

A SHIP'S GRAVEYARD.

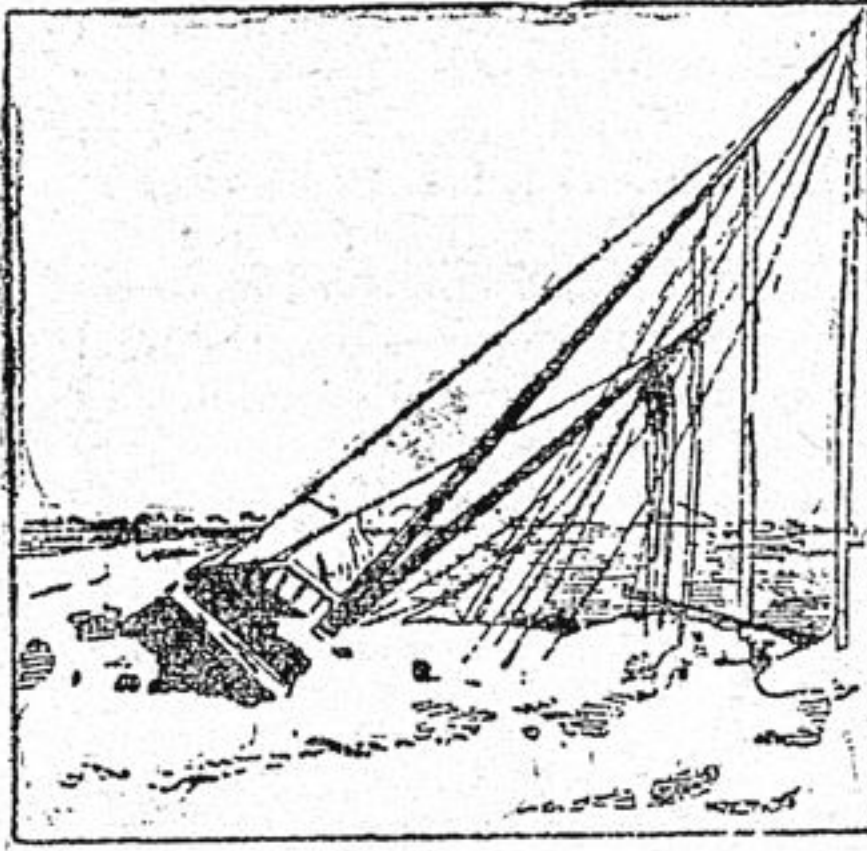
The Last of the Swedish Arctic Expedition.

Where Bjorling and His Companions Met Their Fate—Interesting Documents Discovered in a Cairn on Carey Island.

On the 17th of June, 1893, Captain McKay, of the SS. "Aurora," visited Carey Island for the purpose of finding traces, or tidings, of the Swedish party. On approaching the island Captain McKay (who was in the crew's nest) discovered a small schooner lying ashore. He despatched search parties to the island. The schooner (a small "fore and after") was found partially buried in the ice. She was lying heeled over very much to the starboard, and with her stern landward. Some manuscript notes on natural history—portions of scientific books, etc.—were picked up, and subsequently brought on board the "Aurora," and delivered to Captain McKay. The dead body of a man some 32 or 33 years of age, was found a short distance off, on a stony, elevated region behind the vessel. The dead man was carefully covered over with stones, but no mark or inscription was observed. The stones were not removed from the body while I was present, but there were indications that the deceased was clothed. A stone was stuck up at his head by visitors from the "Aurora" and a red handkerchief was tied to it to serve as a guide to subsequent visitors. In the meantime papers had been discovered at the cairn and these, together with the articles previously mentioned as having been picked up at the vessel, were duly delivered to Captain McKay in accordance with the wish expressed in Mr. Bjorling's letter addressed, "To the visitors of S. E. Carey Island, 1893." Captain McKay steered for Clarence Head with the intention of trying to learn something further regarding the fate of the party. But on the 10th of June, when within about thirty miles of Clarence Head, ice was encountered, which rendered a close approach to the land impossible, and Captain McKay, was, to his great regret, compelled to turn back.

THE RECOVERED DOCUMENTS.

