Best copy available

POOR COPY

M. Bannon's Cheap Grocery Store.

Owing to sharp competition and scarcity of money, I have reduced my prices 25 per cent. on all cash sales.

To give you an idea of the cut I have made you can get

10 lbs. hand picked Beans for 20c.

and a like proportional reduction applies to my large stock of

FLOUR, MEAL, FEED, HAY, OATS, BEEF, PORK, MOLASSES, TEA, at 12c, 20c, 25c, and 35c per lb.

I keep on hand

BRADLEY'S FERTILIZER

which increases the farmers' crops double the amount raised with ordinary manures.

You have no need of going outside of Newcastle to buy goods cheap but to make sure of getting bargains bring the

CASH

or I am determined to sell lower than any other store in the County let them be blue or white.

M. BANNON.

Newcastle, March 9, 1897.

NOTICE TO Contractors & Builders.

Will sell steel wire nails subject to market hanges at the following low prices.

3	dy at	$3.00	per keg.
4	"	2.70	"
5	"	2.70	"
7	"	2.50	"
8	"	2.40	"
10	"	2.25	"
40	"	2.25	"
60	"	2.25	"

F. Hennessy.

Newcastle, Apr 1 20, 1897.

NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that I have appointed William Irving, of Newcastle, my Deputy.

R. R. CALL, Sheriff.

April 19th, 1897.

Sash And Door Factory.

The subscriber is prepared to supply from his steam factory in Newcastle,

Window sashes and frames, Glazed and Unglazed,

DOORS AND DOOR FRAMES, MOULDINGS, Planing and Matching, etc.

H. C. Niven.

Newcastle Jan. 2, 1895.

WANTED.

CANVASSERS—"Queen Victoria: Her Life and Reign," has captured the British Empire. Extraordinary testimonials from the great men; send for copy free. Marquis of Lorne says, "The best popular Life of the Queen I have seen." Her Majesty sends a kind letter of appreciation. Selling by thousands; gives enthusiastic satisfaction. Canvassers making $15 to $40 weekly. Prospectus free to agents. THE BRADLEY-GARRETSON CO., LTD, Toronto, Ont.

F. W. FLIEGER,

Manufacturer and Repairer of

FINE AND WORKING HARNESS

Upholstering a Specialty.

Masson Building, Newcastle, N. B.

DR. CATES, DENTIST

Will occupy his dental office, over Mr. Thomas Russell's store, in the Hays' building

From the 26th to the 30th or 31st of each Month.

Artificial teeth inserted for $8.00 and $10 per set, up. Hoping to meet his patients as formerly, for whom satisfactory dental work will be done in all branches.

TAILORING

I wish to remind my patrons and the public generally that I am still

Carrying on the Tailoring

in the old stand over Messrs. Sutherland and Creaghan's Store. I have a fine

LINE OF SAMPLES

to select from. Parties furnishing their own goods can have them made up in

GOOD STYLE

and Cheaper than elsewhere. Perfect Satisfaction has been given in the past and I can guarantee the same in the future.

J. R. McDONALD.

Newcastle Sept., 1892.

First Class Job Printing done at the Advocate Office.

Removed.

I take this opportunity of thanking my many customers for their patronage during the past fourteen years and solicit a continuance of same.

I have now removed to my new building on the public wharf where I will endeavor to serve my customers in the future as I have in the past.

JOHN CLARK, HARNESS MAKER.

Newcastle, May 24th, 1897.

AGENTS. I am just starting the best thing for money making you have seen for many a day. Your name and address will bring the golden information.

R. P. GLASGOW, Toronto, Ont.

WANTED.

WANTED — INTELLIGENT MEN with good education, who want to better their positions, and would be content for a year with $600 and expenses. Write us, with description and occupation, and we will make a proposition for now or the future. Also needed, reliable man for Australia. Write to-day, for we are in a hurry.

THE MANAGER, 49 Richmond St. West, Toronto, Ont.

WANTED. Industrious persons of either sex with good character and common school education, can obtain employment for two months in this community.

S. M. FRY, Toronto, Ont

New Goods, New Prices.

