

WEEK-END NOTES.

(I. C. MORRIS.)

CHAPTER XVI.

The old-time ships were mostly built with a projecting bow; and although many of them were bluff, the cutwaters were pitched at a slight angle. This gave them a best appearance and looked much better, and much more ship-like than the late in being upon bow, which of late has been the purpose of the projecting. The two-fold, but was principally to facilitate speed; the reason being that all ships of the date of any considerable size were ornamented with figure-heads. These figure-heads were usually the bust or head of some personage of national or literary repute. Sometimes the figures were representative of the animal kingdom, or the feathered kingdom of birds; and on some ships, denizens of the sea were represented, and a carving of a fish, or some mammal, formed the figure-head. The figure-head usually corresponded to the name of the ship; for instance if it happened to be a female name, such as Isabella, Margaret, or Lavenis, or Portia, or some lady of title, the figure was that of the person named; and if the figure was full length, and on very large ships all kinds of animals, such as the lion, the leopard, the figure would represent such animals; and if of the feathered kingdom, such as the dove, the nightingale, the lark, the linnet, the swallow or the eagle, the figure would represent these birds; and so the custom was continued, and every vessel of any importance had a figure-head. Some figures represented men of literary standing, and some sometimes were taken from tradition, and mythology, hence the Hercules, Atlantis, and Augustus. These names go far into history, and are lost in the past; but they conveyed a great meaning, and had much to do with the navigation. In early times they skirted the coasts of the

developed shoulders and arms. The face was very characteristic, and was crowned with a representation of rich black hair. Whoever the lady was, which this bust represented, she must have certainly been a beautiful specimen of womanhood, and was no doubt, an outstanding personage amongst her own people. The cottage which displayed the figure head was the property of one of the old time sea captains, who sailed out of Province Town when large ships and deep-water sailing were in vogue. The captain usually voyaged to China and India; and it so happened on one of his voyages that one day as his ship was speeding under full sail, the look-out saw in the water, what he supposed to be, the body of a woman, and he immediately reported the same. The rule in such cases is for a ship to heave to, and if possible, render assistance to regain the body. And so the ship was immediately brought about and run up in the wind; and the topsails taken aback, and the boat lowered. The crew of the boat in charge of the mate, at once rowed out in the direction of the woman, as they thought, but on reaching it they found it to be a mere figure-head of some sister ship. They brought the figure-head on board their own ship and the captain kept it, and being on his homeward voyage, he brought it to Boston and took it down to Province Town, and had it placed on the

large porch or portico at the entrance of his cottage; and there it stands today. The old captain has gone, and all the ships have departed from the fishing vessels, are of the past; and the motor boats, and the steam trawler, have taken the place of the ships, and of the sails; but as a remembrance of the sailing ship's days and as a remembrance of the prowess and pride of those ships and as a relic of deep water sailing the bust of the lady on the porch stands as a link of the past. These figure-heads were very representative of the owners and captains of those ships; and a great many characteristics of those men could be read into, and read out of them. Some of those figure-heads were beautiful and commanding, and they indicated high character. Some were stern and bold and seemed to defy authority and to challenge the very seas, which they had to plough. Other again, represented rage, anger force and determination and in their place they all taught their own lesson.

The custom of figure-heads is a very ancient one and dates far back to the argosies of ancient times, when ships were called after heathen gods. The mariners were mostly heathen men, and were very superstitious, and usually dedicated their ships to one or more of their many deities. Hence we read in the book of Job that the mariners "cried unto their Gods," a very good lesson truly, but a better lesson, if those men had known the true God; but they did their best and they called upon what they believed to be God. We also further read in Acts of the ship on which Paul sailed, being named after the heathen Gods, such as Castor, and Pollux, or the twin brothers. And so the custom was very prevalent. In early times ships were named by being dedicated to some deity, and usually representations of these deities were put on the bow, where figure-heads afterwards came to be placed. The study of the figure-heads of the British Navy of the nineteenth century is very interesting for during that time the Naval ships were fully rigged, and while they were propelled by steam, they also retained the old usages and customs of the sailing ships. I have among my clippings a picture of the figure-heads of the admiral ships of the fifties, and the various characters which the picture represents are in themselves a study, as well as a history. They tell the strength and prowess of Britain, and the bravery and daring of her Admirals, and Captains courageous; and also tell the history of the men before the mast—the men who stood watch, and who at duties post, faced storm and death.



