

WANDERERS OF THE SEA.

A Floating Island of Mystery and a Phantom-Like Bark.

The prose of steam has done much to rob the ocean of its romance, but there still remain a little to delight the lover of sea tales and mystery. In these dull times of peaceful commerce when ships are not sought with rushing from continent to continent at railroad speed, but even for the stormy sea to succumb by the fumble pouring of oil from rubber bags hung at their bows, it is like hearing an echo from the golden days of Captain Marryat's times, almost in the steamer track, there has been for some months a floating island, with tree branches and great reeds, thirty feet above the surface of the sea. That it really exists, or at least did exist till Sep. 19, the day on which it was first sighted, there can be no doubt, for four steamships have reported it, and the hopelessly matter of fact United States Hydrographic Office has made a report on it, and traced the wandering island on the pilot chart for November. With their usual owl-like solemnity the hydrographers have managed to present the story in the driest way possible. To them the ocean is not blank space on the map, neatly covered with carefully measured squares and figures.

THE ROMANTIC STORY

of the drifting island is told by them in one sentence filled with latitudes and longitudes. They don't concern themselves with speculations as to where it came from or by what chance it started on its strange voyage. The captains of the steamships which passed it also gave but meagre descriptions of it, but when their reports were all put together a fair idea of the island could be gathered. It was far out at sea when it was seen for the first time. The captain of the British steamship Blue Jacket sighted it on July 23 in latitude 39-42 and longitude 64-20, about 700 miles east of Halifax. It covered half an acre, and seemed to be tightly wooded, with reeds extending thirty feet above the sea level. It was visible for a distance of seven miles, and looked so much like solid land that it deceived the lookout at first. Not long afterward, on August 8, the steamship Letimbro passed it in latitude 39-26 and longitude 65, a few miles south of where it was first seen. The captain of this ship got a better view of it, and found that it was covered with a dense thicket of reeds, most of which were thirty feet high. On August 26 the steamship Roman Prince, a ship, by the way, which is making a record for sighting woods and unusual things at sea, sighted the island in latitude 41-49 and longitude 67-39, almost 1,000 miles northeast of New York. The last ship to sight the strange waif was the steamship Ebro, which passed the island in latitude 45-29 and longitude 42-39, about 1,900 miles northeast of New York, heading for the steamers track.

Plotting on the map the course taken by the floating island, it is found that since July 23, when it was first observed, it has drifted east-northeast about 1,100 miles. This was an average of about one mile an hour, and it was not until it reached the coast of the island of Newfoundland, where it came from, with what odd fortune it was from its place of start on its wonderful journey, no one knows, and probably no one ever will.

There is another bit of romance in the shape of a masterless bark. With all sails set, but without a soul to man her or hold her helm, the Capella, a Norwegian bark

ABANDONED IN MID-OCEAN

has been cruising the seas alone for a month, like a lost soul. With the wind for her captain and the seas all her own, with never a port to make, she has roved idly about, doubling on and crossing her tracks, as aimlessly as a seabird. But with all her idle tacking to and fro, she has never gone far from one place. She was then in latitude 51 and longitude 23, about 2,300 miles east of Halifax, due east of the northern extremity of Newfoundland, and about seventy miles north of the steamer track. But she did not founder. On October 30 she was sighted by the steamship Charlotte, with fore lower topsail and main topgallant sail set. She was then in latitude 50-35 and longitude 31-57, seventy miles distant from where she had been abandoned. She was directly in the steamer's track.

She was again sighted on November 2, when the steamship Llandaff City passed her. The deserted ship was in latitude 51 and longitude 28, 150 miles northeast of the place where the Charlotte sighted her. She was north of the steamer track then. Her rudder was gone, but her sails were set and drawing, and she was on the starboard track, heading again for the main steamer track. Seven days after she had been passed by the Llandaff City she was passed by the City of Berlin. She had sailed almost due east and was in latitude 51 and longitude 24,240 miles from the position where she had been last sighted. The steamship Catalonia passed her on November 13, in latitude 50-59 north and longitude 21-30 west, 180 miles further east, and again in the steamer track.

This danger to navigation is being looked out for by every ship which plies that part of the sea. She was apparently in fair condition whenever she was sighted and may sail the ocean for a long time before she sinks or is broken up by the waves. Perhaps some shift of the wind blowing steadily for many days will drive her in some unfrequented part of the ocean where she may drift, a lonely ghost of a ship, for many years. She may discover the dreamed-of open sea around the pole, or, going south, sail among islands of spice and everlasting summer, peacefully and dreamily, until other generations come upon her, a relic of a forgotten past.

USING OIL TO STILL THE SEAS.

Claims of Vessels Make Reports About Its Use in Storms.

