

The Sealing Fleet at the Zenith of Its Glory.

1st of March--The Old Sealers' Day.

(H. F. SHORTIS.)

In the fifties and sixties of the century the sealing fleet was at the zenith of its glory, both with regard to the quality of the vessels employed and the reputation of the sealers. What a sight was lost to the present generation to witness the display of those hundred sail vessels, all with sails set, flags flying in all parts of the harbor, waiting the time when the channel would be opened up to permit them to proceed on their voyage. It was customary during those "hard springs," when the harbor would be full of ice, to select one of the number of vessels and all the crews uniting, numbering about four thousand men, and with great hawseers, and hauled by bands of music, haul the vessel through the channel which had been cut out with great saws, and as others connected, and thus they did in clear water in the mouth of the bay. I remember one year particularly (about 1866), when the English Band was employed, and on going out on the ice, Mr. William Ford fell in and would have been drowned only the big drum (he was drummer in the Band) floated him up from the shore, who witnessed his sight and went to his assistance. The majority of those vessels were built in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, and it is a matter of history that more Newfoundland bank notes were in circulation in Prince Edward Island in the fifties and sixties than there were in Newfoundland itself. This is not to be wondered at, because every vessel purchased by a commercial man cost from six to twenty thousand dollars. Those vessels were given to the skippers to seal, which they sometimes did in the Spring, as was the case with John Pampurey in the Glido and John James L. Keefe in the Glen and many others.

"GIVE US A HAUL."

The most of us remember the days when one of the skippers required a haul to haul down his vessel at the start to effect some necessary repairs. All hands were required, was for himself and a few others to plant themselves along the street and so every man and youth who passed along with, "Good morning. Come down to the wharf and give us a haul" to raise a sufficient crowd to meet requirements, and the town would be kept alive with the well-known "chanties" such as "Off to the Main," "My Bonnie Brown Girl," "The Bound for the Rio Grande," "Johnny Pampurey," etc., after which the skipper would either bring them to his own house or the nearest hotel to partake of a hearty breakfast and to partake of the refreshment which they had earned. I do not think that the bacteria-producing soft drinks of the present day such as soda water, ginger-pop and the other effeminate beverages of the present day would have the same effect in raising a crowd. Often they would wait until late in the evening, and the cost would be much greater than is a large crowd of chocolate at the present day. There was no object, and in my own experience I have seen bargains entered into which involved hundreds of pounds, and the contracting parties having a single word of writing them, but simply their own word of honor, which was seldom or ever

known to be broken. If one were to do such, he would be shunned and ostracized by the whole party of ship-masters.

STRANGE NAUTICAL TERMS.

I know of only three men who made three trips in the one year in sailing vessels, viz.—Capt. Dick Brit of Harbor Grace, Capt. Wm. Whelan and Capt. Wm. Roberts (surnamed the Dandy) of Brigus and Capt. John Murphy of Harbor Grace in the William. There may have been others, but I cannot recall them to memory just now. Capt. Murphy was a remarkable man in his way, and it was said no man in the island had a more thorough knowledge of our coast than he had, yet he had such an imperfect knowledge of the English language that he could not give orders by naming the ropes; but had them marked in different colored flannel, and when required would order his crew "to pull the red rag"—"blue rag" or whatever particular brace or sheet he wished attended to. He is also said to have had his punts so arranged that the old punts were on the port side and the new punts on the starboard, so that when he wished the helm put a port, he would shout "old punt," for starboard "new punt," and for steady, "caboose." He was a County of Cork man. As I stated before many of them had no learning whatever, (although some were highly educated) and kept their accounts by marking down some hieroglyphics that were unknown to any person but themselves, and in one instance a certain well-known skipper got himself in a serious dilemma after marking down a large circle or O opposite the name of a dealer who purchased a cheese, and after some time, in rounding off the account from his own quaint notes, was not certain whether it was a cheese or a grindstone the man had from him, until the matter was finally settled by arbitration, or over the matter came of five and forties. There are some good stories told about those famous vikings. For instance, the first time skipper Tom Nowlan took charge of the brig Greyhound. Skipper Tom was rather out of place on the quarter deck of such a large square-rigger, and when she was all ready to proceed on her voyage, Tom looked forward amongst the crew and exclaimed, "Well, boys, you know what to do as well as I can tell you!" And another instance somewhat similar comes to my mind when a well-known skipper was asked, "What course shall we steer, skipper?"—the answer was thundered forth—"the same course as we steered last year, darn ye."

THE UBIQUITOUS JINKER.

There is one individual whose history goes back until it is lost in antiquity. No one can tell for certain how he originated or whence he came. Nevertheless he has always existed, and is as strong and vigorous at the present day as he was in the days of the jowlers of historic fame. I refer to that ubiquitous individual—the jinker. No Newfoundland sealer is without a thorough, and often melancholy knowledge of the jinker. For to him is often attributed the misfortune of losing a trip of fat when the seals seemed within the very reach of the crew, of whom he was unfortunately a component part. From my childhood I have been familiar with stories of this ill-omened individual. This much must be borne in mind in connection with the jinker, and it gave a strength to the unshaken conviction of our sealers with regard to this unwelcome customer on shipboard, that wherever he went, no matter what prospect of a voyage was in sight, the fact of the presence of the jinker entirely disheartened them, and they were never disappointed when luck forsook them. In fact, it would be a matter of the greatest notoriety, if a vessel having him on board had been successful. I have never heard an instance cited when a jinker's ill-luck had left him.