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Clean-Cut Campaign Openly Demanded.

MAIL'S CONSISTENCY PUNCEURED

Editor Evening Telegram

Dear Sir—With Nomination Day only a few hours away, we might be safely said to be on the last lap of the race for a clean, upright Government, and it therefore behoves every man of us in the East End, to leave no stone unturned to roll up such a majority as will forever compel governments of the future to see to it that the East is not flouted as it

has been for the past three years. This is one feature of this campaign which has been repeatedly brought to the notice of the electorate by candidates and supporters alike, and more recently by speakers of the different platforms, and it is this: the necessity of a clean fight, with personalities entirely eliminated. With that idea every clean-minded man is in entire accord, but it is a very difficult matter indeed to pursue that course when one is being constantly met with glaring evidence of the opposite kind on the part of our opponents.



SPEAKING FROM EXPERIENCE

THE DOCTOR: "My, yes, restless and feverish. Give him a Steedman's Powder and he will soon be all right."

STEEDEMAN'S SOOTHING POWDERS Contain no Poison

From the eve of the battle the cry went forth from our candidates for a clean campaign and an honest effort is being made to confront, particularly by the Opposition, the press and more especially by the Telegram, whose editorial bias is perhaps too active on "communicated" articles. It ought to be borne in mind, however, that this is no rehearsal of a part; it is no "rig" game; and while we want to fight a clean fight, still, if we are faced with too much of the other kind—too much below the belt—then look out for "brass knuckles." We don't intend to have any shifty tactics try to pull the wool over the eyes of this electorate, candidates' conduct notwithstanding. Each elector should ask himself a few pertinent questions that will readily suggest themselves to everyone, and if the answer is in the negative, we are bound in con-

science to vote against any and every candidate of the Government responsible for present-day conditions. No matter what arguments may be advanced for or against the Humber or any other industry, each man is a law unto himself and his own sound common sense, based upon his experience in this country since 1919, will supply the answer he must give at the polls. This is a serious, solemn duty and cannot be shirked for friend or relative. In passing, I must congratulate the Daily Mail on its marvelous consistency. In its "Candid Criticisms" of last Tuesday, it gave the Ferryland District to Hearn and McGuire unreservedly, lock, stock and barrel, and it prognosticated in another "Criticism" that Sir Michael would be flattened out in the West End, and that he would then be sure of his seat by asking his son Peter to resign. Resign what? Wasn't Peter not going to get a look-in when George and Ambrose of \$20,000 fame were through with him. Ye gods! It is to laugh! Wake up, Mr. Mail, you have too many in the editorial sanctum.

The handwriting is on the wall, electors of Newfoundland. This is not a regular election, this is not ordinary politics. This is not party against party for power and pull. This is, by our own mandate an order to continue the destruction and demoralization of the past three years; to put up with the immoral and unconstitutional practices now being worked on us; to suffer and sweat on limited salaries and impaired incomes while our oppressors grind us still further in the dust; to barter away our birthright and to steal away our privileges as freemen. It is all these or—is it a resurrection of our old time prosperity; a return of peace of mind and happiness to our homes; a revival of prosperity to our city, and better times, in deed and in truth, for ourselves and our children. Electors! The work is yours. Yours, to make or mar your future existence; yours, to say what SHALL be and what SHALL NOT be. No voter is immune. No one can shirk his obvious duty, and that duty to give a clean-cut, straight ticket vote for Higgins, Fox, Vincombe, Cashin, Linegar and Hunt. We want SIX Bennett men in St. John's.

VIVANUS.

St. John's, April 20th.

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