

The Perils of the Sea.

A few facts as given us by Mr. H. McKay, of Dundee, one of the passengers in the steamship *Parisian*, and late first mate of the ill-fated sealing and whaling steamer *Resolute*, that was wrecked on the 27th of March, on Ireland's rocks, off Cape Fogo, south of Green Bay, off the coast of Newfoundland. Mr. McKay says: "On the 4th of Feb., 1886, we left Dundee, Scotland, for St. Johns, Newfoundland; there were 49 of us, officers and men; at St. Johns we shipped the complement of our men, 335 all told, and left for the Labrador coast. On the 10th of March we sighted the seals at a distance; on the 15th they were in a large floating field of ice. We got within seven miles of them on the 18th, and we all sallied forth excepting ten, who were left to care for the vessel; that day we killed and skinned 8,000, the following day we killed 12,000, and at night started for our ship. We reached the vessel and tried to free ourselves from the ice, which was carrying us along at the rate of four miles an hour. The ice was from five to seven feet thick, so we put on full head of steam and tried to break through the ice. We used over six barrels of gunpowder to break the ice. While using every means to escape, the vessel was driven on the floe across reef that tipped the ship on her side and tore up the bottom of the vessel, and in one hour and five minutes from the time she struck she settled out of sight. During this time we got the boats on to the ice, and some provisions, and what clothes we could get, and started for the direction in which we had seen another vessel about ten miles distant. The ice was very rough; we divided off into groups and moved towards the ship as near as we could; we always carry a compass with us. After we had walked about five miles we found the ice all broken up into blocks; sometimes we would have to walk round openings of one or two miles, at other places we had to jump from block to block; sometimes one would slip into the water, but we toiled on through this rough and dangerous journey as fast as we could, and all but six reached the vessel safely after about ten hours walking, in which many must have travelled twenty miles in circuitous routes. The six missing men who lost the 'Mastiff,' the vessel nearest us, some of them being out all night on the ice; one poor fellow had his feet so badly frozen that it is feared amputation will be necessary; he had slipped into the water, and his clothes had to be cut off him when he got on board. The Mastiff transferred us to the S. S. Arctic, which took us to St. Johns, Newfoundland. We were provided there by the Marine Fisheries Association. We have lost our spring fishing and most of our clothes, and will take the first boat we can get to any port. There are sixteen of us now on board the *Parisian* bound for Liverpool. When we return we must earn something to take to our families; we feel thankful for our narrow escape, but the sealers' and whalers' lives are full of danger; most of us would go back again next spring if we can get a ship.

"Our vessel was very strongly built; we could steam back, and then forward, with full force, and break up ice 5 and 6 feet thick; the vessel's sides were made of iron wood (a wood grown in Australia); it will resist the effects of

ice better than iron or steel will. In the cold weather iron and steel will break like a carrot. This iron wood is so hard and solid that it will sink. I saved from the wreck the horn of a unicorn, a species of whale that we had taken; it weighs 14 lbs. I carried it with me over that ice walk; it is ivory." He showed it to your humble servant and we procured it as a memento, as it is the only one we ever remember seeing. It is spiral like that shown in representation of unicorn, in company with the lion, on the British coat of arms. We hope to take this curiosity to Canada with us. The fish it was taken from weighed about one ton, and was caught in Davis' Straits. "The sealing season only lasts a few weeks. The young seals grow very fast; we can almost see them grow. A large proportion of ladies' kid gloves are made from seal skins. After returning from a sealing expedition we go on a whaling cruise. This is very exciting sport, and also a dangerous one. When we sight a whale, we get within about 60 feet and fire a harpoon into it; the whale immediately goes to the bottom of the sea, and remains about half an hour, when it comes up to blow. All the boats are then about the vicinity where it is expected and fire another harpoon into it. It again sinks to the bottom, and returns to the surface at a shorter interval. Sometimes a whale has carried off half a dozen harpoons, and then got away, but this rarely occurs. We can sometimes send a rocket into one that will explode in the whale and instantly kill it. The larger the whale the easier it is captured; the small ones are too active. Oil is so cheap now that it does not pay to catch whales for oil. The whalebone is the most valuable part of the whale; we will get a ton from a good large whale. It is worth from \$125 to \$500 per ton. Some whales are white; they have no whalebone. The white whales have a useful hide which we take off. The hides of brown whales are of no value. After we have taken the blubber or fat off, a whale sinks, after a time rises to the surface and floats about for a long time, and sometimes gets jammed among the ice, or carried on shore. The polar bear soon finds it; a polar bear has a wonderful scent. I have seen nearly one hundred bears about a whale at a time. The bears are timid and afraid of man, but will show fight when wounded. I have killed over two hundred; I killed twenty last winter. Their claws are very sharp; they can run up an iceberg if it is almost perpendicular. They will throw themselves from an iceberg into the water, and can live in the water just as well as on land.

