The Captain of a Steamship Indulges in Reminiscence.

We were steaming through the Indian Ocean, enduring as best we could the suffocating heat that prevailed through the day and long into the night. One afternoon was standing by the binnacle watching the compass when I observed that the vessel's course changed about four points in as many minutes. My curiosity was roused to know the cause of the change, and as the captain was just then descending from the bridge, I asked the reason of the sudden divergence.

"Don't say anything about it to the rest of the passengers," he answered, "but just come to the bridge with me."

I accompanied him, and when we reached that point of observation he directed my attention to a series of dark clouds in the direction whence we had turned. The nearest of them was not more than four or five miles away; it was a tall pillar of cloud extending from the sea to the sky, and as I looked at it with a glass it was easy to observe that the sea at the end of the pillar was violently agitated. All around was a calm; there was hardly a breath of air stirring, so that the appearance of the sea at the base of the pillar of cloud was rendered more noticeable than if a storm had been raging, or even a strong wind blowing.

"A waterspout!" I exclaimed, as my eye took in the scene. "There's no mistaking that."

"No," answered the captain, "and there's more of them to keep that big fellow company. We want to steer clear of 'em and that's why I've changed our course."

Then I asked the captain as to his theory of waterspouts and their origin.

"I've had a good many theories," he replied, "but some of 'em have been knocked in the head and I'm not altogether sure about the rest. One thing I'm pretty certain of, though, and that is that the waterspout at sea is just the same as the whirlwind on land. There is a whirling wind, perhaps there are two winds blowing in opposite or nearly opposite directions coming together, and these make up the whirls and eddies that raise clouds of dust on land and sometimes do a vast deal of dam-A waterspout is caused by a whirlwind, and that's why the sea at the base of that pillar of cloud is agitated as you see

"There is a popular belief," he continued, "that the sea is sucked up by the cloud and great masses of it go hundreds of feet into the air. I used to believe so, and my belief was confirmed by the stories of sailors, who declared that large fishes had dropped from the clouds, where they had been carried by the waterspouts. They had seen them with their own eyes, and one sailor that I knew told me of being on a whale-ship, which was close to a waterspout, when a whale dropped from the clouds into the ocean. The creature was so stunned and astonished that he lay motionless on the water after he struck. They yielded eighty-nine barrels of oil.'

"What led you to doubt the truth of the story that the sea is sucked up by the waterspout?" I asked.

"My own observations," he answered, "added to what I learned from scientific works on the subject, The water that falls from the sky, or from the cloud at the top of a waterspout, is always fresh which would not be the case if the sea was drawn upon in the way the sailors describe.

"The whale that was taken up, according to the story of my old friend, could not live in fresh water, neither could the other fishes that they tell about. A little of the spray from the broken waves may be taken us. up and that is all."

Then I asked the captain about his experiences with waterspouts, and after a pause of a few moments he narrated the following:

been becalmed with waterspouts all around us, and sometimes you'll see them coming directly towards you and there's no chance of getting out of the way such as you have in a steamer. The old idea of getting rid of a waterspout was to fire a cannon at it and break it, but this isn't much thought of at present, though I suppose it is done now and then. It takes a skilful gunner to send a shot through the centre of a waterspout, and it's just possible that the thing breaks up of its own notion, without any regard to the shooting at it. The idea is that if anything touches the spout it breaks up and a deluge of water comes down. For that reason a ship that is touched by one is appointed. in danger of being swamped by the downyour of water, which is the same as a cloudburst on land.

"Several times in my life I have been dangerously near to fellows like those we're looking at, and once I was swamped by one of them. That's the fellow I'll tell you

"I was going from London to Calcutta in the ship Marguerite and she was as good a the Cape of Good Hope and were stretching away into the Indian Ocean; at the time we turned it we were in company with the Lucknow, also from London to Calcutta and somehow we kept in company from that time on. A week or so after we'd left the Cape out of sight we were becalmed one | sink according to circumstances. day, and what's more we had waterspouts free from them.

