

EXTRAORDINARY ADVENTURES.

On Friday evening, a sailor named William Runkle, applied to the magistrates at the Town Police Office for their advice and assistance under the following remarkable circumstances:

Runkle stated that in the month of March, 1832, he sailed from the port of London on a South Sea whaler, belonging to a very respectable firm in Rotterdam. The ship had been at sea about fourteen months, when the crew were fortunate enough to meet two whales. After the whales had been killed, all hands were busily employed in securing the blubber, when an accident happened to him of a very serious nature. The spine he was using slipped, and cut one of his feet very severely. One main artery was severed, and he bled so profusely that he was obliged to leave off work. He was conveyed below, and the captain made some arrangements to come to him, and ordered him to cut himself to escape his share of the labour. He indignantly repelled the accusation, and displayed his foot, which was in such a state that he could not stand. Some words arose, and the mate gave him a severe blow on the head, which stunned him. On recovering his senses, he was conveyed to the after hatchway, where he was confined as a close prisoner for two months, and was fed on a scanty allowance of bread and water. During this period he suffered the most dreadful torture from the wound in his foot, owing to improper treatment and neglect. A lock jaw ensued, and it was necessary for him to open his mouth with an iron spoon to sustain life; indeed, on one occasion it was requisite to cut the lower lip to accomplish this object. (The man exhibited his lip, on which a large scar was distinctly visible.) After he had in some degree recovered, the captain directed that he should beg his pardon before all the ship's company. He declined doing so, and the captain immediately gave orders for him to be put ashore on an island near the Japanese dominions, from which they were not far distant. Accordingly signs were made to the natives, who were watching the vessel from the shore, and a great number of them speedily came alongside in canoes, but they all refused to have anything to do with putting him on shore, and threats and persuasions were alike ineffectual. At length the captain gave directions to the cooper to knock off the iron hoops from some casks, and bribed the natives of the island, called St. Andrew's, receiving one of the numerous group to come to him, and to supply him with iron, spirits, and other necessaries, and while they were rolling about in a state of intoxication, the captain contrived to smuggle two of the poor wretches on board the vessel, with whom he sailed. When complaint was put on shore the natives all surrounded him, and seemed lost in wonder as they examined his dress and the colour of his skin, as they had never seen a white man on the island before. He was stripped of his clothes, which the natives tore into numberless pieces and divided among themselves, and afterwards exercised their agility in dancing in a very grotesque manner round him. Runkle remained on this island nine months, and upon the whole lived pretty well among the savages. They principally fed on cocoa nuts and fish. On two or three occasions the natives suffered much from a scarcity of food. They were not cannibals, but thinking he might have a taste for human flesh, they once offered him a portion of the bodies of a woman and a child who had died suddenly. He refused the proffered food with disgust, and made the natives to understand that he was not a cannibal. They appeared much surprised at this, and asked why the captain of the lug canoe should take away two of their countrymen. He had been on the island about nine months of months, when one day he perceived a ship in the offing and made signals of distress, which to his great joy were perceived, and the ship hove to. A boat was sent ashore to receive him, but the savages endeavored to prevent him leaving the island. He, however, managed to swim to the boat amidst a shower of arrows, and was safely taken up by the crew of the Sandwich Islands. They were taken on board the Marble schooner, and afterwards transferred on board Her Majesty's sloop of war Imogene, in which they reached this country. He had been away for seven years, and had endured very great privations and sufferings. His friends had long since thought him dead, and great was their surprise and joy when he presented himself amongst them.

20th section of the Merchant Seamen's Act.

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The Suspension of the Southern Banks.—A week has not elapsed since a suspension of specie payments took place in Philadelphia, was known here, and some opportunity has been afforded of testing the effects of that event, upon the ability of our banks to continue their ordinary course of business. Some apprehension was at first naturally felt, the effects of that procedure upon the public mind, or some other consequences of it might seriously embarrass the operations of the banks here. That apprehension, however, is now in a great measure removed, and a general confidence prevails, that the banks of Boston, and those in other parts of the Union, will continue to conduct their business during the period of the suspension, and especially since their resumption of specie payment, upon a principle of caution and of moderate accommodation, are in a sound condition and safe at any ordinary period. We understand that the banks of New York, and those of the other States, have been relieved, and that within the last two days discounts have been made to a considerable extent, so that the pressure upon the money market is in a considerable degree relieved. It is not to be inferred, however, that the money is, or is soon likely to be plentiful, as a condition of things here, in the present state of the balance of trade between this country and Europe, must be entirely inconsistent with the safety of specie-paying banks.—Boston Patriot.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 18.

Trade is generally dull. The dry goods business is at an end, and the stock of goods is small—the fire destroyed much of the stock of process, and that branch is therefore a little better than the other. Flour advanced today to 62 cents per bushel, and the market for the Sugar, Molasses, Mocha, and United States sugar, are all quiet with flour on speculation for export. At least 10,000 barrels will go out in three weeks. For the same kind of flour that Saturday 6.50 was asked, D. 6.75 was asked today at the same rate.—N. Y. Herald.

LETTERS FROM TEXAS.—IMPORTANT REMOVAL.

It is reported that the independence of Texas is now in a very doubtful state. The accounts from Mexico make no mention of such a confidence, and it was not even whispered in the city of Mexico. The Texas navy was captured, and now consists of one ship, one brig, three schooners, and one steamer, with Com. Moore at their head. Perhaps when it is fully organized, the Texas will consist of the Marine Corps, and a few independent. The favorable news from France has already had a very sensible effect.—Id.

NAVAL (AMERICAN).

The ribs and keel of a large steam frigate have been put together at this yard. It is 22 feet long, and the keel is to be finished in ten months. There are 324 men on board, and the ship is to be ready for sea in a few days. The ship is to be named "Dale" in the Navy Yard wharf, taking its name from the late Commodore Dale. She is a small vessel, she draws 16 feet without her guns. She goes to the Mediterranean. Commodore Stewart has received orders to hold himself in readiness to leave on foreign service—supposed to be the Brazil station.—N. Y. Herald.

Five in New Orleans.

On the 6th inst. a fire broke out in a block of buildings on the corner of Commerce and St. Peter streets, which burned it down. The houses destroyed numbered six. Loss estimated to be 20,000 dollars. F. Perrett, V. B. Barry, and Ann Cammel were the sufferers.

Another large fire in Newark, N. J.

Six buildings were destroyed in Newark, on Thursday morning. It commenced in the store of Messrs. Smith & Tucker, leather dealers, on Market street and burnt them out. It then extended to the buildings occupied by Charles T. Shipman, Jacobus & Ulter, Pierpont & Barry, and Messrs. Hollingsworth, leather dealers, and Mr. Manilla, tobaccoist.—Loss 20,000 dollars. Fully insured.

POTATOES.—From every potatoe planted in Maine, the farmers get two bushels.

Mercy and Crime.

There are 220 convicted prisoners in the block of buildings in the Moyamensing county prison (the Blackwell's Island of Philadelphia) and over three hundred untried prisoners, or convicts committed in the city and county of Philadelphia. So much for the morality of the city of brotherly love.

The Owners of the Anistad.

These gentlemen after escaping murder, famine, and shipwreck, are now enjoying their idyllic life in the Egyptian Tomb. We visited them yesterday, and found them as cheerful as men deprived of their liberty for no crime could possibly be. Signor Rossi, the English consul, who thought his friend does not, do he contemplates studying our laws for the purpose of ascertaining if they have provided any punishment for him who conspires to murder his neighbour within the walls of a common prison.

Texas recognized by France.

M. de Saligny has been appointed by Louis Philippe,