UNEXCELLED SEAMEN.

What a glorious and interesting topic it is for the historian of the future to get together and publish for the benefit of those who come after us the hardships and dangers—the agility and seamanship—the fearlessness and manliness of those great Vikings and their followers, who have by their example in the past, earned for Newfoundland that title, which has never been taken from her, the first fishing country in the world, and her sons the most competent and fearless mariners who have ever walked the deck, or ran aloft to reef the sails when the storm was at its height. History has been very careful to hand down to posterity the exploits of Richard the Lion Hearted, or Brian Boru when wielding their ponderous battle-axes and of Wallace's exploits of valor with his wonderful sword, which is exhibited to this day; but no one has placed upon record the feat of this Newfoundland fisherman-sealer holding a seven-foot flint-lock gun to his shoulder, and

MARK DOWN SALE

AT
KNOWLING'S
Crockery Dept.

BARGAINS

for this week are:

Best White Cups and Saucers, 21c.
Best White and Gold Cups, without Saucers, 23c.
Best White and Gold Cups and Saucers, 32c.
Best Blue Band and Gold Lines Cups and Saucers, 32c.
Best English China Cups and Saucers, Pink Band and Gold Lines, 45c.
Large Size Breakfast Cups and Saucers, White & Gold, 50c.

Brown Teapots

4 Sizes. Note the Sale Price, 36c, 41c, 45c, 50c.

Best White Vegetable Dishes, 11.18, 11.26, 11.44
Dark Blue Willow Vegetable Dishes, 11.26
White and Gold Vegetable Dishes, 11.26
Job Lot White Mugs, 25c.
Best White Mugs, 27c.
Job Lot Glass Sugar Bowls, 12c.

Dinner Set Bargains

26 pieces in Blue and Green, floral designs, only 11.60
54 pieces in Pale Green or Blue, Gold Traced, floral designs, only 26.25
54 pieces in Crimson Rosebuds on Black Border. The Vegetable Dishes and Sauce Tureens in this set are round shape, only 31.30

Glassware Bargains

Fruitbills, 11.08, 11.22, 11.40 doz.
Preserve Dishes, 90c, 11.22 doz.
Berry Dishes, 7 pieces, 11.00 set
Baby and Gold Water Sets, 14.05 set
Ruby and Gold Table Sets, 14.05 set
Ruby and Gold Berry Sets, 14.05 set
Rubigold Nut Bowls, 14c.
Rubigold Berry or Fruit Bowls, 24c.
Rubigold Water Sets, 24.43 set
Job Lot Plain Glass Milk Jugs, 25c.

STATUES and CRUCIFIX.
FANDESTICKS, FAIRY LAMPS and LIGHTS, specially priced for this sale.

G. KNOWLING, Ltd.

Feb 28, 61

STEER BROTHERS WHITE SALE!

Unfavourable weather conditions have prevented some people from attending our WHITE SALE during the past week. For this reason we have decided to continue for another week, ending Saturday, March 5th.

Prices have been Forced to Rock Bottom Levels.
Levels we have not heard of for Six Years.