I have now in stock Window Screen Netting, Poultry Netting, Window Screens framed ready for use, Screen Doors, Royal Dominion Clothes Wringers, Washers, Bird Cages, Ice Cream Freezers, Mrs. Potts' Sad Irons, Spring Clothes Pins, Granite Iron Tea Pots, Sauce Pans and Stew Kettles, Creamers, Milk Pails, Milk Pans, Water Pails, Wash Boilers, round and oblong, Covered Pails, all sizes, Handled Dish Pans, Covered Bread Pans, etc.

For the next three months I will give a special discount of

Ten Per Cent. for Cash

on all my Tinware, Waterloo, Niagara, Star, Perfect and Comfort Cook Stoves. For sale very low.

J. H. Phinney.

Newcastle, May 8 h, 1897.

CHEQUE

£ Bank Cheques

They are the newest convenient form for carrying money whilst travelling.

They will be supplied in books of any denomination of Pounds Sterling required from 1 to £50.

Cheque Bank Cheques are an easy way to send money abroad. They pass in every country in the world.

For Sale by

R. R. CALL, Agent.

Newcastle, Miramichi, N. B

Notice of Sale.

To Henry Wyse of Newcastle in the County of Northumberland, Baker, and all others whom it may concern:—

Take notice that there will be sold at Public Auction, in front of the Engine House in Newcastle aforesaid, on Monday the Thirtieth day of August next, at 12 o'clock noon, "All that certain piece or parcel of land and premises situate, lying and being in Newcastle aforesaid and bounded and described as follows:—On the South Side by the Miramichi River, Westerly by the Ferry-land and slip, Easterly by the Allison property now occupied by William F. Cottier, and Northerly by Castle street, being the same property now in the possession of the said Henry Wyse.

The above sale will be made under and by virtue of a Power of Sale contained in a certain Indenture of Mortgage bearing date the Fourth day of November A. D. 1882, and made between the said Henry Wyse and Marie Anne Wyse of the first part and James Robinson of the second part, default having been made in the payment of the moneys secured by the said indenture of Mortgage.

TERMS CASH.

Dated this Twentieth day of May A. D. 1897.

JAMES ROBINSON, Mortgagee.

E. P. WILLISTON, Solicitor to the Mortgagee.

Notice of Sale.

To HENRY REEVES, of Newcastle in the County of Northumberland, plasterer.

Notice is hereby given that under and by virtue of a Power of Sale, contained in a certain Indenture of Mortgage, bearing date the Twenty-sixth day of March, A. D. 1894, and made between the above named Henry Reeves and Caroline Mercy Reeves, his wife, of the first port, and Thomas Russell, of Newcastle aforesaid, merchant, of the other part, and registered in volume 70 of the County records, pages 342, 343, 344 and 345 and numbered 270 in said volume, there will, for the purpose of satisfying the monies secured by said Mortgage, default having been made in the payments hereof, be sold at public auction in front of the Public Square in the town of Newcastle on FRIDAY the Third day of SEPTEMBER next, at the hour of 12 o'clock noon,

"All that lot of land situate in the parish of Newcastle, and bounded as follows:—Commencing at the south corner of said lot, on the dividing line of the John Buckley lot and the line of the Intercolonial Railway, thence northerly along the dividing line between the said land, and the land formerly owned by James Ledden; thence easterly; along the northerly side of said lot twenty rods; thence southerly on a line parallel to the said line till it strikes the northerly side of said Intercolonial Railway; thence westerly along the said Railway boundary line, twenty rods, to the place of beginning, containing fifteen acres more or less. Together with the privilege of a road from the said premises to the Queen's Highway seventeen feet wide.

Together with all and singular, the buildings and improvements thereon and the appurtenances to the said lands and premises belonging and anywise appertaining.

Dated the 1st day of June, 1897.

SAM'L THOMSON, Solicitor for Mortgagee. THOMAS RUSSELL, Mortgagee.

Spring Stock

NOW OPEN.

I have just received a new stock of Tinware such as is always in demand by housekeepers. My stock now comprises the following:—

Square, Round, Oval and Nestable Dinner Cans, Fancy Bread Boxes, Crescent and Victor Flour Sifters, Pudding Pans, Cake Pans, Bird Cages, Egg Beaters, Cake Cutters, Coffee Biggins, Enamelled Granite Ware, Fish Skimmers, Pancake Turners, Kitchen Spoons, Flesh Forks, Pie Tins, Washington Cake Pans, Mrs. Potts' Sad Irons, Coal Hods—fancy and plain, Stove Pipe and Elbows, Dampers and Collars.

