

A MYSTERY OF THE SEA.

The Strange Condition of the "Marie Celeste."

BY STINSON JARVIS, IN THE "IRISH CATHOLIC."

An uncle of mine who ran away to sea at the age of fifteen, but is now a landsman and mayor of his town, tells of an occurrence concerning which much evidence has been taken in the United States law courts.

In 1877 he was on an English barque bound for Constantinople. When in the Atlantic Ocean, about three hundred miles from Gibraltar, the vessel was becalmed for two days, after which a breeze soon brought them within view of a vessel that was moving strangely.

From the moment we lifted her above the horizon," says my uncle, "we could see that something was wrong with the stranger—even when only her sails were in sight. She was luffing up and falling off in a way which told that if any one was steering her, he was doing so in an extraordinary fashion. But as we slowly approached for hours, we grew certain that no one was at her helm.

"In the light breeze we had all sails set to make up for lost time; but we overtook the stranger slowly because she was doing a good deal of sailing herself. All her head-sails were aback, and these paid off her bow, so that she would often run a long distance before again coming broadside to our course. Our second mate, who was aloft with the glasses when we came within a mile or so of her, sung out that not a man could be seen aboard, and that her wheel was twisting round by itself.

"It was broad daylight; the sun shone hot and clear—it was as unlikely a day for sailors' superstitions as you could imagine. Yet the longer we watched the random course of the deserted vessel, the more we dreaded to come near her.

"Why was she adrift on this calm, untroubled sea? Had all her crew died of pestilence? Had they all been massacred by pirates, who, after ransacking the vessel, had abandoned her? Every conceivable explanation was discussed in undertones by the sailors clustered at our bows, and every man Jack of us was dreading lest he should be ordered into the boat which would be sent to board the mysterious stranger.

And all the horrid theories which came up for consideration, the most plausible and, indeed, comfortable one was that the crew had mutinied, bronched the wine casks, and lost their senses in drunkenness. Yet even this seemed absurd, for with sailors it is second nature to steer their vessel, no matter how much intoxication may prevail.

"The stranger's upper sails had been closed up, as if the intention had been to stow them. The full lower canvas was properly set. Under this she moved along in the calm water as silently as a phantom ship. Not a sail sheet, or halyard was missing. Her perfect condition created more awe among our sailors than if she had shown signs of human conflict, or ordinary breakage from stress of weather.

"A ship regarded by human intelligence is an unmeaning thing. She reminds one, somehow, of those stories of cavalymen sitting erect in their saddles and riding on into battle after they had been shot dead.

"Our skipper took us a good way to windward of her as we went by, for he would not risk running to leeward lest the uncontrolled thing should take, as it were, a wicked notion to swing up, run into us, and perhaps cut us to the water's edge.

"After we had drawn a mile ahead, I was among those ordered into the gig. I confess I dreaded that command, though I had as much 'sand' as most boys. But some of the superstitions of the sailors seemed to invade me, and I felt quite certain that an appalling scene awaited me on board the derelict. Suddenly my nerve failed me. Had some deadly plague killed every man on that ship? And I was to enter it.

"Soon another idea took hold of me. What if some maniac had managed to close the hatches on the crew so that they could not get out? In this case the madman would be in sole possession of the decks. He would doubtless hide himself with the cunning of insanity from our view. His attack upon us, therefore, might be sudden and desperate. Considering the many chances of the unknown I felt justified in descending to my sea-chest and getting my revolver.

"Our gig, with the first and second mate in charge, left the barque. The mates also brought revolvers, for there was no telling what might happen, and I believe that the nerves of all of us were unsettled. I, being the lightest, was put in the bow to look after boat-hook and painter. So it would be my duty to board the floating horror first!

"We rowed back for a while, and then waited for the stranger to come along. Thus we were resting on our oars to windward of her course, when an amazing thing happened. The breeze had been freshening, and in a sudden puff of it the stranger took a quick sheer, and rushed so savagely at our small boat that it was only by the greatest alacrity in rowing that we escaped being crushed under her bows.

