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### The Evening Telegram

ST. JOHN'S, MARCH 8, 1888.

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Letters relating to advertisements, job work and other business affairs, to be directed to WM. J. HERDER, Proprietor. All communications intended for publication or containing intelligence, must be addressed to ALEX. A. Parsons, Editor.

Fighting a Horde of Wild Animals on Shipboard.

EXPERIENCE MORE LIVELY THAN ANY NOAH HAD IN THE ARK.

Sea Captain Who Objects Now to Live Freight.

I was one of the crew of the African coasting brig Antelope, and on one voyage from Masimba to Cape Town we put in at Quilimane for water, some of our casks having been stove. We had scarcely made fast at a wharf when a German came aboard to offer us some queer freight. He was an agent of a great wild animal firm at Hamburg, and had just come down to the coast with a rare lot. There was a black two-horned rhinoceros or borele, three lions, two panthers and three monstrous serpents. He had expected to find the firm's ship at this port, but through some misunderstanding she had not shown up. He wanted to get the animals to Cape Town as soon as possible, and was willing to give us a good price to take them. We were chock full below hatches, and the idea of taking the cages on deck was far

talker, and before we had our water in the capcouple of natives were to go along to care for them, and there would be no expense to the We looked over the cages and found them apparently strong and secure, and when the work of loading began we had very little trouble. The rhinoceros was transferred to a pen of wood and iron, which gave him very little room to spare, and he behaved himself like a gentleman while we were getting him aboard. Indeed, the whole collection seemed to be under a spell. The lions acted like frightened dogs and the panthers never uttered a snarl, while the big serpents seemed to sleep through it all. We made our offing about sunset, and darkness had no sooner settled down and the brig got her motion in the seas than we found ourselves treated to a concert which made every man's hair stand on end. It may be that the animals were seasick, or that the motion of the ship frightened them. They broke out with howls and roars and yelps and

screams, and nothing would quiet them. The rhinoceros didn't propose to stand neutral in that affair, and he uttered such snorts and "woofs," and made such efforts to break out of his pen that some of the men were ready to make for the crostrees. It came on a darkish night, with the wind blowing in gusts, and not a man aboard that brig closed his eyes in sleep. When the lions were not roaring the panthers were screaming, and about once in five minutes the borele would utter a loud "woof!" and make an attack on his pen. It did no good to throw feed to the brutes; hunger had nothing to do with their conduct. Each one had been captured singly, and each was full grown and dangerous. The near presence of men, the sight of each other, and the rough motion of the brig conspired to thoroughly excite each and every one. The serpents were wide awake and vengeful, and the rhinoceros was mad clear through. A more dangerous and vindictive creature than the black rhinoceros cannot be found on earth. He is afraid of nothing under the sun. He is boiling over with the sulks 23 out of the 24 hours each day in the week. Odds is the difference to him whether he charges an elephant or a lion. The first thing which comes in sight sets him off on s mad charge and he will never cool down while there is a show to wreak vengeance.

The fellow we had on deck was a piece of ugliness weighing from 1,200 to 1,400 pounds. He had been caught in a pit, and there had been no end of trouble to get him down to the coast. While he was in close quarters and had butt and kept up a fearful growling. little show to smash things, it was evident from

his actions that he would do the best he could. He kept raking his great horn back and forth across the bars of his pen, and whenever any one went near him he exhibited his anger in a dozen different ways.

The night wore away at last, and when daylight came the beasts ceased their racket. They were less noisy on the second night, and on the third we had no trouble at all. On the fourth morning after leaving Quilimane, having had a good breeze all the time, we were to the south of the lower end of Madagascar, and well into the Indian ocean. Soon after breakfast the breeze died away, and by 9 o'clock we were in a dead calm, and it was hot enough on deck to start the pitch in the seams. Every sign indicated that we had lost the wind for some hours. The surface of the ocean was like glass, with only a ground swell running, and we had scarcely lost steerage way when we were surrounded with sharks. I believe that fully 100 of the monsters came prowling about us, and as we had little or nothing to do the captain readily granted us permission to bait them. We threw over the shark-hook, baited with a piece of salt beef, and it had scarcely touched the water when a fifteen-foot shark ran away with it. We tailed on to the line and hauled him alongside in order to get a noose over his head to lift on, and we were about ready to heave and haul when there was a great crash on deck behind us.

The captain and first mate were below, and the second mate, who had the watch on deck was bossing the job of hauling in our captive. We were all aft on the port quarter, and for a few minutes the animals had been left to themselves. The cause of the smash was the rhinoceros breaking out of his pen. The beast weight on one side, and by and by, as the brig lifted and then went down heavily in the next hollow, the great jar, added to his dead weight, broke the fastenings of the bars. As we turned he was just emerging from the per, and at the same moment the lions and panthers began to roar and scream. They knew the The agent was a persistent fellow and a good | ugly nature of the beast, and they probably suspected what was coming. The natives rushed forward, shouting and gesturing, and hoping to drive the borele back, but he was not to be intimidated. His eyes began to snap lowered his head and charged at us. Being a small craft, the space between the cabin roof and the bulwarks was not wide enough to admit of the body of the borele, but he made several determined attempts to come at us before he turned away.

You would have thought the rise and fall of

the brig would have thrown him down, or at least made him eareful how he moved about, but he never minded it, and his legs were as firm under him as an old sailor's. We were after ropes to lasso him when he drew back, wheeled around, and charged forward. The first thing he came to was the cage containing the serpents. It had a compartment for each. He struck it on end, gave it a toss in the air, and as it came down the three big snakes, hissing like geese, glided in different directions. One ran under the cages containing the panthers, a second out on the bowsprit, and the third darted into the forecastle. The natives called to us to look out, as the borele would attack on the other cages, and while some of the men sprang down the companionway into the cabin the others ran up the mainmast shrouds. I was one of the latter, there being four of us, and when about half-way to the crosstrees we paused to watch the further actions of the rhinoceros. The lions and panthers were raising an awful racket, and the confusion was deafening. The big beast cleared his horn of a portion of the cage hanging to it, and then struck that containing the panthers. The beasts were liberated in a moment, and as they ran about the deck the lions roared and raved until we had to stop our ears. One of the panthers ran aft and leaped into the yawl-boat at the davits and crouched under a thwart, and the other hid under the bedding we had brought up to air and spread at the heel of the bowsprit.

The borele was now thoroughly enraged, and, without deigning a glance at the panthers, he smashed into the pen of lions and made kindlings of it. The largest of the three lions sprang on the borele's back as he came out of the pen, and perhaps his sharp claws inflicted some damage. He no sooner leaped to the deck than the big beast chased him aft to the cabin, but had to stop there. One of the other lions disappeared down the forecastle, while the third crouched down by the water

(Concluded to-morrow.)

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