"They approached us and then drew away and approached again, their movesoon another would form and take its place, and so it went on for three or four hours. Then one formed perhaps half a mile away ite and all on board.

the enemy and the first mate (I was third | penny. certainly he didn't break the waterspout. | Marguerite, and it was arranged that she

was plenty of wind in the waterspout, but it wasn't any wind to sail with, as it was very much of a whirler and didn't extend

"We could hear the roar of the wind that formed the waterspout, and now and then a puff of it would reach us. The sky away our jury masts and leave us helpless. was overspread with dark clouds, lightning But we managed to hold on, and in due flashed and thunder rolled, the sunlight time overtook the Lucknow and were all was shut out and it seemed almost as though night had fallen and we were in the gathering gloom of twilight. So dark was it practically the same sort of thing and that that we lost sight of the Lucknow, which down | they blow in circles. When a captain finds to that time had been distinctly visible; the clouds came so low that they narrowed our horizon very much, or, rather, I should from the centre, where the wind is greatest say, they shut out the horizon altogether. The waterspout as it neared us was no long- angles to the wind. In the Southern hemier a pillar like the one we were just now sphere the course of rotation is like that of looking at. The cloud came so near the the hands of a watch, from left to right, but them, especially as the water, which was direction." set in motion by the violent whirlwind, seemed to be rising up in waves and points You Can Never Tell Where a Woman Will of spray to meet the cloud.

"The lightning and thunder was terrible, the lightning coming in vivid flashes, almost instantly followed by deafening crashes that made most of the old sailors and all the young ones look pale. Then the roar of the whirlwind made a sound that was anything but pleasant, and it seemed as though a volcano had broken out in the ocean and was just coming to the surface. Several of us thought we could smell the fumes of sulphur. I'm sure I did, but you know that is often the case during thunder storms.

The first effect we had of the waterspout | inal." was when we got into the whirling waters at its base. There the wind took us and turned us this way and that, bellying out the sails first one way and then the other, and in a little while tearing them to rib- you." bons. It didn't serve all our sails that way, as the captain had ordered most of them furled when the spouts began forming around us, but such of them as were spread didn't last long. Our masts reached up into the low cloud above us, and as we rolled and tossed about like a cork on the water it seemed to me that the topmasts would punch and tear great holes in the cloud and let the water down in a deluge.

" Perhaps this is what actually happened and perhaps not. At all events it wasn't long before the water came upon us, not in a shower of rain either light or heavy, but in actual masses, or in rain that was so heavy it seemed to be a mass. Every man was obliged to cling to something to enable heaviest rain I ever saw anywhere else was the merest sprinkle compared to it. All the hatches had to be fastened so that the water could not get below; it came so fast that the scuppers could not carry it off, and with the tossing of the ship it washed from side to side as though the sea had been breaking over us.

"The wind and the tossing of the waves, clouds was warmand so was the sea, so that our dressed him: wetting did not have the effect to chill and benumb us. But our predicament was a is a heap of manure and a cart, what do you terrible one, as you may well believe. There | call them in Latin?" we were in such a storm as I've told you about, with the lightning playing and the Joseph. thunder crashing about us, the ship overturned in the water and with the prospect swallowed us out of sight. We gave our- I'll break your lazy backabus." selves up for lost and some of the men relaxed their hold on the rigging and disappeared in the whirl of the elements about

"With the breaking of the cloud, however, the storm seemed to have spent its force, or rather there was less violence of wind and waves after the downpour of water than before it. The motion of the "I haven't much fear of a waterspout as waters began to subside, and in less than long as I'm in a steamer,' he replied, "but half an hour after the overturning of the in a sailing ship the case is different. I've | ship the sea was comparatively calm. The pall that hung over us lighted little by little; after a time the sun appeared through the clouds and we found our spirits rapidly rising with the hope that we might be saved from our expected grave in the depths of the Indian Ocean. Out of our total of thirty-one officers and crew five were missing, and though we looked carefully about us, no trace could be seen of any of the m.

"One of our boats was tangled up with the rigging, and we set about getting it free. We felt sure that if the Lucknow had escaped injury she would notice the disappearance of the Marguerite and cruise about in search of us, and in this we were not dis-

"With a good deal of work we got the boat loose and floating free. The mate went into the boat, accompanied by some of the sailors, and held up a long staff with the Union jack floating from its top. Very soon we saw the Lucknow in about the same position as when the clouds hid ber from view, and we also saw that a breeze had sprung up and her sails were filled. And what was more, she was coming directly ship as ever sailed the sea. We had turned | towards us; inside of half an hour she signalled that she saw our flag of distress, and then we knew that we were safe. She came up quite near and hove to and sent out her boats to pick up the men."