"If the men had then known what they knew half an hour afterwards, I doubt if they could have been persuaded to board the vessel. As it was, they felt sure she was being guided by some evil power intent on destroying life. For myself, I made no doubt that a maniac, concealed behind the bulwarks, was now lying on the deck, and steering with the wheel so as to smash our boat to fragments.

human head should appear. After mounting the bulwarks, I scrutinized the whole deck before I dared turn to make fast the gig. Another moment, and all were beside me. We sailors then let the mates go ahead, for I tell you we did not like the job.

"The first mate went to the companion-way and called, with his great voice that could be heard a mile away: 'Ahoj there! Below there.'

"On that day the ocean was almost as still as a mill-pond, and silence reigned in the vessel. The hollow echoes of the mate's voice, as returned from the interior, seemed more horrible than screams or groans. Even the mate himself was startled. He was in no hurry to descend, but gave the order to leave to the ship.

"After we had slacked over the head-sheets and swung the main-yard, he descended the companion-way. We followed, and every man was pale.

"Below we found, in the small saloon, a cloth spread on the table, a dinner served and partly consumed. Amongst other things was a pair of roast chickens, partly carved, and still fresh enough to be eaten. Each plate had been used, though the eatables on them had not been fully consumed.

"The weather had been so calm that each knife and fork and cup of tea had remained in the places in which they were last laid by human hands. The meal had been abandoned when half completed.

"Further on, in the corner, was a sewing machine. Under its needle was a child's cotton dress, in which a seam had been half sewn. On the edge of the machine rested a woman's thimble. We entered the small state-rooms cautiously, expecting to find dead bodies in the bunks.

"But, no! Neither death nor life was here. The rooms were in a condition as if the former occupants had gone on deck for five minutes.

"Without describing everything in exact detail, I will simply say that we expected those who had so manifestly led a home life at sea to issue from some place of hiding and make explanation. The mind refused to believe that they were all dead.

"Suddenly the chief mate cried, as he rushed upstairs: 'I know where they are. There has been a mutiny, and the captain and his family are locked up in the forecastle!' We mounted to the deck then, and rushed forward to the seaman's quarters.

"Here we found another half-consumed meal; but neither forward nor aft, nor anywhere else, did we find a human being, nor any sign of bloodshed or violence—not even a sign of disorder or haste. The binnacle and chronometer were in perfect condition. The other compasses were in their places. The chickens and ducks in the coops under one of the boats were all alive, though sickly for want of water. But of human life there was none.

"Our mate then examined the ship's papers, for nothing was locked up. The ship's name was the Marie Celeste, from New York to Villarrica, a little farther near Nice, on the Mediterranean. She had a valuable cargo, and the log-book showed that the voyage had been a quiet and easy one. The last entry in it had been made only forty-two hours before our arrival on the scene.

"The money-chest, in which a considerable sum was found, was intact, as also was the cargo, showing that piracy was not to be considered in the search for a solution of the mystery.

"The log-book also showed that, including the captain's wife and child, thirteen persons in all had left New York on board. Not one of those thirteen persons has ever been heard of since.

"I was not among the crew detailed off to sail the Marie Celeste to a port. She was afterwards towed into Villarrica by a steamer. When her cargo was disposed of she was sailed back to her owners in New York.

"So far I have followed my uncle's narrative. For the rest I have official records. The United States authorities took up the case and required all their consuls to inform foreign governments of the facts in the hope that when every custom house in the world was thus fully informed, some explanation might be arrived at through the gossip of passing mariners. All inquiries were, however, fruitless.

"In after years it was difficult to procure crews for the ill-fated vessel. No sailors except those who were well clear of superstitions or ignorant of her history would ship aboard her. She was employed between New York and Cuba, and finally was wrecked on the Cuban coast.

