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DAYS OF THE CRIMP

THE TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN FLESH IN QUEBEC'S OLD DAYS.

Ancient Canadian City Was Noted for Its Crimping in the Middle Days of the Nineteenth Century-In 1860 There Were Seventy Dens Run on the River Front-An Item Frem an Old Journal,

Like many other enterprises, noble Like many other enterprises, noble or otherwise, the crimping business in Quebec began in a small way. in the early days of the nineteenth century. With the then comparatively few arrivals from sea, the opportunities offering for extensive traflicking in human flesh, which became yearly thereafter more inviting were lacking. With increasing activity in the construction of wooden ships, calling for crews, and augmented fleets of arriving ships, the ranks of the sailor-stealers filled up in a surprising manner.

Among the first of the guild were Dominick Dempsey and James McFay and tales of their reckless daring are and tales of their reckless daring are still related. That* they suffered from arrest and imprisonment occasionally is on record, but the laws governing such cases as theirs were less severe than they afterward became, and they in consequence got free in a much easier fashion than they deserved. From 1830 and onwerd the crimps became more numerous, until in 1860 it is estimated that about seventy dons were being run along the river

dens were being run along the river front—not all of course operated in a large way, but all dangerous in their methods. With success and escape from severe punishment, such as they richly merited, how and why is to-day a problem hard to solve, they even went east in small vessels, and even went east in small vessels, and preyed upon the outports of the low-er St. Lawrence to the great danger of ships anchored in open roadsteads taking in deal cargoes. Here is an item from an old journal on this

Captain Wood, of the barque



THE TAKING OF TREMBLAY.

from below in a sail boat. The captain reports that while anchored Sault au Cochon discharging ballast, a cutter was seen to heave too off the harbour, but no suspicions were entertained of her errand. During the night following, however, the crew of the barque overpowered and gagged the night-watchman, one Tremblay, living in the vicinity, and lowering a boat, left the ship. As the boat was seen drifting toward the shore in the morning there is no doubt that the crew boarded the cutter, which was no longer in sight. the harbour, but no suspicions wer

doubt that the crew boarded the cutter, which was no longer in sight,
leaving the ship without a sailor.
The master was obliged to engage
men from the shore to assist the
mates for the present, and set off
himself for Quebec to capture the
deserters if possible. It is to be
hoped that the rascals who connived

at their escape may also be caught and severely punished."

The crew were not captured, neither were the rascally crimps, as subsequent allusions show. The wily gentlemen had covered their tracks and hidden their prizes so cunningly that no traces of them could be discovered. That crew were no doubt enjoying the hospitality of the crimp in safe retreat, while the ekipper they had wronged raged without.

had wronged raged without.

Among the most notorious of the guild the name of James Ward stands out in unsavory prominence, and his career is even yet spoken of with unsavory between the ways. stinted admiration in the haunts where in life he flourished. That he was a man of considerable ability is not to be denied, and had he devote not to be denied, and had he devoted his powers to the prosecution of an honorable calling he would most likely have risen to success. As it was, he, in his later years, did attain to a moderate degree of respectable living in Savannah, and to a flattering obituary in due time in a local journal.

al.

That he was sly, treacherous and unscrupulous is beyond doubt; that the influence he possessed over the mariners of his day was the result of a certain kindliness of disposition in

a certain kindliness of disposition in the early days of his terrible career. is probably true. To the sallor man of the Atlantic, Jim Ward was long a hero, and his praises sounded in a hundred fo'c'sls.

A native of Belfast, Ward, when a sailor boy, arrived in Quebec, in 1830, and, being himself immediately crimped, he studied, while in the den of his captor, the system of which he was himself an object lesson, becoming in later years the acknowledged, if uncrowned, king of the profession he had adopted, and a terror to ar-

he had adopted, and a terror to arriving skippers with slippery crews.
Unfortunately for his reputation as the friend of sailors the truth leaked

hands of the owners of any ship upon

which he eventually sailed the retura voyage, a circumstance the angry skipper was unlikely to forget. The difficulty lay in following up the shifty tars, when their name was legion, and changeable as well; but Ward knew all about them—knew the false names under which he had shipped by others, and for a consideration gave the information to the captains, who were not slow to act. The rage of the wretched sailor, who found awaiting him at the end of his voyage a legal garnishee to his credit in the place of the expected and much needed coin may be imagined, and Ward's agency in such matters which he eventually sailed the return



The crimp who was long a hero among fellows.