I remarked that I supposed they abandoned the Marguerite and left her to float or

"That's what I supposed we would do," all around us. The Lucknow was perhaps he replied, "but we didn't. The two caphalf a dozen miles from us and her sails were | tains held a consultation, and it was agreed flapping just like ours; she didn't appear to to try and get her to port. The Lucknow be in as much danger from the waterspouts was to stand by us till we reached land, as we were, though she was by no means and captain and crew were to have a good salvage for their services. We cut away the masts so as to fetch the ship on an even keel, and when we had done so we found ments being caused, I suppose, by the winds | that she had taken in very little water. that created them. Every little while we She was splendidly built and had not could see one of them break up, but very sprung a leak, all the water that entered having gone in while she lay on her side. Then we rigged jury-masts on her and fitted sails to them and in this way we managed from us and slowly came down as if with to get her in time to the mouth of the the intention of swallowing up the Marguer- Hoogly and safely up to Calcutta. She had a valuable cargo, so that the salvage for "The captain ordered a cannon fired at the Lucknow amounted to a handsome

officer) aimed and discharged the piece. It | "We came near having another adventure may not be the proper thing to criticise my | with the winds and waves before we got to superior, but I don't believe, between you port," the captain continued. "We were and me, that he hit the mark at all, al- on the edge of a cyclone and changed our though it was quite large enough to hit course to get out of it. The Lucknow with-ease. He fired two or three times, but | could sail more than twice as fast as the

"On it came and it took its own time for should make the best of her way till she it, as though it wasn't in any hurry. How was out of the region swept by the cyclone we hoped and wished for a wind that we and then wait for us to come up. If we might get out of the box we were in, but no failed to appear she would return on her wind came to us. We could see that there track when the cyclone had passed and make a careful search for us. The captain decided that such would be the better course than for both to remain within the sweep of the storm.

midual), should you healthead, should allowed a school

"We had a narrow escape, as the wind at times was so strong as to threaten to carry right. Perhaps you don't know," he added, "that cyclones, typhoons and hurricanes are himself in one of them and has plenty of sea room he tries to get as far as possible and to do this he turns and runs at right water that no pillar was necessary to unite | in the northern hemisphere it is in the other

Strike Next.

"Have you that dollar locket with you; as he looked at the vacant house. the one with my picture in it?" asked on her lover's shoulder.

"Why, of course: I am never without it," he replied, as he drew the talisman from his pocket and opened it. What a horrid picture of me. It looks

worse every time I see it. I must get you a better one." "Oh, it isn't so bad, if you make allowance for its not being so pretty as the orig-

"You dear boy! You shall have a better one after that pretty speech. Oh, I think that locket is the cutest thing ! You could never tell it from a real dollar, could

"No," replied Charlie, with a little chuckle: "none of the boys can. It's been a regular mascot to me. I've had no end of luck since I've carried that coin." "What kind of luck?"

"Oh, I use it to match with, and I never There's something positively uncanny about it. Why, I believe I've stuck Jim Hickey for the drinks nearly ten times

"For the what?" asked Mabel, with a little catch in her voice. "For the drinks, my dear, and Jim isn't

onto the racket, at all.' "I should think not?" cried the indignant girl. "Who would suspect such a horrid thing? And you pretending to love him to stand against the downpour; the me, too! Use my picture to match for the drinks, will you? Give it back to me di rectly, sir, and consider our engagement at

And then Charlie realized that you can never tell where a woman is going to strike

A Latin Student.

A farmer, whose son had for a long time not to mention the downpour of water, been ostensibly studying Latin in a popular threw the ship on her beam ends. The academy, not being satisfied with the got out the boats and secured him, and he captain had foreseen this and warned every course and the conduct of the young hopeman to cling fast, and it was well that he | ful, recalled him from school and placing did so. Fortunately the water from the him by the side of a cart one day, thus ad-

"Now, Joseph, here is a fork and there

"Forkibus, cartibus, et manuribus," said

"Well, now," said the old man, "if you don't take that forkibus pretty quickibus of being whirled about till the waves had and pitch that manuribus into the cartibus

Joseph went to workibus forthwithabus.



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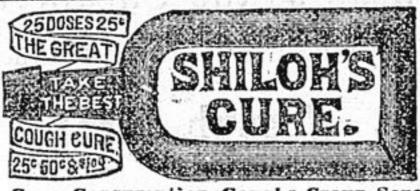
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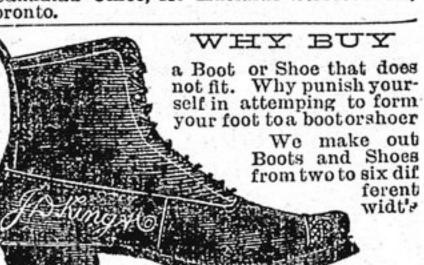
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