

EXPERIENCE ON NONESUCH.

Bad Luck Followed Her From Date of Sailing

And Until She Picked a Dozen Escaped Convicts at Command of Captain's Wife.

It was a queer chapter of accidents that overtook the bark Nonesuch on the South American coast in the year of 1890. We were bound from Philadelphia to Pernambuco, being a well known craft and a willing crew, and we lost a man overboard before we had been out 24 hours. Off the Bahamas the second mate and two men pulled away in the dingy to inspect the wreckage which seemed to prove the loss of a steamer, and as they were returning a small whale rose under the boat and smashed her to match wood, and then two sailors were drowned. This left us three men short, and we put in at the Windward Islands to replace them. After much trouble we got two men, but as we were leaving port the captain was bit on the cheek and the first mate on the hand by a flying insect somewhat resembling the so-called "darning needles" to be found in the United States. Within an hour they were suffering as much as if they had been stung by an asp.

The captain's wife was aboard, and of course she did all in her power, but it was three or four days before the men could move about again, and then only the mate could return to duty. The captain had what seemed to be a carbuncle appear under his right eye, and for ten days he suffered so acutely that at times he was out of his senses. We should have run into Demerara had he not begun to improve, but it would have been better had we done so anyhow. The two fellows we picked up at the Windward Islands proved to be worthless sailors and bad men, and they worked the bark an evil turn. One night as we lay becalmed, with the captain and mate still suffering from the poisonous bites, they overpowered and bound the second mate, provisioned and lowered a boat and induced four of the original crew to embark with them. We afterward came to know that they had been talking a great deal about a treasure buried on the Dutch Guiana coast, from which we were distant about 75 miles. We were thus left with only three able hands aboard, and the captain's wife had to take her trick at the wheel while we headed for Cayenne to get relief. We had crawled along to within 30 miles of the French gulf port when the wind headed us and we could do no better than drift off to the eastward and wait for a change.

After 30 hours of drifting the wind changed in our favor, and one morning at sunrise we were making shift to get on our course again when we espied a raft with 12 men on it close at hand. With the naked eye one could make out that they were clothed in convict garb, and of course the deduction was that they had escaped from the coast. There were two rude sails on the raft, and the clumsy structure had had a fair breeze behind her for a day and a half. As the raft was not easily managed, we could have ended it by putting up our helm. We were for doing this at once, all but the captain's wife. She knew they were convicts and desperate men and that once aboard of us we should be at their mercy, but she nevertheless insisted that we should pick them up. They were 50 miles off the coast, and she declared that it would be a sin to let them perish. I was for letting them go, but she would not have it. She said to lock her up in her stateroom and dodge the raft, but the other two men were against me, and in ten minutes later the boat was alongside and the convicts were climbing aboard. I expecting not less than an immediate attack from them, for 12 rough looking men I never set eyes on, but to my surprise, they halted at the rail while their leader advanced, pulled his cap, with a scrape of his boot, and in passable English inquired for the captain. He was told of the captain's illness and of our being short-handed, and he bowed and scraped again and said to the woman:

"Madam, have no fears. You probably know that we are escaped convicts from Cayenne, but no man will offer us to any one aboard. We may be robbers and murderers, but we are also gentlemen in a way. There is bad weather coming on. We have arrived at an opportune moment. Most of us are sailors, and all of us are at your service."

When I looked into their vicious faces, I could not help but suspect that they had a game to play and were only waiting for a chance to take it. As soon as their word. As soon as the captain and mate heard of the arrival of the gang, they became almost panic-stricken and advised this and that, and the wife was the only one who had the confidence in the promises made. It was well that she had and that her decision to trust them was followed by all of us. We could not have kept

them from coming aboard with our feeble crew, and to have shown our distrust afterward would have angered them. They took hold with us at once after being given food, and before night we had cause to rejoice that they were with us. We got dirty weather, which lasted three days, and but for their aid the Nonesuch would have become a helpless wreck or gone to the bottom. We had to run off to the east during this spell, and it was only when the weather cleared that the leader of the convicts had a conference with the captain and his wife and asked that his gang be set ashore in Brazilian territory. This was promised him, and I must say that I never worked with a more cheerful and willing crew aboard of any craft. Seven of the 12 had been convicted of murder, and all were desperate men, but they were as obedient as children and as good natured as you please. They were careful of their language, respectful in their demeanor, and not once did I hear one of them grumble or complain. We ran into the Amazon and up that river for 40 miles to set them ashore. In his gratitude to them the captain gave them sailcloth for two tents, a musket, a lot of clothes from the slop chest and all the provisions we could spare. With cooking utensils, fishhooks and a few carpenter's tools they were fairly well rigged out for a life on the banks of the stream for half a year to come, and at parting there were as much handshakings and as many farewells as if a band of old friends was breaking up. Their escape from the colony was a desperate one and the authorities made an exhaustive search; but, so far as I have been able to learn, not one of the dozen has ever been retaken.

M. QUAD.

Missed His Guess.

An American who was sojourning in Spain at the time says that on the day when Dewey was destroying the Spanish squadron at Manila a representative audience, including some of Spain's bravest and best, were attending a patriotic bullfight in Madrid, applauding these words of the famous matador: "With the ease with which I have killed this noble animal, the bull, will the glorious Spanish nation uphold the traditions of the past and keep green the laurels of their illustrious fathers by triumphing over the Yankee pig."

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For these reasons dealers in loud colored female attire must henceforth be content with legitimate profits as their patrons have been forced to reach the same as though they earned their money honorably and by legitimate effort.

Space All Contracted.

During the past few days the traffic department of the White Pass & Yukon Route has contracted in advance for all the cold storage space on its rail and steamer lines from Skagway to Dawson for the entire season. The contracts held amount in the aggregate to 1000 tons of freight. This will be chiefly fruits, fresh eggs, poultry, fresh meats and vegetables.

This is an entirely new business in Alaska transportation annals. The construction of three new steamers on the upper Yukon by the White Pass company, equipped with cold storage apparatus, was the last step taken in the matter of arranging for cold storage shipments this year by the traffic department. The steamers equipped in this manner are the Ogilvie, McConnell and Dawson. Each will have a capacity of 20 tons.—Skagway News.

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