

PERILS OF THE SEA.

The captain of an American whaling schooner gives an account of his adventures while searching for whales. He had been in Hudson's Bay but meeting with poor success there he thought to try for sperm whales in the Atlantic. On August 16th, when near the middle of Hudson's Strait, steering south south-east by compass in a thick fog, ice was discovered immediately ahead. An attempt was at once made to put the vessel about, but before this could be done she struck the ice, and in a few seconds it was all around her, thumping against her heavily, causing her to careen first one way and then the other. It was expected every minute that the schooner would be crushed to pieces. As soon as possible, however, all sail was set and the schooner headed for the nearest open water as the only hope for those on board was to get out of the ice. While making her way under a heavy pressure of sail and ice the schooner had several of her sails, as well as the rudder, carried away, and pieces of her false keel were seen floating on the water. As the vessel was then leaking badly what hands could be spared from working the sails were placed at the pumps, which had to be kept constantly going. Finally, after several hours, during which the crew had frequently despaired of seeing land again, the vessel emerged into open water, everything above and below partially crushed or torn and presenting a most dilapidated appearance. In this condition, deprived of steering apparatus and almost without sails, the schooner was tossed about for a week at the mercy of the waves, until her crew finally succeeded in making this port.

Four seamen were picked up from a raft in the German Ocean by a sailing vessel. They reported that the captain of the vessel to which they belonged, and which had been wrecked, had clung to the keel of the wreck. Several others managed to follow his example, but the sea soon swept them off. Two of the men were sinking when, with a last effort, they clung to a plank that was drifting by, and hanging to it managed to keep their heads above water until several planks and a bit of rope floated in their way. In the morning another of the crew succeeded in joining them, and the steward, who had also escaped, followed their example and made a second raft. All suffered much from hunger and thirst. On the second day after their wreck they sighted a steamer, but she passed by without heeding their signals. On the third day, however, they were rewarded for the persistency with which they clung to their few boards.

SPAIN AND GERMANY are having their fight in words but that cannot last very long. There will either be a settlement soon or else war is inevitable. War preparations are being vigorously carried on in both countries. Neither country seems itching for a fight but both are extremely jealous of their honor and prestige. Germany has good reasons for not wanting to cripple herself by a war with Spain in which France would in all probability take the part of the latter.

FEW PEOPLE recognize the strain which a good speaker undergoes in delivering a speech. Most speakers do not get used to speaking so as not to feel the strain. Lord Randolph Churchill's health is suffering and his physicians fear for him if he does not take absolute rest. But his lordship finds it very inconvenient to do this at the present crisis when he wishes to backguard his opponents in as choice language as he can command.

WEATHER AND CROP REPORT.

The weather has been very changeable during the past week, rapidly alternating between rain and sunshine, frost and heat. Considerable damage has been done to late grain by the rain as there is still in many localities a good deal of grain uncut and more still lying spread on the fields bleaching, sprouting, and being devoured by sparrows. Although there have been frequent light frosts, yet no material damage has been done to the late corn further than retarding it in its progress to maturity. Potato digging has commenced and the tubers are remarkably free from disease. Turnips are not thriving as well as usual, but other roots are doing well. The frequent rains of the last few weeks have caused sheep in some parts of the country to suffer from diseased hoofs. In some parts of the Western States hog cholera is prevailing to a considerable extent and in other places the cattle are suffering from various diseases. On one farm in Kankakee county, Illinois, there are over two hundred head of cattle afflicted with a strange malady and numerous deaths are taking place among them daily.

FOR SOME TIME BACK bitter complaints have been made in the county of Clare, Ireland, against obnoxious landlords who devote themselves to horse racing. Last week things came to a head. Posters had been put up round the streets exhorting the "men of Clare" to "prevent the races, assoumdrels are defying you." These notices had the desired effects. Thousands of people who had been at Limerick races arrived to witness the sport. The Kiltrush race-course was lined by enormous crowds of angry men, women and children, yelling and brandishing shillelaghs. Everybody felt that a big fight was to come off. The owners of the horses resorted to stratagem by which they avoided the vengeance of the populace. One owner attempted to disguise his filly by painting her brown, and succeeded, but the jockey, Lynch, was recognized by the crowd, and was hailed with storms of groans, hisses and yells. A free fight ensued. Lynch was knocked off the horse and dragged about on the ground, where the people jumped on him. He narrowly escaped with his life. All the jockeys were torn off their horses and kicked and dragged about. Hundreds of heads were smashed but nobody was killed.

GREAT EXCITEMENT has for some time prevailed all over France in view of the approaching electoral contest. But the people seem to have had too much excitement and the ardor with which the campaign was opened is disappearing. The country is singularly quiet. Even the candidates for election are themselves partaking of the listlessness which characterizes their audiences. Their speeches are delivered listlessly, and are received without enthusiasm.

M. DE LESSEPS, the engineer of the Panama Canal, is trying as best he can to get money to carry on the work of construction. He is trying to get authority from the French Government to issue shares, but the Prime Minister, M. Brisson, refuses to allow this to be done till after the coming elections in France. Monsieur Brisson thinks it would affect his position, and, as he hopes to be re-elected as Premier, he adheres to his determination.

THE CHOLERA is about at a standstill. The French and Spanish authorities are endeavoring to make the number of deaths appear less than it actually is in order to evade trade.

