid, though the Atlas stood by during the night and next morning the Viking had disappeared.

The Atlas put into Rio de Janeiro for repairs, leaving back. On the way this port, a mutiny took place among the crew, over some trouble with the mate, but it was easily quelled.

Before the collision off Cape Horn, three of the ship's company met death. On May 23, J. Schumacher and Charles Nolan, seamen, fell from the jibboom and were drowned. On June 15, John Hook, sailmaker, died and was buried at sea. When the ship arrived yesterday the captain's son and the third officer were ill and the vessel was ordered into quarantine.

The Atlas had a cargo of coal for the United States government. The vessel had been 120 days out from Rio de Janeiro and was overdue. Reinsurance had been ordered at 10 per cent. The Viking was a new bark of 2,561 tons. Nothing has been heard of it after it began its last voyage until the Atlas brought in the tidings last night.

In the chapel of St. Vincent's convent, Christmas midnight high mass was celebrated by Rev. Father Holland. Besides the sisters and orphans a number of the cathedral parishioners were privileged to be present.

SITUATION IN KENT COUNTY

W. D. Carter Has Not Yet Decided to Head the Government Ticket.

Moncton, Dec. 25.—Fresh complications are following the official announcement that Hon. James Barnes will retire from the field in Kent county. Among these disturbing elements is the report that W. D. Carter has not yet consented to take a place on the government ticket as his future is causing him some uneasiness. He wants either to hold his present federal appointment, which he cannot continue to do if he runs, or to be assured of something more lucrative in the likely event of defeat.

Politicians here who are acquainted with the situation, are convinced that the removal of Mr. Barnes in the manner in which it was brought about and the circumstances which attended it have made the task of pulling the government out of the hole an impossible one either for Mr. Carter or anyone else.

Urban Johnson is reported to have complained bitterly to his friends and followers of the treatment accorded him by Messrs. Barnes and Gogan in arranging for the next government ticket and said to have characterized their conduct to him as "an insult to the whole Acadian people." It is now believed in Kent county that Mr. Johnson will use his influence with the Acadians in a way that will be decidedly unpleasant for the government ticket when finally completed.

The report is in circulation here to the effect that at the last meeting of the government before the advent of Dr. Pugsley, it had been decided to call on the elections in the near future and the premier, Messrs. McKewen and LaBillette were made a committee to carry out the necessary arrangements, each one having a section of the province assigned to him in which he was to sell the finishing touches to the government's preparations. It is said, however, that when Dr. Pugsley arrived these gentlemen were compelled to confess that they had encountered difficulties, one explanation given being that many of the men invited to become candidates wanted some guarantee that their campaigns would be liberally financed without it being necessary for them to deplete their own pockets. There is a belief that the government is alarmed because of the discovery that so much difficult work remains to be done.

REV. H. F. WARING REMEMBERED

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 25.—Rev. H. F. Waring, pastor of the First Baptist church, of Halifax, was today presented with a magnificent fur lined coat and substantial check by the members of his congregation. Mr. Waring was given a valuable mink muff. Very complimentary remarks were made to Mr. Waring on the occasion of the presentation by the delegation that waited on the Waring.

THE HAMILTON ROAD RACE

Toronto, Dec. 25.—(Special)—Tom Cooley, the Irish Canadian athlete, won the Christmas road race at Hamilton today, doing the ten miles in fifty-nine minutes four and four-fifths seconds, which was good time considering the roads, which were all the way covered with slush. Tom Ellis was second in 63:33 and Hilton Breen third in 61:55.

Sinking Sensations, Loss of Control Indicate Decay of Health

At the outset these very distressing sensations indicate that the sympathetic nervous system is being starved, and in consequence, rendered very irritable. One portion of the nerve organization is deprived of a sufficient supply of blood, and to make matters worse other portions are burdened with an excess of blood.

To restore equilibrium and tone to the entire nervous organization nothing acts with such certainty as Ferruzone. Clearly it is the duty of weak, nervous people to use Ferruzone which contains the exact constituents that are needed to restore the debilitated nerve cells.

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The time to take Ferruzone is when you first feel tired, and when appetite fails, and when nerves get irritated.

Its record is marvelous—it makes you feel strong and sturdy, brings health that comes old age. Mrs. Mary Malone, of Harbor Bouche, Nova Scotia, writes:

"Ferruzone built me up. Before using it I scarcely knew what good health meant. I was so miserable and weak as any woman could be. Tired from morning till night, bothered by trifles, unaccountably nervous. The first box of Ferruzone improved my blood, gave me appetite, in a short time I was like a new person. Now I rejoice in abundant good health."

Ferruzone will make an unexpected improvement in your looks, your feeling, your health. At all dealers, 50c per box, or six for \$2.50. By mail, from N. C. Polson & Co., Hartford, Conn., U. S. A., and Kingston, Ont.

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