Tinware made to order or promptly repaired.

Contracts taken for Roofing in Iron, Tin, Mica and Felt,—Hall and Parlor Stoves, Cooking Stoves and Ranges, Furnaces of improved make promptly fitted up.

Don't forget my new shop is just above the Newcastle Ferry Road.

FRANK MASSON.

Newcastle, May 15th, 1897.

Tuning and Repairing.

J. O. Biedermann, Pianoforte and Organ Tuner.

REPAIRING A SPECIALTY.

Regular visits made to the northern Counties of which due notice will be given.

Orders for Tuning etc. can be sent to the Advocate Office, Newcastle.

J. O. LIEDERMANN.

St. John, May 6th, 1894.

Growing Crop

AT AUCTION.

I will offer for sale at public auction on WEDNESDAY EVENING, the 28th JULY, at 7 o'clock, the grass and oats now growing on the MARSH, known as the FALCONER FARM. The above will be put up in four lots.

TERMS:—3 mos. on approved joint notes, and must be settled for at time of sale.

GEORGE STABLES.

Newcastle, July 20, 1897.

WANTED.

Men and Women who can work hard talking and writing six hours daily, for six days week, and will be content with ten dollars weekly. Address, NEW IDEAS CO., Brantford, Ont.

CULTURED LADIES with force of character, needing to earn money, can learn how to do so in a good cause. Address

JABEZ GALLOWAY Toronto, Ont.

PATENTS PROMPTLY SECURED

Send a stamp for our beautiful book "How to get a Patent." "What profitable to invent," and "Prizes on Patents." Advice free. Fees moderate

MARION & MARION, EXPERTS, Temple Building, 185 St. James Street, Montreal. The only firm of Graduate Engineers in the Dominion transacting patent business exclusively. *Mention this paper.*

METEOROLOGICAL.

Reported for the Dominion Government by J. F. Connors.

JULY.

DATE	Hour of Observation.	Barometer.	Thermometer.	Maximum Thermometer	Minimum Thermometer.
Sun. 11	8 a.m.	29 926	67 0		
"	3 p.m.	29 709	75 0	80 0	58 5
"	8 p.m.	29 682	70 0		
Mon. 12	8 a.m	29 622	70 0		
"	3 p.m.	29 645	82 0	83 0	58 0
	8 p.m.	29 779	58 0		
Tues 13	8 a.m.	29 938	57 5		
"	3 p.m.	29 953	60 0	60 0	56 5
"	8 p.m.	29 983	58 5		
Wed 14	8 a.m.	30 034	74 5		
"	3 p.m.	29 983	84 0	8 5	57 5
"	8 p.m.	29 998	74 0		
Thu. 15	8 a.m.	29 961	69 5		
"	3 p.m.	29 930	81 5	84 0	68 5
"	8 p.m.	29 972	72 0		
Fri. 16	8 a.m.	30 073	71 5		
"	3 p.m.	30 006	86 0	87 0	61 0
"	8 p.m.	30 012	74 5		
Sat. 17	8 a.m.	30 126	73 0		
"	3 p.m.	30 076	84 5	85 5	62 0
"	8 p.m.	30 149	69 0		

The maximum and minimum columns show the highest and lowest temperature in the 24 hours.

Miscellaneous.

"Do you believe in all this talk about kissing being dangerous?" he asked.

'Well,' she replied thoughtfully, 'I suppose there must be some foundation for it.'

'Really?'

'I found it difficult to reach any other conclusion, but,' she added, hastily, 'I always have had the reputation of being a very fearless girl.'

Naturally he felt that it was no more than right that he should put this statement to the test.—Chicago Post.

ST. MARTIN, Que., May 16, 1895

C. C. RICHARDS & Co.

GENTLEMEN,—Last November my child stuck a nail in his knee causing inflammation so severe that I was advised to take him to Montreal and have the limb amputated to save his life.

A neighbor advised us to try MINARD'S LINIMENT, which we did, and within three days my child was all right and I feel so grateful that I send you this testimonial, that my experience may be of benefit to others.

LOUIS GAGNIER.