When the Nova Scotia bark Montreal worked its way to harbor the other morning, with only two sails left, the others having been ripped from her spars in a howling gale, her skipper reported that she was only saved from being swamped by the use of oil poured through the forward closets after they had previously been stuffed with oakum so that the oil could trickle slowly on the sea. The effect was described as something wonderful, in which particular the report tallies with all those collected by the Hydrographic Office since last August. Big steamships have begun to use oil as a matter of course now, but there are still some old "shellbacks" who scorn the notion and believe more in hauling and belaying. They wouldn't use oil any more than Gulliver's old captain on the Adventure, whose method was stood by. "First he took in his spritsail, and stood by to hand the foresail; but making foul weather, he handed the mizzen. The ship lay broad off, so he thought it better to haul before the sea than trying or hauling. He reefed the foresail and set him, and hauled off the foresheet. The helm was hard-a-weather. He belayed the fore downhaul." And then he hauled off upon the lanyard of the whipstiff and helped the man at the helm. But that was long ago, and the Red Star steamship Noordland, it helped the crew to rescue the men on the sinking bark Oscar II. Captain Nickels, of the Noordland reported: "October 23, latitude 47-50 north, longitude 49-13 west. After midnight, a succession of heavy gales. The ship ran before the sea," was reported. "At 2 a. m. the ship was struck by a heavy sea from the forward and from spar projecting ten feet over the rail at the fore rigging. In this way the oil bags towed in the water and spread the oil better than when alone. On October 30, forenoon with strong and heavy gales. We were under way, an oil bag was towed over the taffrail and proved a great success, as for two hours previously nearly every sea had broken on board aft. The good result was immediate; we shipped no more water during the gale. At first we used fish oil, but a mixture of fish and cod oils, the latter being much the more effective."

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When the British steamship Francisco ran into heavy gales on November 3, in mid-ocean, and was hove to for four hours in the trough of the sea, Captain Jenkins ordered oakum stuffed into the pipes of the forward and midship closets and filled them with oil. He reported that the result was a success. Along the ship's side, for a good long range to windward, the sea became smooth, the big waves seeming to melt to nothing, and not a drop of water came aboard after that.

The steamship Werkendam, of the Netherlands-American Line, on October 25, used oil for sixteen hours with good success. She had been shipping large quantities of water until an oil bag was hung over the weather side, when no more waves came aboard. The Werkendam on October 25 had the same experience. Other ships which reported much success in the use of oil recently were the steamships Teutonia, Virginia, British Empire, Prodan, Thuringia, Ohio, Plassey, Lord O'Neill, British King and the sailing ships Wilhelmine, Lord Canning, Rebecca M. Walls and H. J. Libby.

Death of a Distinguished Cavalry Officer.

The death has been reported of Major General C. Vanbrugh Jenkins, who joined the Bengal Light Cavalry in 1839 at the age of seventeen. While still a colonel, he took part in the Afghan war of 1842 under General Pollock, being at the forcing of the Khyber Pass, the relief of Jellalabad and in all the fighting up to the reconquest of Cabul, and including the cavalry charge in the Tezenen Valley, the war in the Gwalior Campaign of 1843-4, and was present at the battle of Maharajpore in the Sutlej Campaign of 1846, including Alwal, and in the Punjab War of 1848-9, taking part in the battle of Chillian, Wallah, and Goojerat. Becoming lieutenant-colonel in 1862, he had command of the Bengal European Cavalry, transformed into the 10th Hussars, retiring from the regiment in 1877, when he was granted the rank of major-general. General Jenkins, who was in receipt of a reward for distinguished service, died last Saturday at Cruckton Hall, Salop, at the age of seventy.

She Was Used to It.

"So," snarled the father, "you have asked my daughter to marry you, and having gained her consent, you come to me for mine?" "That's about the dimensions of it," responded the young man, bravely. "Do you know, sir, that I have no money and can give her nothing?" The young man patted the old one on the back encouragingly. "That's all right, old fellow," he said, "neither have I, so the change will not prove a serious shock to her. What do you say? Is it a go?" It went.

Many children, many cares; no children no felicity. Infatuation is the exhalation of character. One value of cold storage is in keeping potatoes for seed from sprouting. Then when planted they sprout at once, and the sprouts are much more vigorous. Mrs. John McLean writes, from Barrie Island, Ont., March 4, 1889, as follows: "I have been a great sufferer from neuralgia for the last nine years, but, being advised, to try St. Jacobs Oil, can now heartily endorse it as being a most excellent remedy for this complaint, as I have been greatly benefited by its use."

A WALDEMAR MIRACLE.

A. O. P. R. Man Relates His Wonderful Escape.

Melancholy With Rheumatism and Sciatica—Relief Comes After Doctors had Failed—The Story Corroborated by Reliable Witnesses.

Grand Valley Star. There are few people in this vicinity who do not know Mr. Thos. Moss, of Waldemar. He has been for years the trustworthy section foreman of the C. P. R. in the division in which he resides and the exemplary life he always led has given him a respectable status in the community. He is a gentleman who is thoroughly reliable, and when "Tom" Moss tells you anything you can depend upon it every time. This by way of prelude to an interesting story the man has got full particulars of a miracle which occurred in one's own neighborhood analogous to that reported from a distance, and with what different feelings in the news received. We had read of miracles wrought at Trenton, London, Hamilton and other places, through the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. But we were not acquainted with the parties concerned in that reported miracle. 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