"When wrecked she was supposed to be loaded with barrels of molasses, which, as such, were heavily insured. In a subsequent law action it was charged that the owner, in March, 1885, loaded her with barrels of water instead of molasses, and pre-arranged the wrecking to gain the insurance. The evidence brought out and given under oath at this trial fully corroborates the story told by my uncle.

How those thirteen persons were spirited away from a perfectly able and well-appointed ship during calm weather will, it is almost certain, never be known. As the story stands now, already fully proved in its facts in a court of law, it is, I think, one of the most mysterious of all the true stories of the deep.

BEST FOR WASH DAY USE SURPRISE SOAP BEST FOR EVERY DAY

way, I generally put it down to somebody's insanity. Suppose the captain, having gone mad, summoned all hands from their dinners, and after telling them that the ship was sinking, ordered them into a boat. Not counting his wife and child, there were only ten others. Under the muzzle of his revolver they might not refuse, during calm weather, to descend into the small boat. He might have then forced them to row away, and the boat with all on board, might have foundered ultimately. But imagine what one may, the mystery remains unexplained.

ITEMS

In Montpellier, France, the walls are covered with protests against the taxation of the religious orders. Father Blemons, who labored both in this country and England, recently died in his native country, Belgium. Last week the 30,000 pound bell for St. Francis de Salle church, Cincinnati, was cast. It will cost \$16,000 and was the gift of a parishioner.

St. Martin's German Catholic church, of Chicago, will be dedicated November 11. This handsome church represents an outlay of over \$200,000. The mission to non-Catholics by Fathers Elliott, Kress and Graham last week in Music hall, Cleveland, proved successful beyond expectations.

From statistics published by the Franciscans on the occasion of the Assisi Congress, it appears that they possess 1,322 convents, 112 novitiates, 226 houses of study, 29 colleges for the missions, and 629 parishes. In the current number of The Fortnightly Review the Anglican Dean of Canterbury treats of "The Assorted Growth of Roman Catholicism in England," and admits that doctrines once thought to be "Romish" are now taught in the Church of England.

Last month Bishop Marj of St. Cloud blessed the school for Indian girls which has just been completed at Sisseton, S. D., by Mother Catherine, formerly Miss Catherine Drexel, of Philadelphia, who is devoting her life and her fortune to the negro and Indian races in this country.

The medal struck in honor of the silver jubilee of the C.T.A.P. of America consists of a silver-plated bar with suspended shields and red, white and blue ribbon. On the front of the medal are engraved a fine cut of Father Mathew, the C.T.A.P. badge, with laurel and cord and wreath. Appropriate inscriptions are found on the reverse side.

Extensive alterations are being made in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh, Ireland. A new sacristy is being built which will cost a large sum, and in addition to this is a beautiful stained glass window, which is being erected by Miss Bessie McGinty, of Armagh, in memory of her relatives, at a probable cost of between £700 and £800. There is also a smaller one which is being put in by Miss Teresa Hoy, of Thomas street, Armagh, in memory of her parents. Both the windows will add considerably to the beauty of the Cathedral.

IRISH NEWS ITEMS.

Rev. John Lynch, pastor of Charleville, died on October 9, after a few days illness. Joseph McDermott, a contractor, while setting a nut in the big bell of the Derry Cathedral, on October 17, was instantly killed, the bell crushing him against the framework.

Rev. P. Briody, curate at Athboy, has been appointed pastor of Slane; Rev. P. Farrell, curate at Mountjoy, has been made a professor in the Diocesan Seminary, Navan.

A new factory will shortly be opened in the Tunnel district of Portadown, and the weaving factory in Edward street is being enlarged so as to accommodate a double number of hands.

The textile exports to the United States from the Consular district of Belfast, for the quarter ending September 30, were cottons, £48,279 0s. 1d.; linens, £414,017 8s. 1d.; unions, £21,275 8s. 7d.

