

AN OLD TIME MARINER.

Incidents in the Life of Brock Grant, Engineer, Aged 69 Years.

A recent notice of the sudden death at Erie of Brock Grant, an old lake engineer, recalls some circumstances of his history connected with the early navigation of the lakes. With the possible exception of John Leonard, he was the oldest of the remaining lake engineers. Brock Grant was the engineer of the little steamer, Pioneer, which plied between Buffalo and Dunkirk about the years 1828, '30 and '32. He was engineer of the steamer Washington, which was burned off the mouth of Silver Creek about the year 1837, or '38. I should think. When the boat was found to be on fire the pilot beaded her for the shore under extreme pressure of steam, with the hope that the passengers might be saved. Brock Grant, the brave engineer, had his newly married wife on board. He strapped her to her large wedding trunk, threw her overboard, and returned to his engine. The wind was off shore and the passengers crowded forward, but all in vain. The engineer remained at his post until the pipes and steam connections melted off; the wheels stopped and the boat began to float to leeward. The wheelman struck to his post until so badly burned that he could not escape. Not until then did the engineer desert his dangerous post. He was the last upon the boat except a few who hung by the braces under the guards. Wrenching off a door he escaped from the burning boat and was picked up nearly exhausted twelve hours later. His wife was also happily saved, having been picked up by a boat from the shore. A number of years afterwards he was engineer of a steamer in Saginaw Bay which was in great danger of being blown ashore, and, realizing that there was little chance between being blown up and going ashore he seated himself upon the lever of the safety valve, and the vessel clawed off the shore and was saved. Early days, when Brock was a cabin boy, he excited the admiration of sailors and the terror of landmen along the Buffalo creek by mounting the top mast of his vessel and balancing himself upon his stomach, and swimming like a fish, or even standing erect on the round top and coming down by the jibstays, or some other "acrobatic or monkey-like performance." I knew him well over fifty years ago and loved him as a brother. He once saved my life at the risk of his own by rescuing me from drowning. We were playmates and schoolmates together, both living on the light-house side of the harbor, and I knew him always as gentle, generous and brave. This man may have died old, discouraged and poor, as the newspaper accounts state; he may have fallen into habits of dissipation, but he was a hero, faithful and true.

LITERARY NOTES.

We have received a copy of "A Martyr; or a Victim of the Divorce Law," a novel, by Adolph D'Emery. The book is from the press of the Rose Publishing Company and the translation is by Mr. Aristide F. diatremant. With respect to the novel itself we may say that it is well, vivid, powerful, and full of dramatic force. It is not marred by any of the pretentiousness which so often accompanies such pages. As for the translation it is done with remarkably good taste, and such ability. The English is very pure and Mr. F. diatremant has very ably rendered the idioms of the original. We have entered thoroughly into the spirit of the original; and this is no small thing, he has given us such a good...

Children - Almost everyone is fond of children, and will be glad to see them. We have just received from the publisher "Sons of Fun Things for Children," which contains a number of humorous and clever stories for the amusement of the young. It is a book that will be found in every home. It is published by J. S. Rose, 21 Rose Street, Toronto.

THE GRAND UNION HOTEL.—Everybody who goes to New York city by rail, and who wants the best and most handy hotel to stop at, should try the Grand Union. It is located on Park Avenue just opposite the Grand Central depot, and all one has to do is to step across the street, leave his baggage checks on the office counter, and in ten minutes his trunk is in his room, free of expense, and without trouble or annoyance. When he gets there he will find the very best of beds, the cleanest of linen, the most courteous attention, and as good a table as can be found at any hotel in the country—and by this we mean as good as the Windsor in New York, the Continental in Philadelphia, or Young's in Boston; and prices fully a third lower than either. Baggage is returned to the station free of charge, and special attention is given to ladies who may visit New York without escort. The Third Avenue elevated road has a station at one corner of the house and the horse-cars pass the door. The manager is Mr. W. D. Garrison, who spares no pains to make every guest feel satisfied with his accommodations. We give this commendation of the Grand Union on the strength of the personal experience of a Lowell party of seven who recently tested it, and who, having tried some of the best hotels in the country, agreed that in the particulars referred to this hotel was superior to any of them.—Lowell Daily Courier.

"Are we going to have a picnic this year?" inquired a youngster of his Sunday-school teacher. "Why, what do you want of a picnic?" "Nothing much; but I can get six new scholars in a hurry if you are going to have one." Rebble, returning from school after a history lesson: "Mamma, was Charles II. an Episcopalian?" "No, my son, why do you ask that?" "Well, the history says he did things he ought not to have done and left undone things he ought to have done, and so I supposed he must be."

A daughter of James Young of Nashua, N. B., was unable to walk for several years. Hearing that all medical remedies had failed to cure her a faith healer, Dr. Baker, visited her and succeeded in relieving her so that she could walk without crutches. Having done this the Doctor offered to marry her, and the two recently wedded.

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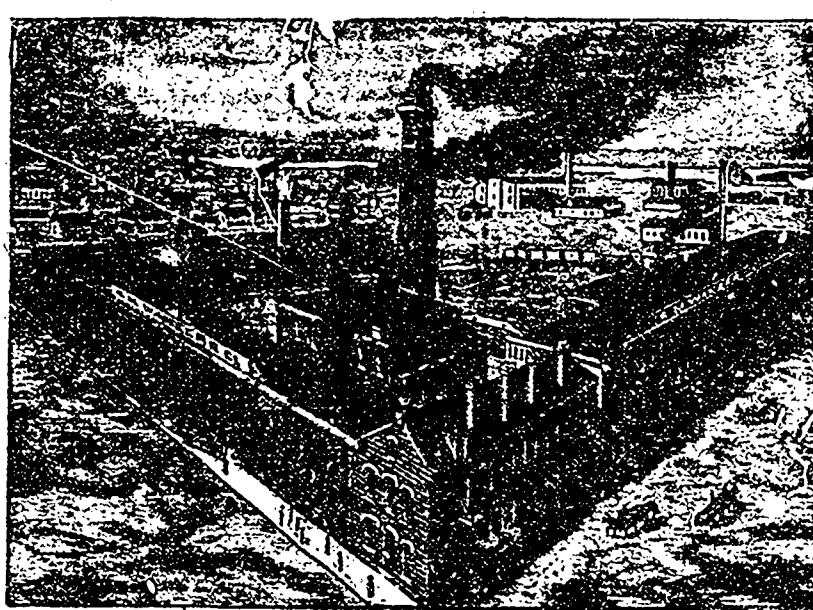
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