She Wished to make Her Will.

"I have been referred to you, sir," said a middle aged lady entering the office of a young lawyer not far from the City Hall. "I have some important business I wish attended to, and at once."

"Take a seat, madam," said the lawyer, rising and offering his visitor a chair, "you say your business is of an urgent nature?"

"Yes," said the lady, taking from a satchel a bundle of papers. "I have come to the conclusion that it should be done at once."

"You will please be kind enough to give me the facts in the case," said the young lawyer, visions of a good fee crossing his mind as he glanced over the lady's rich attire.

"Well, you see, I am getting on in life, and I have made up my mind to make my will," said the lady fumbling nervously at the papers in her lap. "I don't care to have people fighting over me after—I'm dead you know," and she gave a suspiciously hollow little laugh.

"No, of course not. It is always better to have such things settled in time," said the lawyer, taking up his pen, "now whom do you wish to make executor of your property?"

"Make what?" asked the lady.

"Whom do you wish to take charge of the division of your property?"

"Oh yes," said the lady, "I understand. You see you professional people have such queer ways of talking. Do you know, I have a brother who is studying to be an engineer, or surveyor, or something, and I really believe he delights in bringing out the most outlandish names when talking to me. The other evening I happened to mention the building of the bridge, and he got off the greatest lingo about trusses, girders, elevations and a lot more that I was really all mixed up. Speaking of the bridge, do you know that I had an invitation to cross on that little foot path, but I wouldn't do it for worlds. No, I am sure I should jump off or do something horrible of that sort. I don't see how ladies can be so bold, but nowadays they will do most anything daring. I really believe they will hire themselves out as sailors before long. I know I should never make a good sailor. I crossed last summer and had a terrible time. Do you know I was seasick the whole time. Yes, and everything I tried to prevent it only made me more ill, and—"

"You will excuse me, madam," said the lawyer, "for interrupting you, but you were about to say in relation to your will—"

"Oh yes," said the lady laughing. "Do you know, I had quite forgotten it. One gets interested, you know, very often in that way. I have a cousin who is the most absent minded creature you ever saw. I actually believe that girl will forget to be on hand at her own wedding. She isn't engaged yet, though, and I hope she won't be in some time, poor soul. It really makes me sad to see girls become engaged nowadays. The men are growing to be so unreliable. I heard of a very sad case only the other day. A couple had not been married over—"

"Madam," said the lawyer, "don't you think it would be well to come to the will."

"Oh yes, of course," said the lady; "I'm so glad you reminded me. I have the reputation of being such a talker. I'm not a bit like my sister, either. She never says a word from morning till night. I am sure it is better to say something now and then. They say we women out-talk your side of the house, but I do not believe it. I am acquainted with a gentleman who can beat me all to pieces in talking, and he never says anything either. Now, I can stand a good talker if they only throw out some ideas."

"Madam," said the lawyer, rising and glancing at his watch, "I find I have five minutes in which to reach the court room and be in time for the calling of a case. We will attend to your will another day, when I have five or six hours or so on my hands," and he bowed the astonished lady out before she had time to open a fresh battery of words upon him.