The following notes have been copied from visiting cards bearing the name J. A. Bjorling, Fil Stud, Stockholm. These cards and a letter were found in the cairn on Carey Island.



WHERE THEY FOUND THEIR ARCTIC GRAVE.

Written in ink: "Visited S. E. Carey Island, 16th August, 1892. I left Godhavn on the second in this month, and sailed along the ice in Baffin Bay to the thirteenth, when I, on only one day, sailed over Melville Bay to Cape York. An easterly hurricane near that place drove me to the west, and I was at noon near Cap Parry, from which point I sailed over to Carey Islands in order to supply me with some provisions from the English station."

Another written in pencil:—"17-S. After having taken on board the provisions from Nares' depot, the schooner "Ripple" went on shore on the South side of the island, where you will find us in a small tent. A new report will be left here before we leave the island, 17th August, 1892."

The third card written in pencil:—"After having lost the ship, thus obliged to winter over, I left this island on the 26th of August for Foulke Fjord. If I thence should be compelled to go to another place, further notice will be laid down in cairn at Pandora Harbor. Together with the provisions from Nares' depot here, I hope to have food enough to help me and my four companions until June month, 1893."

BJORLING'S LAST MESSAGE.

The following is a copy of the letter: "To the Visitors of S. E. Carey Island, 1893. As you of my notices here, I have after the loss of my vessel tried to reach Foulke Fjord in order to winter over there; but after reaching Northumberland Island I must of several causes give up this voyage and return to Cary Island."

"Compelled by bad weather to be a longer time on this island, I start now for the Eskimo at Clarence Head or Cap Faraday on Ellesmere Land. As I hope that a whaler will visit Cary Islands next summer in order to rescue me and my party, I will attempt to reach this island before the 1st of July. Should none be here to the 15th of July, I must if possible, go to the Danish settlements, therefore, if you visited this island later than 1st of July, and found no notice from me concerning my voyage to the Danish settlements I should be very much obliged if you would go to Clarence Head (fifty miles herefrom), where I, in a cairn on the most eastern point, shall leave a notice concerning my and my party's fates during the winter. At last I will beg you to send all notices from me to Professor Baron A. E. Nordenskiold, Stockholm, Sweden, or to the nearest Swedish consul, with statement of time and place where they were found. Our provisions will, if I cannot reach the Esquimos, not last longer than to the 1st of January, without supplying from any depot. Party now consisting of five men, of which one is dying.—S. E. Carey Island, 12th of October, 1892. (Signed,) J. A. BJORLING, Swedish Naturalist."

An Hotel Incident.

Any letters for me to-day?" asked the professional chair-boarder as he briskly walked up to the desk at the Rossin house, Toronto.

"What is your room, sir?" returned the clerk without raising his head.

"The reading room," replied the professional chair-boarder, with asperity, as he moved towards the fire. But he still patronizes the house.

THE FROZEN NORTH.

Where Explorer Nansen is Wintering—The Latest News From the Traveller.

A London despatch says:—The interesting question as to where Nansen is wintering is most probably answered by the following important communication just at hand. It may be remembered that he intended to winter in the New Siberian islands, north of Cape Tsjeljuskin, the northernmost promontory of Asia. The arctic skipper, Hans Johannessen, of Hammerfest, Norway, who, in 1878-9, simultaneously with the Vega's voyage round Asia, commanded the steamer Lena to the Lena river, and who remained in East Siberia several years, states in an interview that old Yakutsk told him that from the highest parts of the northern shores of the New Siberian islands, which they had frequently visited in order to collect mammoth tusks, they could in fine weather distinctly discern a lofty land to the northwest. The distance is estimated by the Norwegian skipper, from the statements of these natives, at about fifteen nautical miles. From this lofty land, too, Johannessen hailed a large iceberg, which in 1878 was seen ashore east of Cape Tsjeljuskin, a berg which could not have had its origin from any part of the coast between the northernmost cape of Asia and Behring strait, nor could it have come from the low New Siberian islands. Johannessen was surprised that there were currents which could have carried the berg south, but this was also almost the only real iceberg seen along the coast of north Asia in 1878. Should, therefore, Nansen, he considers, not steer too close to the coast, it is probable that he might discern this lofty, unknown land from the masthead if the weather was clear. And should the state of the ice be at all favourable there can be no doubt but that he would attempt to reach it this year and take up his winter quarters at this unnamed polar terra nova.

