

Most Amazing Sea Mystery of All Time.

Did Pirates or Giant Devilfish cause 20 American Ships to Vanish on shore or at sea. Without Trace.

May Be Pirates.

followed by a serious wave of crime on

land. There has been a tremendous

lait not quite possible that a similar

The finding of the message in the bob-

ships that have the south end of Diamond Shoals, off ossible to ex- on this dangerous coast, but it was but it seems they saw no sign of her crew and the destructon of a full any response to their signals. ers and sailing vessels. When some of the coast guards row at a time, as he approached.

aed

fated liner, which had been lost on board the schooner had left their collision with a giant iceberg. ship unexpectedly and in great haste. in the case of a much smaller | Only one of the small boats which

might be destroyed by fire or by found, composed his crew. rrific explosion in such a way lot the slightest remnant of their wood fabrics and of the fittings bes they carried would be left tell the story but it hardly thin the limits of human posthat a full score of ships should from the surface of the ocean eave behind not one single clew manner of their destruction. new mystery of the seas is the deeper, all the more perthe fact that in addition to or rifle duels have hesitated to travel rew and all, there is one remarkase in which the ship survived, spirit of criminality may have shown officers and men of its crew itself on the high seas and driven a disappeared as completely as if little company of sailors to turn pirvens had opened and swallow- ate and repeat some of the law-defying

American five-masted schooner oll A. Deering was discovered one the leaves little room for doubt that ing ashore, with all sails set, on the crew of the Carroll A. Deering did

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of their own free will. Could it have been pirates that forced them to leave their ship? The fact that the schooner was left supports this theory, for pirates would naturally

lightest trace, and who carried off he crew of the schooner Carroll A Deering, we are forced to the bellef that the seas hold in their dark, unfathomed depths dangers for ships and men who sail them of which we have never dreamed.

In one of his famous stories Jule Verne described a giant octopus, of levilfish, large and powerful enough to irag a whole ship down to destruction As yet we have no proof that any such onster as this exists, but the vasty many things of which the mind of cience has no definite knowledge, and an octopus great enough to destroy ship is one of them.

It is not so many years ago since the belief in these giant devilfishes guite common among seafaring men Whenever a ship mysteriously vanish ed, as these twenty have recently done, its disappearance was promptly ascribed to an encounter with an oc-

nowadays considered only a fit theme for the humorists of the comic pages And yet there are men and women still living who can remember when this country was greatly excited by

drew up a report, giving in detail the the storm was hardly severe enough

monster was from eighty to ninety coast of the Cape Hatteras. The previous night about two feet above water; of a dark short space had been stormy, although the wind brown color; the body with thirty or the schooner should have run aground to a string of buoys, and called by severity there sighted her from their station nearby mnutes and sometimes more, leaving a wake behind him; chasing mackerel,

"He only came to the surface of the ments, than why is were amazed to find that, although the sea in calm and bright weather. A wreckage from them has boat was resting easily on the shoals skilful gunner fired at him from a and was in no immediate danger of boat and, having taken good aim, felt months after the Titantic went breaking up, there was not a sign of sure he must have hit him on the head; he surface of the ocean for life on board. A table in the fore- the creature turned toward him, then ound the scene of the disaster castle was all laid for a meal, and dived under the boat and immediately ewn with pathetic fragments of there was other evidence that the men reappeared on the other side, at a distance of about a hundred yards."

If this one-hundred-foot sea serpent, whose appearance on our shores causthere could hardly fail to be the schooner carried was missing, and ed so much excitement back in 1851, wreckage left as a clew to the this one was hardly large enough to was a verity and not a myth, is it not hold Captain Willis B. Wormwell and quite possible that the sea may harconceivable that one or two the eleven men who, as was later bor other monsters of which we have As is well known, the war has been

steamer or sailing vessel? The recent mysterious disappearincrease in the number of murders, robberies and other crimes of violence. Some of the great automobile highways, even in the most thickly settled on board and was never heard from sections of the country, have been so

infested with desperate bandits that again. At the time when the disappearance men who do not care to risk revolver of the Cyclops was a matter of widespread interest, a writer in the National Marne magazine declared that about the only possible explanation of the mystery that was incapable of contradiction was that the collier had been attacked by a swarm of gigantic squids, or cuttlefish—the devilfish of deeds of the notorious Captain Kidd? Jules Verne's famous narrative.