HALF PRICE.		HALF PRICE.		HALF PRICE.	
CREAM FLANNELETTE NIGHT DRESSES.		ERMINE NECKLETS.		CHILD'S CREAM BEAR COATS.	
Regular \$4.50.	Sale Price \$2.25	Regular \$2.50.	Sale Price \$1.25	Regular \$ 8.25.	Sale Price \$4.13
Regular \$7.50.	Sale Price \$3.75	Regular \$3.75.	Sale Price \$1.88	Regular \$ 8.75.	Sale Price \$4.38
CREAM FLANNELETTE KNICKERS.		Regular \$4.50.	Sale Price \$2.25	Regular \$ 9.25.	Sale Price \$4.63
Regular \$2.50.	Sale Price \$1.25	Regular \$5.50.	Sale Price \$2.75	Regular \$11.00.	Sale Price \$5.50
WHITE CAMBRIC UNDER-SKIRTS.		WHITE SHEETING. (Twilled.)		CHILD'S WHITE VOILE DRESSES.	
Embroidery and Lace trimmed.		Reg. \$1.20.	Sale Price 96c.	Pretty styles, neatly embroidered and with ribbon sash; to fit from 3 to 6 years.	
Reg. \$3.50.	Sale Price \$2.80	Reg. \$1.50.	Sale Price \$1.20		
Reg. \$4.00.	Sale Price \$3.20	Reg. \$1.60.	Sale Price \$1.28	Regular	\$1.60 to \$4.50
Reg. \$5.00.	Sale Price \$4.00	(Plain.)		Sale Price	\$1.28 to \$3.60
CAMISOLES. White Nainsook.		Reg. \$1.05.	Sale Price 84c.	Larger sizes to fit from 8 to 14 years.	
Lace and ribbon trimmed.		Reg. \$1.40.	Sale Price \$1.12		
Reg. \$1.30.	Sale Price \$1.04	Reg. \$1.75.	Sale Price \$1.40	Regular	\$3.75 to \$6.00
Reg. \$1.40.	Sale Price \$1.12	CIRCULAR PILLOW COTTON		Sale Price	\$3.00 to \$4.80
Reg. \$1.80.	Sale Price \$1.44	Reg. \$1.05.	Sale Price 84c.	Sideboard Cloths, Tray Cloths, Bureau Scarves, Pillow Shams, Cushion Covers, Centres & Night-dress Cases.	
INFANTS' CHRISTENING ROBES.		Reg. \$1.10.	Sale Price 88c.		
Reg. \$6.00.	Sale Price \$4.80	ROLLER TOWELLING.		WHITE H. C. QUILTS.	
Reg. \$7.00.	Sale Price \$5.60	White Fancy Huck.		Reg. \$3.50.	Sale Price \$2.80
Reg. \$7.20.	Sale Price \$5.76	Reg. 30c.	Sale Price 24c.	Reg. \$3.80.	Sale Price \$3.04
Reg. \$9.00.	Sale Price \$7.20	Plain White Linen finish.		Reg. \$6.00.	Sale Price \$4.80
REMEMBER! 20 P.C. OFF ALL PURCHASES IN ALL OTHER LINES DRY GOODS.		Reg. 35c.	Sale Price 28c.	Reg. \$7.00.	Sale Price \$5.60
		White Huckaback.		Reg. \$8.00.	Sale Price \$6.40
		Reg. 40c.	Sale Price 32c.	MARCELLA QUILTS.	
		Reg. 60c.	Sale Price 48c.	Reg. \$6.50.	Sale Price \$5.20
				Reg. \$8.00.	Sale Price \$6.40

STEER BROTHERS.

Duke of Atholl's Private Army.

A question was recently raised in the House of Commons in London regarding the right of the Duke of Atholl to maintain a private army of his own. The question created considerable discussion, but the explanation is simple.

The Duke of Atholl's "army" consists of some 6000 members of the Clan of Murray, of which he is the chieftain. It is independent of the control of the War Department, is paid for by the Duke instead of by the National Treasury, and is a relic of old feudal days, as well as of the times when the Dukes of Atholl were also Kings of the Isle of Man, before they disposed of their sovereignty to King George III. of Great Britain in 1765, and at the same time abandoned their rights to coin their own money, bearing their arms and effigy.

The Atholl Highlanders are a splendid force, most of the men being stalwart fighters well over six feet in height and decorated with medals indicative of their gallant service in the great war.

They are armed with rifles in lieu of the old time muskets and arquebuses—and before that crossbows—with claymores and with dirks, and are equipped with a very up-to-date battery of machine guns, while the regimental colors were presented to the corps some fifty years ago by no less a personage than the late Queen Victoria on the occasion of one of her many stays at Blair Atholl, the ancestral home of the Dukes of Atholl, in Perthshire.

Blair Atholl is a hideous old place, of no architectural pretensions whatever, its only remarkable figure being

the incomparable double avenue of ancient elms by which it is approached. A portion of the edifice dates back to the thirteenth century, and it is held by Duke of Atholl from the Crown by one of those strange tenures which are occasionally to be found in Great Britain, the Duke being under the obligation of presenting to the sovereign a white rose, whenever he or she visits the castle under the penalty of forfeiture.

White Roses Bloom at Atholl. The consequence is that white roses have from time immemorial been kept in bloom at Atholl all the year round, so as to be prepared for any sudden and unannounced visit of the monarch.

The present Duke is married to a very pretty Miss Ramsay, and when he brought as his wife he caught her up in his arms, and carried her across the threshold of the castle, in accordance with the requirements of the ancient custom of the house that the bride who enters the castle for the first time must not walk into it.

In the townlet of Blair Atholl, on the borders of the estate, the principal inn goes by the name of "The

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Duke of Atholl's Arms." Until comparatively recent years there was a stage coach running thence called "The Duchess of Atholl," in honor of the chateau of Blair Atholl.

The hours of its arrival and departure were announced in capital letters in the newspapers of the district in the following manner: "The Duchess of Atholl starts from the Duke of Atholl's Arms, every morning sharp at seven."

This Week's Wisdom.
Every friend is a looking-glass—and we love the flattering ones best.

Recipe for success in Marriage: Keep perfectly still, and look pleasant—as the photographer says.

The easiest time for a man to fall in love is when he has just half-way received from another love.

It's an awful bore when a man will insist on talking of his troubles when you want to talk of yours.

A woman who clings to a man after love is dead, has that same creepy effect on him as a hair that clings to wet fingers and can't be shaken off.

A man seldom finds his ideal wife, because she is always a dual personality—she to carry him off his feet, and one to keep him on his feet; a stimulant and a sedative; an ornament and a comfort.

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and its magnificent TONE AMPLIFIER.
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