sed in the dog watches, culminating in the possession by the crimp in sev-eral ugly scars, which he carried for even after. The business of the crimp being

based upon rascality and carried out as such, there was a perfect under-standing between the skipper and shipper that all their transactions shipper that all their transactions would be accompanied by cheatery violence, of custom and necess-Ward was, of all men, void of eamishness in matters of business, and that he would over-reach a captain every time was simply under-stood by both. It is said, though the story may not be true, that a departing ship being in sore need of a sailor, he came alongside during the night with the corpse of an inmate, who had imbibed of his firewater too unwisely, and who being hoisted to the deck as a simple drunk, was in the morning discovered to have cros-sed over a darker river than that which laved the ship, hours before. The truth of this transaction is

doubtful, but that he enticed the tramps, who in his day infested the city, into his lair, and filling them to insensibility with whiskey, tricked them out in sea garb, and shipped them as mariners, is beyond dispute. How the mate and the respectable members of the crew treated the betrayed hobos during the voyage is not recorded, and may be safely left

not recorded, and may be safely left to the imagination.

But while Ward enjoyed a world-wide reputation as a leader in the realms of the crimps, he had his rivals, men of no mean ability; and of these Thomas O'Leary came prominently to the front. He did not possess that plausibility which distinguished Jim Ward, but he was made of sterner stuff and more despotic in his actions. his actions.

his actions.

For pure, undiluted cruelty, his name stands out, unsurpassed, in the annals of those revolting deeds, which made the Quebec crimp known in every shipping north. ery shipping port.

The Oldest Couple in England.

The distinction of being the oldest wedded pair in England is enjoyed by Mr. and Mrs. Baxter, who live in the old world village of Laughton-en-le-Morthern, in the West Riding of



MR. AND MRS. BAXTER. Yorkshire. Mr. Baxter is 96 years of age, and Mrs. Baxter two years older. They have been married 75 years and have occupied the cottage they now reside in for 65 years. Our sketch of the venerable pair is from a photograph by C. F. Shaw, Batley, Yorks, says Lloyd's Weekly News-

Pepulation of China.

During the European difficulties with China no little divergence of opinion was expressed as to the population of that great Asiatic Empire. A new census of China has just been completed, and the returns indicate that the population has been rather underestimated than overcalculated. At least, it shows the enormous total population of 426,447,the friend of sailors the truth leaked out that, apart from the ruffianly manner with which, as years went on, he was accustomed to treat his captives, he was moreover guilty of a double game, and one more abhorent to the sailor than the blows and kicks of the crimp and his runners—and this was the way of it.

By the laws of shipping a seaman signing an agreement to make the round trip was entitled to be paid off in full on the return of the vessel to England only. By desertion in Canadian waters he not only for feited his rights to the wages agreed theon for the run home, but empowered the master of the ship he had abandoned to seize his pay in the hands of the owners of any ship upon

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The Mind of the Modern Actor. The mind of the modern actor—we speak, of course, of the many, not of all-lies in his dancing legs, his side splitting grimaces, his "business," his exaggerations of peculiar lives of today. The mind thus devoted to the lighter tasks of jocularity, skipping also from one author's jokes to those of another on a moment's notice, as its ossessor skips from town to town and from stage to stage, is not a mind that can suddenly turn to the contemplation and the study of Shakespeare with any hope that the lines of the poet will get the better of the encounter. The actor who is to play Shakespeare acceptably unust not trivol away his intellectual dignity. One cannot sing "Mary Had a Little Lamb" with all the enthusiasm of his soul for 300 nights and hope to be equal to the Magnificat or a Te Deum or Siegfried's Rhine journey on the three hundred and first night. The tasks to which the modern English and American manager puts the English and American actor have destroyed the old school of Shakespeare actors. Now, we are not saying that

the theater has not naturally become what it is.—Harper's Weekly. "The making of sleigh bells is quite an art," says an iron founder. "The little iron ball is too big to be put in through the holes in the bell, and yet it is inside. How did it get there? The little iron ball is called 'the jinglet.' When you shake the sleigh bell it jingles. In making the bell the jinglet is put inside a little ball of mud, just the shape of the inside of the bell. Then a mold is made, just the shape of the outside of the bell. This mud ball with the jinglet inside is placed in the mold

this is not for the best; that in the processes of the evolution of the arts

in, which fills up the space between the ball and the mold.
"When the mold is taken off, you see a sleigh bell, but it will not ring, as it is full of dirt. The hot metal that the bell is made of dries the dirt, so that it can be shaken out. After the dir: is all shaken out of the holes in the bell the little iron jinglet will still be in the bell and will ring. It took a good many years to think out how to make a sleigh bell."

of the outside, and the metal is poured

ALMOST AFRAID TO GO TO SLEEP FOR FEAR SHE WOULD NOT WAKE UP.