'You wouldn't take that man for a great inventor, would you?'

'No; is he?'

'He is. He invented an excuse for being out with the boys that satisfied his wife, and he's been married seventeen years.'—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Shortness of Breath.

'Since last year I have had serious heart trouble caused by malaria. Shortness of breath, smoth ring spells on retiring, violent palpitation, etc., often made me gasp for breath. On procuring Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills I found to my surprise and delight that they gave almost instant relief. I got healthy, restful sleep, my heart troubles disappeared, and I now feel very well and strong indeed.' Mr. Hugh Moore, Ingersoll, Ont., makes this statement for the public good.

Bill, And what did the old man say when you asked for his daughter? Jim: 'Ordered me to leave the house.' And what did you say? I asked him if he took me for a house mover.'

MINARD'S LINIMENT cures Dandruff.

Sunday School Teacher—What is the leading doctrine of Christianity?

The Laundryman—Kid throw stone—smashee glass—no can catchee—for giveum.'

FAC-SIMILE signature of CHAS. H. FLETCHER is on the wrapper of every bottle of CASTORIA.

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria.
When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria.
When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria.
When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

'Excuse me, but it seems to me that I met you before. Are you not a brother or near relative of Major Jones?'

'No, I am Major Jones himself.'

'Ah, indeed; that explains the remarkable resemblance.'

MINARD'S LINIMENT Relieves Neuralgia.

'Charlie is a sixteen-to-one man,' said Ethel to Mabel, speaking of her fiancee.

'I dont take any interest in politics,' replied Mabel.

'Oh, this isn't politics.'

'What is it?'

'He is willing to give me sixteen kisses for every one I gave him.'

MINARD'S LINIMENT for sale Everywhere.

A little girl who had mastered her catechism confessed herself disappointed 'because,' she said though I obey the fifth commandment and honor my papa and mamma, yet my days are not a bit longer in the land because I am put to bed at 7 o'clock.'

Ask your grocer for

Windsor Salt

For Table and Dairy, Purest and Best

Georgie—Say ma, typewriting ain't like handwriting, is it?

Georgie's Mamma—No, Georgie. Why do you ask?

Georgie—'Cause I heard papa, down to his office say to the typewriter girl, 'What a beautiful hand!'

Pain in the Back.

DEAR SIRS,—I was troubled with pain in the back for months, and after trying several remedies without effect, thought I would use Hagyard's Yellow Oil. I am glad to say that after using two bottles I was completely cured, and cannot recommend this excellent remedy too highly.

MISS ANNA CHAPMAN, South River, Ont.

'Yes,' said she, 'we married for love alone.'

'I can easily believe it,' said the aged single gentleman. I thought there couldn't have been any exercise of judgment connected with the transaction.'

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.

The fac-simile signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher* is on every wrapper.

Pronounced.—Mere—"Has his lordship exhibited any symptoms of affection?" Fille—"Yes. He has tried to find out how much we are worth."—[Life.

Doan's Kidney Pill.

Doan's Kidney Pills act on the kidneys, bladder and urinary organs only. They cure backaches, weak back, rheumatism, diabetes, congestion, inflammation, gravel, Bright's disease and all other diseases arising from wrong action of the kidneys and bladder.

Those Good Old Days—"Grandfather, I remember, used to put on a clean white duck suit every day.' 'Yes, and your grandmother, I remember, used to have to wash and iron it.'—[Chicago Record.

Nature's Medicine.

Nature's Medicine for constipation, liver complaint, sick headache, biliousness, jaundice and sallow complexion is Laxa Liver Pills. They are a perfect laxative never griping or causing pain. One pill each night for 30 days will cure constipation.

Mrs. Puce—'Mercy! you let your girl off every afternoon.' Mrs. Mauve—'Yes it is such a saving! The more she is away the fewer dishes she breaks.'—[Detroit Free Press.

MINARD'S LINIMENT cures Burns.

The young gentleman who sports a cane and no overcoat probably remembers his earlier days, when upon occasion a cane proved remarkably warming.

Providence Thanked.

It is with pleasure that I recommend B.B.B. for the cure of indigestion and impure blood. I had tried many medicines but received no benefit until, I thank Providence, I was advised to use B.B.B., and it resulted in a perfect cure.