FLEET-FOOTED ZEBRAS.

Their Dash of Speed When Alarmed by the Whiz of a Rifle Ball.

The rapidity with which the different zebras have been exterminated, owing to the advance of civilization in South Africa, is shown by reference to such works as that of Sir Cornwallis Harris, written in 1840, in which the author tells us that the quagga was at the time found in "interminable herds," bands of many hundreds being frequently seen, while he describes Burchell's zebra as congregating in herds of eighty or one hundred, and abounding to a great extent; but now, after the expiration of but fifty years, the one species is extinct or practically so, while the other has been driven much farther afield and its numbers are yearly being reduced.

This author's description of the common zebra is well worth repeating. He says: "Seeking the wildest and most sequestered spots, haughty troops are exceedingly difficult to approach, as well on account of their extreme agility and fleetness of foot as from the abrupt and inaccessible nature of their highland abode."

"Under the special charge of a sentinel, so posted on some adjacent crag as to command a view of every avenue of approach, the checkered herd whom 'painted skins adorn' is to be viewed perambulating some rocky ledge, on which the rifle ball alone can reach them."

"No sooner has the note of alarm been sounded by the vidette than, pricking their long ears, the whole flock hurry forward to ascertain the nature of the approaching danger, and, having gazed a moment at the advancing hunter, whisking their brindled tails aloft, helter-skelter away they thunder, down craggy precipices and over yawning ravines, where no less agile food could dare to follow them."

Of Burchell's zebra he says: "Fierce, strong, fleet, and surpassingly beautiful, there is perhaps no quadruped in the creation, not even excepting the mountain zebra, more splendidly attired or presenting a picture of more singularly attractive beauty." Zebras are by no means amiable animals, and though many of the stories told of their ferocity are doubtless much exaggerated, they have so far not proved themselves amenable to domestication.

Not his Fault.

"This is the third time you have soiled your waistcoat and torn your trousers, Osgoodson," said his mother, putting him across her knee, "and I shall have to punish you."

"I protest against such treatment," responded the juvenile Bostonian with as much dignity as he could demand under the circumstances. "The abnormal—"

Whack!

"Development of the organs of—"

Whack!

"Destitutiveness does not arise, as you can ascertain by—"

Whack!

Consulting the authorities, from a deliberate purpose to—"

Whack!

"Do evil, but solely from—"

Whack! Whack!

"Hereditry. Ouch! Murder! Great Scott! Stop, darn it, stop! That's enough!"

St. Anthony on a Queen Street Car.

The conductor said there was room for a few more inside.

At the Yonge street corner, when the car turned west, the customary contingent of shoppers got on board and there was an uncomfortable jam.

But the little man, like St. Anthony of old, kept his eyes on his paper. He also kept his seat.

"Pardon me, madam," said a polite man hanging on to a strap to a lady standing beside him with an armful of parcels, "you are standing on my foot."

"I'm so sorry," said she, "I thought it belonged to the man sitting down."

And then the little man's eyes were lifted from his paper, but it was not after the fashion of the good saint that he weakened. She got the seat, however.—[Toronto Empire.

A Petrifying River.

The Tinto river, in Spain, possesses remarkable qualities. Its waters are yellow as the topaz, harden the sand, and petrify it in a most surprising manner. If a stone fall into the river and rest upon another they both become perfectly united and conglutinated in a year. No fish live in its stream.

OOST AND WASTE OF WAR.

Some Surprising Figures.

The total number of men in the world's navies is 237,000.

In the last 200 years France has spent £992,000,000 in war.

The engines of a first-class steel man-of-war cost nearly \$700,000.

In the British navy the annual cost of maintaining a man is £211.

The average cost of maintaining a man in the American navy is \$1500.

Even little Belgium spends every year 46,000,000 francs on her army.

At Bannockburn 135,000 men fought and 38,000 were killed or wounded.

In less than 300 years Great Britain alone has spent £1,359,000,000 in war.

The peace footing of the Russian army calls for the services of 170,000 horses.

The annual cost of the British army is £17,000,000; of the navy, £14,000,000.