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THE KING: GUD BLESS HIM me Thoughts About Mis Majosty Which the Celebration of Mis Sixty-second Birthday Gave Rise To.

Ex-Attache, writing in The Chic Ex-Attache, writing in The Chicago Tribune and referring to the fact that Monday was the sixty-second anniversary of the birthday of King Edward, says: King Edward may be said to have two birthdays, a prerogative peculiar to British sovereigns, which was initiated by the late Queen Victoria. The actual date of her birth was May 24. But in order to suit her own convenience, as well for birth was May 24. But in order to suit her own convenience, as well is that of Parliament, of the Government administration, of the business world, and her subjects in general, she was wont to give orders that it should be celebrated on the Saturday nearest to May 24. King I'dward, whose birthday comes in November, when the town is deserted, and not merely Ministers, but ded, and not merely Ministers, but likewise Legislators and all the great world dispersed among the various country houses and shooting boxes, causes the official celebration thereof to take place at the end of May, or the beginning of June, designating each year a day for the purpose, which is signalized by state quets, illuminations, and military solays. But in spite of this the cople at large continue to regard ov. 9 as the King's real birthday Nov. 9 as the King's real birthday and observe it as a public holiday, while his own relatives and immediate family likewise look upon it as such and reserve their congratulations and their gifts for Nov. 9. It is merely fortuitous that the so-called Lord, Mayor's day, on which not only the Lord Mayor of Lendon, but the chief magistrates of nearly all the cities and towns of

arly all the cities and towns of e United Kingdom, are inaugurat-and enter upon their duties of lice, should coincide with Edward It's birthday on Monday. Former-Mayors were installed on Oct. 29, he day after the feast of St. Simon and St. Jude. But this date was hanged more than 150 years ago to Nov. 9, so that the fact of its fallon the birthday of the King

while King Edward is a grey bearded, grey-haired man of 62, he has been less than three years on the throne, a fact which it seems difficult to realize. Without in any way offenting the preserved its reaches. affronting the memory of his mother whose occupancy of the throne for a period of more than sixty years had created an impression that she was indispensible and that it was impossible to conceive the British Empire without its sceptre in her hand, King Edward has effected many admirable changes and introduced many reforms not only at his court, but likewise in connection with the domestic and foreign policy of his Government. That he takes a far larger share in the latter than did his mother can-

not for one moment be denied. He gives it a much more personal note, impresses it with his views and his wishes, and with all that leaves even his closest friends in the dark as to his preferences for either of the great Parliamentary parties, differing in this respect from Queen Victoria, particularly in the latter part of her reign, found herself unable to conal her predilection for the Conser

vatives and for the Unionists.

He allows no appointment of any importance to be made without his approval, is known to have delayed Arthur Balfour's reconstruction of the Cabinet until he had satisfied himself as to the fitness of the men nominated for office, has reminded the public that the choice not merely of the Ministers, but likewise of the Premier rests not with the victorious party in Parliament, but with the Crown, and he ing taken in hand far more actively than his predecessor the control of the foreign relations of the Empire, which is the constitutional prerogative of the pproval, is known to have delayed onstitutional prerogative of constitutional prerogative of the sovereign, has vastly improved England's prestive abroad, as well as the friendly regard in which she is held by the other great powers.

With all that the King has not violated either in the letter or either in the sprit the restrictions and the limitations placed upon the authority of the Crown by the most ancient of

of the Crown by the most ancient of all existing Parliaments. He has merely resumed some of the prerogatives of the Crown, which his predecessors on the throne had failed to use, and has accomplished this with so much tact and sagacity. so much tact and sagactors on much tact and sagactors as with such excellent results, that his people, far from resenting the course which he has adopted, have course which he has adopted, have

Oneen Victoria's Papers.

The official biographer of Queen Victoria has not yet been selected, although R. R. Holmes, the librarian at Windsor Castle, wrote an authori.ed life some years ago, and she edited the manuscript herself, striking edited the manuscript herself, striking out what Mr. Holmes says were the most interesting parts. Queen Victoria's papers, covering her reign of sixty-three years, which are very voluminous and contain a mine of historical material, have been placed in the Royal archives with her autographs—perhaps the most valuable collection in the world. The late Queen was very fond of collecting autographs and fine books, although she never went at either systematically, and her collection is more incidental than otherwise. She was careful about keeping letters that were ful about keeping letters that were written to her, and among her pre-served correspondence are personal letters from nearly every sovereign and from many of the famous church-men and statesmen who have occu-pied the world's attention during the nineteenth century.

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