MRS. WM. LOCKE, Oshawa, Ont.

Mrs. Skinner (the boarding house keeper)—I can say this—my table always literally groans under the weight of the food upon it.

Mr. Hall Roume—You bet it does. Mrs. Skinner. Why, the table would groan under the weight of these biscuits alone.—Puck.

Not For Your Money

BUT FOR HUMANITY SAKE, A MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL, having suffered for over 15 years with Nervous Weakness, etc, has at last obtained a complete cure, the particulars of which will gladly be sent free of charge to any man similarly afflicted.

The confidence of the multitude of anxious but silent sufferers is earnestly requested and to every sincere inquirer will be mailed, in a plain sealed letter, honest advice and such information as will surely lead to a perfect cure. No charge whatever is made for this service, my sole aim being to benefit my fellowmen. Address with stamp:

REV. A. H. MACFARLANE, Frankfort, Ont.

Selected Literature.

THAT LITTLE SQUARE BOX

BY A. CONAN DOYLE.

"Nothing of the sort, sir," said I, rather touchily. "You will learn to your cost, I fear, that I have neither exaggerated nor misinterpreted a word. As to the box, I have certainly never before seen one like it. It contained delicate machinery; of that I am convinced, from the way in which the men handled it and spoke of it."

"You'd make out every packet of perishable goods to be a torpedo," said Dick, "if that is to be your test."

"The man's name was Flannigan," I continued.

"I don't think that would go very far in a court of law," said Dick: "but come, I have finished my cigar. Suppose we go down together and split a bottle of claret. You can point out these two Orsinis to me if they are still in the cabin."

"All right," I answered; "I am determined not to lose sight of them all day. Don't look hard at them, though, for I don't want them to think they are being watched."

"Trust me," said Dick; "I'll look as unconscious and guileless as a lamb;" and with that we passed down the companion and into the saloon.

A good many passengers were scattered about the great central table, some wrestling with refractory carpet-bags and rug-straps, some having their luncheon, and a few reading and otherwise amusing themselves. The objects of our quest were not there. We passed down the room and peered into every berth, but there was no sign of them. "Heavens!" thought I, "perhaps at this very moment they are beneath our feet, in the hold or engine-room, preparing their diabolical contrivance!" It was better to know the worst than to remain in such suspense.

"Steward," said Dick, "are there any other gentlemen aboard?"

"There's two in the smoking-room, sir," answered the steward.

The smoking-room was a little snuggery, luxuriously fitted up, and adjoining the pantry. We pushed the door open and entered. A sigh of relief escaped from my bosom. The very first object on which my eye rested was the cadaverous face of Flannigan, with its hard-set mouth and unwinking eye. His companion sat opposite to him. They were both drinking, and a pile of cards lay upon the table. They were engaged in playing as we entered. I nudged Dick to show him that we had found our quarry, and we sat down beside them with as unconcerned an air as possible. The two conspirators seemed to take little notice of our presence. I watched them both narrowly. The game at which they were playing was "Napoleon." Both were adepts at it, and I could not help admiring the consummate nerve of men who, with such a secret at their hearts, could devote their minds to the manipulating of a long suit or the finessing of a queen. Money changed hands rapidly; but the run of luck seemed to be all against the taller of the two players. At last he threw down his cards on the table with an oath, and refused to go on.

"No, I'm hanged if I do," he said; "I haven't had more than two of a suit for five hands."

"Never mind," said his comrade, as he gathered up his winnings; "a few dollars one way or the other won't go very far after to-night's work."

I was astonished at the rascal's audacity, but took care to keep my eyes fixed abstractedly upon the ceiling, and drank my wine in as unconscious a manner as possible. I felt that Flannigan was looking toward me with his wolfish eyes to see if I had noticed the allusion. He whispered something to his companion which I failed to catch. It was a caution, I suppose, for the other answered rather angrily—

"Nonsense! Why shouldn't I say what I like? Over caution is just what would ruin us."

"I believe you want it not to come off," said Flannigan.

"You believe nothing of the sort," said the other, speaking rapidly and loudly. "You know as well as I do that when I play for a stake I like to win it. But I won't have my words critisised and cut short by you or any other man. I have as much interest in our success as you have—more, I hope."