Marengo called 58,000 men into action of whom 13,000 were killed or crippled.

The Spanish army costs 142,000,000 pesetas a year. Twenty-five pesetas equal \$5.

The French army costs every year 675,000,000 francs; the navy 209,000,000.

The U. S. army in 1892 cost \$46,895,456; the navy in the same year \$29,174,139.

At Gravelotte 320,000 men were engaged of whom 48,000 were killed or wounded.

The army of Bolivia costs the people of that impoverished country \$1,800,000 a year.

At Ansterlitz 170,000 were engaged, and the dead and wounded numbered 23,000.

During the retreat from Moscow the French lost or threw away over 600,000 muskets.

Austria spends every year 15,000,000 florins on the army. Twelve florins equal \$5.

The annual army expenditure of Greece is 18,000,000 drachmi. A drachma is about 20 cents.

Italy spends every year 14,000,000 lire on her army and navy. Twenty-five lire equal \$5.

Down to the year 1876 Krupp had delivered to various nations over 15,000 cannon.

There were 402,000 men on the field of Sadowa, of whom 33,000 were killed or disabled.

At Borodino 250,000 French and Russian fought, and the dead and wounded numbered 78,000.

The estimated cost to both sides of the great American civil war was \$6,500,000,000.

The spring and autumn maneuvers of the European armies cost annually over \$10,000,000.

It is estimated that the world's cannon has cost the world's taxpayers a little over \$40,000,000.

At Waterloo there was 145,000 men on both sides, of whom 51,000 were killed or disabled.

The army and navy of the Argentine Confederation are kept up at an annual cost of \$13,000,000.

The wars of the last seventy years have cost Russia \$335,000,000 and the lives of 664,000 men.

After the surrender of the Turks at Plevna the Russians took possession of \$17,000,000 worth of arms.

Denmark spends every year 16,000,000 kroner on her army and navy. A krone is a little over 25c.

The destruction of stores and clothing by both armies during the civil war in the U. S. is estimated at \$100,000,000.

It is estimated that since the Christian era began over 4,000,000,000 human beings have perished in war.

In time of war France puts 370 out of every 1000 of her population in the field; Germany, 310, Russia, 210.

During the last few months of the American civil war the expenses of the government exceeded \$3,000,000 a day.

The average cost of building an English ironclad is £48 per ton; French, £55; Italian, £57; German, £60.

After the siege of Sebastopol three-fourths of the cannon used by the besiegers were condemned as useless.

The principal nations of the world have 2201 war ships, mounting 8383 guns, mostly of very heavy caliber.

The list of the world's battles comprises 1527 regular engagements whose names are given as worthy of record.

During the Mexican war the United States, put 90,100 men in the field of whom 7780 died of wounds or disease.

At Gettysburg 140,000 men fought on the Union and Confederate sides, of whom 8000 were placed hors du combat.

Germany spends every year on the imperial army 413,000,000 marks; on the navy 42,000,000. A mark is about 25c.

The wars of the ninety years down to 1880 caused a war expenditure of \$15,235,000,000 and the loss of 4,470,000 lives.

The burning of Moscow by the Russians in order to drive out the French caused an estimated loss of over \$12,000,000.

The revolution cost the people of the States \$135,193,703. The war of 1812 with Great Britain cost \$107,159,003.

The Republic of Brazil spent last year on the army 33,000,000 milreis; on the navy, 15,000,000. A milreis is about 55c.

Little Switzerland has an enormous army in proportion to population. The population is 2,900,000; the standing army 126,000.

Over 1,000,000 French women were made widows and 3,000,000 French children were made fatherless by Napoleon's campaigns.

The cost of an Armstrong steel gun is estimated at \$500 for each ton of weight; of a Krupp gun, \$900; of a Whitworth gun, \$925.

At the battle on the Thrasymene, where Hannibal defeated the Romans, there were 65,000 men engaged, of whom 17,000 were killed.

With the exception of Belgium, whose debt has been incurred for internal improvements, every European national debt is in great part a war debt.

The number of men withdrawn from industry to take part in the U. S. civil war on the Union side was 2,772,408; the Confederates enlisted over 600,000.

The cost of the American navy during the years of the civil war was—for 1862, \$42,000,000; 1863, \$63,000,000; 1864, \$85,000,000; 1865, \$122,000,000.