These Nationalists have been returned as Town Commissioners for Longford Ward: Messrs. Clarke, Igoe, Mathews and Ward. For Abbey Ward a Tory, George Armstrong, was returned.

At the General Chapter of the Augustinian Order, held in Rome, the Very Rev. Dr. Ryan, O.S.A., Prior and Prefect of Studies at Orlagh, Rathfarnham, was elected Assistant-General of the Order.

The Longford Home Rule Club has chosen these officers: President, James Farrell; vice-president, Michael Gilchrist; secretary, P. Hanley; assistant secretary, P. Toalson; treasurer, Michael O'Connor. There are now forty-five young men in the club.

Cardinal Logue recently dedicated the Catholic church at Moortown, Ardbee. It was the first he dedicated in the Archdiocese of Armagh. The church has been reconstructed, and what two years ago was but a poor and dilapidated structure is to-day a splendid edifice.

To Nursing Mothers! A leading Ottawa Doctor writes: "During lactation, when the strength of the mother is deficient, or the secretion of milk scanty, WYETH'S MALT EXTRACT gives most gratifying results." It also improves the quality of the milk. It is largely prescribed To Assist Digestion, To Improve the Appetite, To Act as a Food for Consumptives, In Nervous Exhaustion, and as a Valuable Tonic.

COMMERCIAL. FLOUR AND GRAIN. Flour.—Spring Patent, \$1.05 to \$1.15. Winter Patent, \$1.05 to \$1.15. Straight Roller, \$2.50 to \$3.05. Extra, \$3.00. Superfine, \$3.00. Manitoba Strong Bakers, best brands, \$3.00 to \$4.00. Manitoba Strong Bakers, \$3.50 to \$3.90. Ontario bags—extra, \$1.50 to \$1.55. Straight Rollers, bags \$1.65 to \$1.75. OATMEAL.—Rolled and granulated \$3.10 to \$3.20; standard \$3.05 to \$3.20. In bags, granulated and rolled are quoted at \$1.50 to \$1.55, and standard at \$1.50 to \$1.55. Pot barley \$1.25 in bbls and \$2.00 in bags, and split peas \$3.50. WHEAT.—White winter wheat now quoted at points west of Toronto at 70c, although millers maintain that this figure is far too high, considering the prices they are getting for their flour. No. 1 Manitoba hard is quoted here nominally at 62c to 70c.

BRAN, ETC.—Western bran is steady at \$15.00, and Manitoba bran in sacks \$15.00. Shorts \$16.00 up to \$17.50 as to grade. Moultrie \$19.50 to \$21.50 as to grade. CORN.—The market remains quiet at 36c to 37c in bond, and at 45c to 46c duty paid.

PEAS.—Here they are quoted at 60c to 61c per 40 lbs. In the West, however, they are 4c higher at 51c per 60 lbs. north and west of Stratford. OATS.—Sales of our lots were made at the beginning of the week at 31c; but since then a sale was made at 30c, and today a lot was placed at 30c for No. 2 white. No. 3 are quoted at 29c to 30c per 34 lbs.

BARLEY.—Milling grades at from 42c to 52c; but for choice heavy bright samples 55c and probably more would have to be paid. Feed barley is quoted at 32c to 41c. BUCKWHEAT.—Sales at 40c to 40c, and we quote 40c to 41c. The export demand is about over.

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PROVISIONS. PORK, LARD, ETC.—Canada short cut pork, per barrel, \$14.50 to \$15.00; Canada thin mess, per bbl., \$13.50 to \$14.00; Mess pork, American, new, per bbl., \$13.25 to \$13.75; Hams, per lb., 9c to 10c; Lard, pure, in pails, per lb., 8c to 9c; Lard, compound, in pails, per lb., 6c to 7c; Bacon, per lb., 9c to 10c; Shoulders, per lb., 7c to 8c. DRESSED HOGS.—Receipts are increasing and the market is fully 50c per 100 lbs. lower than a week ago, and we quote \$5.00 to \$5.25 per 100 lbs. Sales of small lots of nice fresh light hogs were made at \$5.50, and the sale of two cars was reported at \$5.