He was quite hot about it, and puffed furiously at his cigar for some minutes. The eyes of the other ruffian wandered alternately from Dick Merton to myself.

There was silence for some time in the smoking-room, broken only by the crisp rattle of the cards as the man Muller shuffled them up before replacing them in his pocket. He still seemed to be somewhat flushed and irritable. Throwing the end of his cigar into the spittoon, he glanced defiantly at his companion and turned toward me.

"Can you tell me, sir," he said, "where this ship will be heard of again?"

They were both looking at me, but though my face may have turned a trifle paler, my voice was as steady as ever as I answered:—

"I presume, sir, that it will be heard of first when it enters Queenstown Harbour."

"Ha, ha!" laughed the angry little man, "I knew you would say that. Don't you kick me under the table, Flannigan, I won't stand it. I know what I am doing. You are wrong, sir," he continued, turning to me, "utterly wrong."

"Some passing ship, perhaps," suggested Dick.

"No, nor that either."

"The weather is fine," I said; "why should we not be heard of at our destination?"

"I didn't say we shouldn't be heard of at our destination. Possibly we may not, and in any case that is not where we shall be heard of first."

"Where then?" asked Dick.

"That you shall never know. Suffice it that a rapid and mysterious agency will signal our whereabouts, and that before the day is out. Ha, ha!" and he chuckled once again.

"Come on deck!" growled his comrade; "you have drunk too much confounded brandy-and-water. It has loosened your tongue. Come away!" and taking him by the arm he half led him, half forced him out of the smoking-room, and we heard them stumbling up the companion together, and on to the deck.

"Well, what do you think now?" I gasped, as I turned toward Dick. He was as imperturbable as ever.

"Think!" he said; "why I think what his companion thinks, that we have been listening to the ravings of a half-drunken man. The fellow stunk of brandy."

"Nonsense, Dick! you saw how the other tried to stop his tongue."

"Of course he did. He didn't want his friend to make a fool of himself before strangers. Maybe the short one is a lunatic, and the other his private keeper. It's quite possible."

"O Dick, Dick!" I cried, "how can you be so blind? Don't you see that every word confirmed our previous suspicion?"

"Humbug, man!" said Dick; "you're working yourself into a state of nervous excitement. Why, what the devil do you make of all that nonsense about a mysterious agent which would signal our whereabouts?"

"I'll tell you what he meant, Dick," I said, bending forward and grasping my friend's arm. "He meant a sudden glare and a flash seen far out at sea by some lonely fisherman off the American coast. That's what he meant."

"I didn't think you were such a fool, Hammond," said Dick Merton testily. "If you try to fix a literal meaning on the twaddle that every drunken man talks, you will come to some queer conclusions. Let us follow their example, and go on deck. You need fresh air, I think. Depend upon it, your liver is out of order. A sea-voyage will do you a world of good."

"If ever I see the end of this one," I groaned, "I'll promise never to venture on another. They are laying the cloth, so it's hardly worth while my going up. I'll stay below and unpack my things."

"I hope dinner will find you in a more pleasant state of mind," said Dick; and he went out, leaving me to my thoughts until the clang of the great gong summoned us to the saloon.

My appetite, I need hardly say, had not been improved by the incidents which had occurred during the day.

I sat down, however, mechanically at the table, and listened to the talk which was going on around me. There were nearly a hundred first-class passengers, and as the wine began to circulate, their voices combined with the clash of the dishes to form a perfect Babel. I found myself seated between a very stout and nervous old lady and a prim little clergyman; and as neither made any advances I retired into my shell, and spent my time in observing the appearance of my fellow-voyagers. I could see Dick in the dim distance dividing his attentions between a jointless fowl in front of him and a self-possessed young lady at his side. Captain Dowie was doing the honors at my end, while the surgeon of the vessel was seated at the other. I was glad to notice that Flannigan was placed almost opposite to me. As long as I had him before my eyes I knew that, for the time at least, we were safe. He was sitting with what was meant to be a sociable smile on his grim face. It did not escape me that he drank largely of wine—so largely that even before the dessert appeared his voice had become decidedly husky. His friend Muller was seated a few paces lower down. He ate little, and appeared to be nervous and restless.