At Cannae, where the Romans sustained the worst defeat they ever experienced, there were 146,000 men on the field, of whom 52,000 were killed.

Russia spends 235,000,000 roubles a year on the army and 40,000,000 on the navy. A silver rouble is worth nearly 75c., a paper rouble about 50c.

The reports after the battle of Waterloo showed that the British artillery fired 9467 rounds; about one for every French soldier killed on the field.

The barracks built for European soldiers are generally far better than the houses of the peasantry. Chelsea barracks, in England, cost £245 per man.

The expense of the American War Department in 1862 was \$394,000,000; in 1863 was \$599,000,000; in 1864 was \$690,000,000; in 1865 was \$1,031,000,000.

Great Britain has 5789 cannon; France, 7694; Germany, 5380; Russia, 4424; Austria, 2170; Turkey, 3762; the United States, 4155; the world has 41,073.

In times of war the armies of the European nations can be raised to 9,366,000 men, and the daily expense will be nearly \$20,000,000, to say nothing of the destruction of life and property.

THE DEADLY FOLDING-BED.

Within the past few weeks the folding-bed has achieved a most unpleasant notoriety, and the catalogue of accidents due to its irrepressible internal contortions seems almost to justify the suspicion that a carnival of folding-bed calamities has set in. Either by reason of an outbreak of the innate depravity of this mechanical mahogany hybrid itself, or because the aesthetic daimon wishes to teach us to go back to the decent and invertebrate bedstead, we appear to be at the mercy of an automatic impulse toward the wardrobe state which threatens those who confide themselves to the treacherous engine with suffocation, if not concussion of the spine, whereas nightmare was really the worst that was to have been anticipated.

There is something peculiarly shocking in such behavior on the part of a bed. Bed has been the friend of man since time immemorial, and not only does it speak to us of rest, sleep, freedom from care, and the peaceful home, but it is most intimately connected with the great drama of birth, life, and death. The very differentiation of civilized man is that he dies in bed. That bed should kill him is an atrocious turning of the slats. A man might as well die with his boots on as be telescoped in a folding-bed collision—the fact that he is in his night-gown is no consolation to those who might separate his outraged remains from the spring mattress.

It is this iniquity in the folding-bed accident that encourages the surmise of a latent devilry in the machine. The addition of the principle of the lever to a piece of furniture which our ancestors rightly constructed on simple, enduring, and reposeful lines—to which they gave the stern solidity of a night's slumber and the airy height of a fair lady's dreams—might have been expected to develop in it a taste for impish nocturnal salutations. The medieval bed, with its massive columns and spreading canopies, was built to be proof against witchcraft. But this modern bed, with its stomach-full of springs and chains, would have been banned by the Church in older days, and no one would have looked to be safe in it at midnight even had it been riveted to the floor.

The worst thing that can be said against the folding-bed, however, is that it is in bad taste. It is not wholly a modern invention, to be sure, as it had its predecessor in the famous "bed by night and chest of drawers by day." And in so far as it is designed to economize space it is pardonable. But, like so many another invention of ours, it cannot rest satisfied with being a convenience, but must try to pass it off by a cheap assumption of being something else.

The folding-bed chooses to assume to be a wardrobe, and people whose ideas are not nice believe it to be a very refined thing to keep such a vulgar thing as a bed out of sight during the day. Just how much more prudish a wardrobe is than a bed it is difficult to say. Perhaps M. Max O'Rell might calculate the degree. But it is a curious fact that wherever you find a folding-bed you almost always find the corners of the room unswep, so perhaps the recent carnival of calamities is in the nature of a judgment.—[Harper's Weekly.

The Corsican Clan.

The Corsican loves not work, neither is he greedy for gold; but he is ambitious, an eager politician, keenly desirous of place and power, of anything, in short, that may set him above his fellow-men. The word "politician," however, must be understood in a local sense. The questions that agitate the Continent have small concern for him; his politics begin and end with the triumph or aggrandizement of his clan. The chief of a clan has no sinecure. He is expected on all occasions to exert himself for the interests of his clients.