There is abundance evidence that the giant members of the octopus family are very dangerous enemies to mand and at least to moderate-sized ships, and that they are numerous in the part of the ocean where the Cyclops must have met its fate. Although seldom seen there is no good reason for believing that it is a rare animal, and it may very probably exist in numbers sufficient to have made a

great craft like the Cyclops easy prey. Those of us who live our lives in the ifety of the land are prone to think we can hardly be threatened by any dangers of which science cannot following the sea, however, is usually sufficient to upset any such bellef as this. As every sailor will testify, one does not have to go traveling for very long over the seven seas bet encountering many things which are quite impossible of explanation in the sent state of human knowledge. Mysteries like the disappearance of the crew of the schooner Carroll A. Deering and the vanishing of a full

He works like a nigger To make the hole bigger He's sore if His cutter won't cut. He don't bother with plans Of cheap artisans, But there's one thing Can rightly be said:

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rence in the life of the deep sea sailor. he is often such a superstitious man some lonely midnight watch he has

What became of Captain Wormwell great was the sensation created by riedly abandon their ship, long before ROE'S East End Branch. and his men? Why did they so hurthe fact that no signals of distress were seen or heard during the night

depositions of numerous witnesses to prevent their proceeding. But Capful and experienced seafaring man makes it seem highly improbable that ber, and has outlived dozens of would he would have abandoned his ship

that these could have were unable to get from the schooner herrings and other fish, which were forty miles south of the point where seen jumping out of the water, fifty the Deering grounded found a bottle

"We have been shanghaied and are being transferred either to a tanker or a submarine. Finder please notify headquarters of the Carroll A. Deer ing in New York."

Handwriting experts compared this message with specimens of the writing of Captain Wormwell and the various men of his crew and declared it beyoud all question the penmanship of the man who had sailed on the Deer-

The finding of this mysterious mesno knowledge monsters large and sage in the floating bottle strengthenstrong enough to wreck a great ed the belief among many scafaring men that the disappearance of the schooner's crew and the vanishing of ance of so many ships has given new twenty other ships, crew and all, could interest to the tragic case of the Unit- be explained only by the existence of ed States naval collier Cyclops, which a clever, well organized band of sailed from a West Indian port on pirates who had chosen the well March 4, 1918, with a crew of 295 men traveled shipping lanes off the Atlan-

Wormwell, of Portland, Me., daughter of the captain of the schooner Deering that her father was still alive and that he would never willingly have bandoned his ship under any such vernment to begin the vigorous in ow making.

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April, War Month in United States.

It is a curious fact April, the month in which a "young man's fancy is supposed lightly to turn "to thoughts of love," is a war month in the United States. For all of their wars, excepting one, began in April. The exception was the War of 1812 and many historians regard that not as a separate war but as a continua tion of the War for Independence That War was declared in June. The Revolutionary War, or War for In dependence, began with the fighting at Lexington and Concord, Mass., April 19, 1775. War against Mexico was declared April 24, 1846, and the Civil War began with the firing of April 12, 1861. War against Spain the first gun against Fort Sumter, was declared April 24, 1898. The participation of the United States in the World War dates from April 6,

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THE SMOKER.



his bitter shafts against the solace old boys

need. I hate to see a little lad, who should be learning things at school, pick up the briar of his dad, and ply with zest that poisoned tool; some day he'll know the habit's bad, and he who learns it is a fool. The smoker has a cabbage heart and up his nerves stran tremors climb; and divers maladie part the knowledge that a smoke's a crime; and in the undertaker's cart the smoker rides before his time. So I implore our boys and girls to leave the noxious weed alon

though kings and dukes and belted earls may boost tobacco round a While yet I may throne; where er the smoke ascends I'm s m o k i n g and curls, the health's perfection is unknown. And so with Old Doc tucky's famous Crafts I stand, thus far; no farther weed; some day will I go; for there are old gents in Crafts will bust the land who've smoked for forty years or so; if they must see their rant's deed; he's launching n o w they draw their breath, smoke on, though smoking may be wrong; nor with the front of Dame Macbeth, denounce their course in language strong; oh. let them smoke them selves to death, for they'll be dead so