IN A FEW MINUTES, Washington, a town of 400 inhabitants in Ohio, was almost swept from the earth by a cyclone. The tornado whirled up the principal business street of the town and ruined almost every business block on it, at least forty or fifty in all. Hardly a private residence in the town escaped, fully four hundred buildings going down. Fifteen bodies were recovered from the debris of the various ruined buildings.

SUPPOSED GERMAN SPIES have been expelled from Spain. They appeared to be taking plans of Spanish fortifications. A number of French officers trying to witness the manoeuvres of the German Guards while being reviewed were compelled to retire. These two circumstances show the distrust with which Germany is still regarding France and Spain. Each country wants to be sure that its military defences are not known in case there might be war.

THERE IS A CERTAIN PAPER in Cuba which is said to appear under a new name as often as twelve times a year. This paper is being continually suppressed by the government authorities on account of attacks on the government. Each time the paper is heavily fined but reappears under a different designation. The *Boaphore Egyptien*, which was suppressed by the French government, has tried the same dodge and now appears as the *Independence Egyptienne*.

EVERYONE who has read of Captain Howard's exploit with the Gatling gun in the war of the North-West Rebellion has been inclined to think well of the gun as an instrument with which to wage war against Indians. General Middleton has expressed himself as of the opinion that the Gatling gun is of no use in Indian warfare, its only usefulness being in cases where large bodies of men were massed together.

CERTAIN MINE OWNERS of Birmingham, England, have lately been employing Italian laborers. This caused a strike in the mines in which the labor was partly Italian, but the strikers have had to give in and a decided advantage remains with the company which employed the foreign workmen. It is likely that other coal mining companies will follow suit and put foreign labor in mines wherever it can be done advantageously.

CHINA is about to have a railway built along its Eastern boundary for a distance of five hundred miles. The line will begin at Taku, a town on the coast near the northern boundary of China, and will run south as far as Fang Chow, which is at the mouth of the Yang-Tse-Kiang river. A Manchester firm has obtained the contract for building the road, and a loan of seventy million dollars has been obtained in London and Berlin.

TWO MEN made up to the Woolwich powder magazine on Friday night last week, and before the sentry could give the alarm he was seized and beaten in a brutal manner. He was left half dead at his post, and the two unknown men attempted to enter the powder magazine with, it must be supposed, no good end in view. Some noise startled them, however, and they decamped as quickly as possible.

REPORTS have just come which show that the cholera has been raging in the northern portions of Afghanistan all summer. In the English regiments one hundred and thirty soldiers and nine officers died, thirty officers have been invalided and a large number of coolies died.

AT THE LATEST NEWS we learn that the "Puritan" beat the "Genesta" last Wednesday thus winning the yacht match and retaining the cup in the United States.

BOOKS GIVEN AWAY.

Take a look over the article headed "Now's the Day and Now's the Hour," on the fourth page of this paper and read this:

From now till the end of October we have decided to give a large book of stories, which sells at sixty cents, to anyone who will send us a list of five new subscribers, to the *Weekly Messenger* at fifty cents each. This offer does not include the club rates, but is of greater benefit to him who wins it. Take care, on sending in your list of subscribers, to write the names and post-offices very distinctly. The book in paper covers is eleven inches by fourteen and contains sixty stories of great interest, the continued ones not being too long. There are 237 pages and about 140 pictures illustrative of the stories. Anyone who has seen the book would be well pleased to take the trouble to secure it by sending in five new subscribers to the *Weekly Messenger*. The offer is too good a one for us to be able to make it for an unlimited time and we therefore place the time till the first of November.

A TELEGRAM FROM WASHINGTON tells how a Scotch family were persuaded by a female emigration agent to take up land in North Carolina. The family spent all their savings amounting to \$400 in getting to California and in buying land. They soon discovered on reaching their destination, so they claim, that they had been wofully deceived and that the land was worthless and the inhabitants of the roughest and most shiftless type. Having lost all their money, they decided to return to Scotland, and through the kindness of railway and municipal officials in the various places, were able to reach Philadelphia. This is one more warning to those who would rush wildly into a new country without getting more trustworthy information than is generally obtainable from emigration agents.

IN WALDECK, a small German principality a man has to be sober or else do without a wife. There is not left any chance for a woman to regret having unwittingly married a man who was a slave to drink. At Waldeck a decree has been issued that no license to marry will hereafter be granted any individual who is addicted to drunkenness; or, having been so, he must exhibit full proof that he is no longer a slave to this vice. The same Government has also directed that in every report made by the ecclesiastical, municipal and police authorities upon petitions for license to marry, the report shall distinctly state whether either of the parties desirous of entering into the matrimonial connection is addicted to intemperance or otherwise.

THE IRISH AMERICANS take an extraordinarily deep interest in their fatherland. An Irishman with "soul so dead" would be a curiosity; every Irishman is as patriotic as he knows how to be. At a large meeting of Irish Americans held in Cincinnati, on Sunday night, several hundred dollars were subscribed and \$5,000 more pledged as assistance to the Irish parliamentary funds.

THE FARMERS in parts of the State of Iowa depend principally on their hogs for their revenue. As cholera has broken out among their droves there is danger of a serious financial depression. The other staple resource of the farmers is corn and most of last year's crop has been fed to the hogs. It is reported that some farmers have lost from 25 to 150 head, and nearly 2,000 dead hogs have already been reported.