DAIRY PRODUCE. BUTTER.—We quote: Creamery, Oct., 22c to 22c; Creamery, Sept., 21c to 22c; Creamery, Aug., 20c to 20c; Eastern Townships, 18c to 20c; Western, 14c to 15c. ROLL BUTTER.—Rolls are arriving more freely, and selling at 16c to 18c in boxes and tubs. CHEESE.—We quote prices as follows: Finest Western, 9c to 9c; Finest Eastern, 9c to 9c; Undergrades, 8c to 9c; cold storage goods, 8c to 9c.

COUNTRY CHEESE MARKET. Utica, N.Y., Nov. 11.—Sales at 9c to 10c. Little Falls, N.Y., Nov. 11.—Sales at 9c to 10c. COUNTRY PRODUCE. EGGS.—Held fresh stock ordinary has sold slowly at 13c to 13c, but there was more enquiry for choice candled which has been placed at 14c to 15c. Montreal lined are quoted at 14c to 15c. HONEY.—Old extracted 5c to 6c per lb. New 7c to 9c per lb. in tins as to quality. Comb honey 10c to 12c. GAME.—Venison and saddles sell at 11c to 12c; and carcasses at 8c to 9c. Partridge have sold at 40c to 45c for No. 1, and at 25c for No. 2. BEANS.—Western medium beans \$1.10 to \$1.15 in round lots; but small lots are quoted a \$1.20 to \$1.30 as to quality. MAPLE PRODUCTS.—Sugar 6c to 7c, and old 5c to 6c. Syrup 4c to 5c per lb. in wood and at 60c to 60c in tins. BALED HAY.—No. 2 shipping hay is quoted at \$10.50 to \$11. No. 1 straight Timothy, \$11.50 to \$12. At country points, \$10 to \$10.50 is quoted for No. 2 and \$10.50 to \$11.50 for No. 1, according to position.

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to, to shoot trammels. The next day the boat, containing the dead bodies of John and Michael Sullivan, was found drifting at Blue Hill. The other men are still missing. At the fortnightly petty sessions in Mountmellick, on Oct. 11, four young men named Owen Neil, William Keegan, John Labor and James Coss were prosecuted by Humphrey Smith, J.P., for a breach of the Sabbath Act, having played pitch and toss in complaint fields on Oct. 6. A fine of 1s and costs was imposed on each of the defendants. Miss Elizabeth Vize, in religion Sister Mary Agnes, daughter of the late John Harriet Vize of Mullingar, received the black veil on Oct. 10, at the Presentation Convent, Mullingar. Miss Emily Waters, in religion, Sister Mary Alacoque, daughter of Thomas Waters of Galway, received the white veil. Bishop Nulty officiated. Joseph Kelly, third son of the late James Kelly, of Newtown, and brother to Judge Kelly, died on October 6. Mr. Kelly married, in 1852, Mary Anne, fifth daughter of the late Sir Michael Dillon Bellew, Bart., of Mount Bellew. By Mr. Kelly's death some of the principal families in County Galway are thrown into mourning; among them, the Earl of Westmeath, the Bellocs, of Mount Bellew, Lord Saltorn, the Fitzgerald-Kennys, and the Dalys, of Radford.

The annual distribution of prizes to successful intermediate students of the North Monastery Schools, Cork, took place October 10th. Rev. Brother Hennessy, superior, described the year's work, after which Bishop O'Callaghan distributed the prizes. The record for these famous schools stands for this year, 32 exhibitions, 63 prizes, 73 distinctions, and 138 who passed the examinations. Out of 12 prizes issued by the Government for the study of the Celtic language, the pupils of the Christian Schools, Cork, carried off six.