"Now, ladies," said our genial captain, "I trust that you will consider yourselves at home aboard my vessel. I have no fears for the gentlemen. A bottle of champagne, steward. Here's to a fresh breeze and a quick passage! I trust our friends in America will hear of our safe arrival in eight days, or in nine at the very latest."

I looked up. Quick as was the glance which passed between Flannigan and his confederate, I was able to intercept it. There was an evil smile upon the former's thin lips.

The conversation rippled on. Politics, the sea, amusements, religion, each was in turn discussed. I remained a silent, though an interested listener. It struck me that no harm could be done by introducing the subject which was ever in my mind. It could be managed in an off-hand way, and would have the effect of turning the captain's thought in that direction. I could watch, too, what effect it would have upon the faces of the conspirators.

There was a sudden lull in the conversation. The ordinary subjects of interest appeared to be exhausted. The opportunity was a favorable one.

"May I ask, captain," I said, bending forward and speaking very distinctly, "what you think of Fenian manifestoes?"

The captain's ruddy face became a shade darker from honest indignation.

"They are poor cowardly things," he said, "as silly as they are wicked."

"The impotent threats of a set of anonymous scoundrels," said a pompous-looking old gentleman beside him.

"O captain!" said the fat lady at my side, "you don't really think they would blow up a ship?"

"I have no doubt they would if they could. But I am very sure they shall never blow up mine."

"May I ask what precautions are taken against them?" asked an elderly man at the end of the table.

"All goods sent aboard the ship are strictly examined," said Captain Dowie.

"But suppose a man brought explosives aboard with him?" I suggested.

"They are too cowardly to risk their own lives in that way."

During this conversation Flannigan had not betrayed the slightest interest in what was going on. He raised his head now and looked at the captain.

"Don't you think you are rather underrating them?" he said. "Every secret society has produced desperate men—why shouldn't the Fenians have them too? Many men think it a privilege to die in the service of a cause which seems right in their eyes, though others may think it wrong."

"Indiscriminate murder can not be right in anybody's eyes," said the little clergyman.

"The bombardment of Paris was nothing else," said Flannigan; "yet the whole civilized world agreed to look on with folded arms, and change the ugly word 'murder' into the more euphonious one 'war.' It seemed right enough to German eyes; why shouldn't dynamite seem so to the Fenian?"

"At any rate their empty vaporings have led to nothing as yet," said the captain.

"Excuse me," returned Flannigan, "but is there not some room for doubt yet as to the fate of the Dotterel? I have met men in America who asserted from their own personal knowledge that there was a coal torpedo aboard that vessel.'

"Then they lied," said the captain. "It was proved conclusively at the court-martial to have arisen from an explosion of coal-gas—but we had better change the subject, or we may cause the ladies to have a restless night;" and the conversation once more drifted back into its original channel.

During this little discussion Flannigan had argued his point with a gentlemanly deference and a quiet power for which I had not given him credit. I could not help admiring a man who, on the eve of a desperate enterprise, could courteously argue upon a point which must touch him so nearly. He had, as I have already mentioned, partaken of a considerable quantity of wine; but though there was a slight flush upon his pale cheek, his manner was as reserved as ever. He did not join in the conversation again, but seemed to be lost in thought.

A whirl of conflicting ideas was battling in my mind. What was I to do? Should I stand up now and denounce them both before passengers and captain? Should I demand a few minutes' conversation with the latter in his own cabin, and reveal it all? For an instant I was half resolved to do it, but then the old constitutional timidity came back with redoubled force. After all there might be some mistake. Dick had heard the evidence and had refused to believe in it. I determined to let things go on their course. A strange, reckless feeling came over me. Why should I help men who were blind to their own danger? Surely it was the duty of the officers to protect us, not ours to give warning to them. I drank off a couple of glasses of wine, and staggered upon deck with the determination of keeping my secret locked in my own bosom.

It was a glorious evening. Even in my excited state of mind I could not help leaning against the bulwarks and enjoying the refreshing breeze. Away to the westward a solitary sail stood out as a dark speck against the great sheet of flame left by the setting sun. I shuddered as I looked at it. It was grand, but appalling. A single star was twinkling faintly above our mainmast, but a thousand seemed to gleam in the water below with every stroke of our propeller. The only blot in the fair scene was the great trail of smoke which stretched away behind us like a black slash upon a crimson curtain. It was hard to believe that the great peace which hung over all Nature could be marred by a poor miserable mortal.