If an adherent wishes for a post, it is the duty of the chief to obtain it for him; if he has incurred some fine or penalty, the chief must use his influence to get it remitted. His clients, in return (as to public matters) will obey his lead implicitly. He may be a republican to-day, he may turn monarchist to-morrow, but it will make no difference in their allegiance, nor will he lose a single follower thereby; it is an understood thing that what he has done he has done for the good of the clan, and as in former times they would have followed him to the battle, so they will follow him to the ballot-box to-day.

This spirit of "clan" first took its rise during centuries of seditious misgovernment. Under the infamous rule of the Genoese, justice was not administered, it was sold. For an isolated individual there was no security either for life or property; he had no chance in the battle of life save by allying himself to some powerful family that could make his interests respected. The more numerous the clan, the more its influence would be felt; therefore the Corsican glories in the number of his cousins as he would in the strength of his right arm.

WHAT THE WORLD EATS.

Some Curious and Interesting Figures About the Producing and Consuming Power of Different Nations.

The world's crop of cinnamon is 16,000 tons.

Over 2000 tons of snails are annually eaten in Paris.

France raises and eats every year 5000 tons of radishes.

Last year the Italians exported 480,000,000 dozens of eggs.

Paris killed last year 11,862 old horses for roasts and soup.

The world's oat crop every year exceeds 15,000,000 tons.

The English eat every year 95,000 tons of American apples.

The restaurants of Paris sold in 1831 18,000 dozen frogs' legs.

The world raises and eats every year 23,000,000 tons of rye.

The average man uses twenty-nine pounds of sugar per annum.

Europeans every year eat 6,470,000 tons of beef, mutton and pork.

There are 50,000,000 bushels of peas annually eaten in this country.

The grocers' journal estimates the world's crop of cloves at 5000 tons.

The French raise and consume every year 350,000 bushels of mussels.

The annual value of the world's coconuts is estimated at \$60,000,000.

One district in New York raises 20,000 pounds of parsley every year.

The world annually makes and eats 1,946,000 tons of butter and cheese.

Last year London consumed with more or less relish 20,000 tons of fruit.

The almond product of the world is estimated to be worth \$5,000,000.

The value of the cinnamon which annually goes into preserves is \$200,000.

The world puts on its victuals every year \$3,000,000 worth of black pepper.

The English use most salt—40 pounds apiece every year; the Americans use 39.

The American breath is annually scented with 15,000,000 bushels of onions.

Over 12,000,000 bushels of buckwheat were last year manufactured into cakes.

Russia raises 1200 pounds of grain and 51 pounds of meat to each inhabitant.

One district in Tennessee exports annually over 10,000 quarts of blackberries.

France and Italy raise 33,000,000 bushels of chestnuts for home use and export.

The world's sugar plantations produce every year 6,000,000 tons of sugar.

Over 600,000 cattle are annually slaughtered to make beef extract for soup.

One county in New Jersey sends to New York ten car loads of lettuce a day.

A German at home eats an average of 68 pounds of beef and pork per annum.

The American sweet tooth is annually satisfied with 20,000 tons of maple sugar.

Paris in 1890 perfumed its breath with 6000 tons of onions and 700 tons of garlic.

In Italy last year 10,000 tons of cheese were devoured, with 16,000 tons of coffee.

Switzerland sends to France every year 26,000 tons of milk and 13,000 of cheese.

One firm of oyster packers at Baltimore claims a capacity of 75,000 cans a day.

The Germans collectively refresh their m selves with 83,000 tons of rice every year.

There are 2,500,000 pounds of red snappers sent from Florida to New York every year.

Canadian hens lay every year 152,000,000 eggs, to be made into omelets and egg-nog.

In France 67 per cent. of the people live on rye bread, only 33 per cent on wheat bread.

The American people last year drank the decoction from 610,000,000 pounds of coffee.

The United States are said to have 140,000,000 geese of the kind which are used for food.

One district in Florida sends annually to the New York market 50,000 crates of fruits.

The world's yeast powder is estimated to amount to an annual valuation of \$26,000,000.

The walnut trees in one section of California furnish the trade with 1,000,000 pounds of nuts.

The consumption of meat in Europe now averages 61 pounds per inhabitant per annum.

The English are the greatest grain eaters, eating nearly every year \$50 worth of grain each.

It is said that 500 tons of