There is truly a wonderful difference when the pure, solid, heavy and legal gold coin is compared with the miserable imitation. The genuine coin is passed with confidence from one person to another; all people believe in it. How is it with the imitation—that spurious coin made and issued by dark and criminal hands? It is made in dark places; it is issued stealthily to deceive and defraud; and all who are connected with the work of deception are ever fearful of the hands of justice.

The genuine gold coin has music and crispness in its ring; the base coin sounds dead and harsh to the ear. As the genuine gold coin and the imitation differ so vastly, so also is there a world of difference between Paine's Celery Compound and the imitations of Celery that people are frequently deceived by.

Paine's Celery Compound is universally popular owing to its great efficacy; it is hailed everywhere as the great healer of disease; it is recommended by professional men all over this continent; it is genuine, reliable and honest, and "makes people well."

The imitations, and all the crude preparations, are made to sell without regard to results. Deceived buyers are naturally indignant at loss of money and the aggravation of their troubles. When such imitations are used, life is positively endangered.

The genuine Paine's Celery Compound—the kind that cures—is easily distinguished by the words "Paine's Celery Compound," and the "stalk" of celery, found on the bottle and outer carton. Look for these special features and you always get just what will meet your case.

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A VAST DIFFERENCE. HOW TO DISTINGUISH THE GENUINE FROM THE IMITATIONS AT A GLANCE. PAINE'S CELERY COMPOUND "MAKES PEOPLE WELL."

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birds bringing 9c. Some small birds were sold at 7c. Chickens have sold at 7c, and old hen 5c to 6c; geese 6c to 6c, and ducks 7c to 8c. TALLOW.—Market is quiet at 5 1/2c to 6c for choice and 4c to 5c for common.

FRUITS. APPLES.—\$2.00 to \$2.75 per bbl; Fancy \$3.25 per bbl; Dried, 4c to 4c per lb; Evaporated, 5c to 6c per lb. ORANGES.—Jamaica, \$3.00 to \$6.50 per bbl. Mexican, \$3.50 to \$4.00 per box. LEMONS.—Palermo, \$2 to \$3 choice, \$3.50 to \$4.50 fancy per box; Malaga, \$7 to \$8 per case; \$3.50 to \$4 per box. BANANAS.—\$2 to \$2.75 per bunch. GRAPES.—Tokay, \$8 per crate; Catawba, 16c to 21c per basket. CRANBERRIES.—Cape Cod, \$8.50 to \$9.00 per bbl; Nova Scotia, \$9.00 to \$10.00 per bbl. DATES.—3c to 4c per lb. FIGS.—3c to 12c per lb; fancy, 13c to 17c per lb. CAJUNETS.—Fancy, firsts, \$3.50 to \$3.75 per 100. POTATOES.—Jobbing lots, 40c to 45c per bag; on track, 30c to 35c per bag; sweet, \$3.25 per bbl. ONIONS.—Spanish, 40c to 45c per crate; red, \$2 to \$2.25 per bbl; yellow, \$1.75 to \$2 per bbl. MALAGA GRAPES.—\$5 to \$6.50 per keg.

GURRAN, GRENIER & CURRAN ADVOCATES, BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS, 99 St. James Street, MONTREAL. Hon. J. J. CURRAN, Q.C., M.L.C. A. W. GRENIER, Q.C. F. J. CURRAN, B.C.L.

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ST. LEON Perfects the complexion and preserves life. "The invaluable," says Dr. Walsh, Toronto. A card not received direct from Springs in P.O. Get supplied at once. A trial will convince the most sceptical. St. Leon Mineral Water Depot, 54 Victoria Sq

CASTOR FLUID Registered a de-lightfully refreshing preparation for the hair. It should be used daily. Keeps the scalp healthy, prevents dandruff, promotes the growth of a perfect hair dressing for the family. 25 cents per bottle. HENRY R. GRAY, Chemist, 122 St. Lawrence Street.

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