"After all," I thought, as I gazed into the blue depths beneath me, "if the worst comes to the worst, it is better to die here than to linger in agony upon a sick-bed on land." A man's life seems a very paltry thing amid the great forces of Nature. All my philosophy could not prevent my shuddering, however, when I turned my head and saw two shadowy figures at the other side of the deck, which I had no difficulty in recognizing. They seemed to be conversing earnestly, but I had no opportunity of overhearing what was said; so I contented myself with pacing up and down, and keeping a vigilant watch upon their movements.

It was a relief to me when Dick came on deck. Even an incredulous confidant is better than none at all.

"Well, old man," he said, giving me a facetious dig in the ribs, "we've not been blown up yet."

"No, not yet," said I; "but that's no proof that we are not going to be."

"Nonsense, man!" said Dick; "I can't conceive what has put this extraordinary idea into your head. I have been talking to one of your supposed assassins, and he seems a pleasant fellow enough; quite a sporting character, I should think, from the way he speaks."

"Dick," I said, "I am as certain that those men have an infernal machine, and that we are on the verge of eternity, as if I saw them putting the match to the fuse."

"Well, if you really think so," said Dick, half awed for the moment by the earnestness of my manner, "it is your duty to let the captain know of your suspicions."

"You are right," I said; "I will. My absurd timidity has prevented my doing so sooner. I believe our lives can only be saved by laying the whole matter before him."

"Well, go, and do it now," said Dick; "but for goodness' sake don't mix me up in the matter."

"I'll speak to him when he comes off the bridge," I answered; "and in the mean time I don't mean to lose sight of them."

"Let me know of the result," said my companion; and with a nod he strolled away in search, I fancy, of his partner at the dinner-table.

Left to myself, I bethought me of my retreat of the morning, and climbing on the bulwark I mounted into the quarter-boat, and lay down there. In it I could consider my course of action, and by raising my head I was able at any time to get a view of my disagreeable neighbors.

An hour passed, and the captain was still on the bridge. He was talking to one of the passengers, a retired naval officer, and the two were deep in debate concerning some abstruse point in navigation. I could see the red tips of their cigars from where I lay. It was dark now, so dark that I could hardly make out the figures of Flannigan and his accomplice. They were still standing in the position which they had taken up after dinner. A few of the passengers were scattered about the deck, but many had gone below. A strange stillness seemed to pervade the air. The voices of the watch and the rattle of the wheel were the only sounds which broke the silence.

I had read of the fiendish vengeance which awaited a spy. I knew that men with their lives in their hands would stick at nothing. All I could do was to cower at the bottom of the boat and listen silently to their whispered talk below.

"This place will do," said a voice.

"Yes, the leeward side is best."

"I wonder if the trigger will act?"

"I am sure it will."

"We were to let it off at ten, were we not?"

"Yes, at ten sharp. We have eight minutes yet" There was a pause. Then the voice began again:—

"They'll hear the drop of the trigger, won't they?"

"It doesn't matter. It will be too late for any one to prevent its going off."

"That's true. There will be some excitement among those we have left behind, won't there?"

"Rather. How long do you reckon it will be before they hear of us?"

"The first news will get in at about midnight at earliest."

"That will be my doing."

"No, mine."

"Ha, ha! we'll settle that."

There was a pause here. Then I heard Muller's voice in a ghastly whisper, "There's only five minutes more."

How slowly the moments seemed to pass! I could count them by the throbbing of my heart.

"It'll make a sensation on land," said a voice.

"Yes, it will make a noise in the newspapers."

Flannigan had a watch lying open in his hand.

"Three minutes more," he said. "Put it down upon the deck."

"No, put it here on the bulwarks."

It was the little square box. I knew by the sound that they had placed it near the davit, and almost exactly under my head.

I looked over again. Flannigan was pouring something out of a paper into his hand. It was white and granular—the same that I had seen him use in the morning. It was meant as a fuse, no doubt, for he shovelled it into the little box, and I heard the strange noise which had previously arrested my attention.

"A minute and a half more," he said.

"Shall you or I pull the string?"

"I will pull it," said Muller.

(Conclusion next week.)

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