THE THAMES DISASTER.

DETAILS OF THE TERRIBLE ACCIDENT AT A LAUNCHING.

A Huge Wave Swamped a Stage—Hundreds of Women and Children Hurled Into the Turbulent Waters—Heartrending Scenes and Brave Deeds of Rescue.

In describing the disaster that attended the launching of H.M.S. Albion, at Blackwall, on the Thames, on June 21. The London Daily Telegraph says: All the preliminaries of the launch were conducted in the usual way. Their Royal Highnesses were taken into an inner elevated draped stand, and a Royal salute was fired. On a table there was stretched a silken cord of red, white and blue, which held the weights suspended above the two dog shores. During the customary short religious service, performed by the Ven. Archdeacon Stevens, vicar of St. John's Stratford, and the Rev. Canon Pelly, vicar of West Ham, the blows of the hammer could be heard as the men under the vessel's keel knocked away the last blocks, until, whilst Psalm cvii., "They that go down to the sea in ships," was being sung by the choirs of the two churches, all that held the ship was the silken cord. After the Old Hundredth had been given and prayer offered, a silver-gilt knife, with enamelled haft, and design of York roses and May blossoms entwined, and the monogram V.M.Y., was handed to the Duchess of York by Mr. Hills. The blade was inscribed with the date, and set forth the occasion. With this knife Her Royal Highness, at ten minutes to three, severed the cord at a third attempt. Immediately the heavy weights fell, knocking away the remaining supports, and the Albion was in such haste to get away that she did not give the Duchess time to christen her, by breaking the bottle of wine, which had a richly worked cover, that was afterwards presented to Her Highness, against the bows. It was Mr. G. C. Mackrow, naval architect to the company, who smashed the bottle on the rail of the platform. But the incident passed unnoticed in the cheering and general jubilation as already described.

FORGOT TO CURTSEY.

It seemed, too, that the Albion, which went gracefully down the ways, forgot to curtsey. She took the water quietly, though the strain on the cables was very great, as three of them parted. But everybody was of opinion that it was a very successful launch, for its difficult character, owing to the narrowness of the creek, was fully recognized by experts, and indeed, the point had been noticed by the Duke of York, immediately he saw the ship. No one on the head stage was aware that the wave caused by sudden displacement, consequent upon the launching of some thousands of tons of dead weight into a confined area was overwhelming a stand occupied by two or three hundred sightseers. Certainly nothing was perceived by the Duke or Duchess or by Mr. Goschen, with whom they remained chatting for some minutes. There were no shrieks, no cries, no panic; but then the syrens filled the air with discordant sounds enough to drown any human voice. Very slowly the elevated reserved enclosure, surrounding the Royal stand, where the ceremony had been performed, was vacated, and the guests retired to their steamboats laughing and congratulating each other upon having witnessed a spectacle which, in the beautiful weather, seemed to be without a blot of any kind.

SCENE OF THE DISASTER.

But at that very moment, hidden from view by the newly-launched battleship, the terrible disaster took place A bridge across the end of an old disused slip, and part of the staging beneath the counter of the Shikishima, on an adjoining slip, had been crowded with sightseers, anxious to view the launch. This was in defiance of all the rules of the yard, and it is stated that on former occasions these wooden erections had been kept clear by the police, in accordance with the notices on the danger board in the yard. As the Albion entered the water, a great wave was raised in the narrow creek, and the backwash caused some eighty feet of this bridge and staging to give way, thereby immersing some three hundred people. The staging gave one swerve, and then fell outwards. A scene of terrible confusion ensued, the shrieks of the drowning, mingled with the cheers of the thousands who were quite unaware of the accident. The police boats instantly made for the spot, and, with the aid of several dockyard hands, a number of the people were pulled out, whilst many more scrambled ashore themselves. The unfortunate people who were thrown into the water ere for the most part inhabitants of the neighborhood. Several persons were taken out in an apparently lifeless condition, and immediately conveyed away to the sheds in the yards, and attended to. Then several dead bodies were hauled out, one of the first being that of a baby. During the next half hour eight bodies were recovered and taken to a shed, which was turned into a temporary mortuary. The half drowned girls and women were removed to the fitters' shed, and there attended to by the firemen and several nurses, who were soon on the scene.

HEART-RENDING SCENES.

Meanwhile heart-rending scenes were taking place at the approaches to the yard. The wildest rumors soon got afloat, and every one who had friends in the yard rushed to obtain news of them. Mothers sought their sons and daughters, husbands their wives, and brothers their sisters, but as nobody knew who was on the staging that had given way the greatest anxiety was manifested. People ran about wildly asking everybody they met for news of their friends, and many touching scenes occurred when some lost one was found to be safe. The police and their assistants worked splendidly, but as the tide was at its height the depth of water rendered their operations very difficult.

One extraordinary circumstance attending the disaster was that the chief guests on the stands at the head of the slips were totally unaware that any accident had taken place, and the majority left Blackwall on the return journey without having heard the news. This was also the case of the Duke and Duchess of York, who left on the Beatrice, and arrived safely at Westminster about half-past four.

THE STAGE "DANGEROUS."

In an interview with Mr. Hussey, secretary of the Thames Ironworks Company, that gentleman said to a Central News reporter: "There is always a return wave at such launches, and we invariably label adjacent stages which this water is likely to reach with the word 'Dangerous.' Today we followed the usual custom, but although police were posted about to warn people, and although the warning word was printed in enormous letters, about 200 people got on to this particular staging, and were washed into the water. Most of them were women and the majority escaped. It was a most lamentable accident, especially after such a successful launch. The Duchess, I think, knew nothing of the disaster, unless she just caught a glimpse of the scene as she sped away in her steam launch; but that is not likely."

In 1886, when Her Majesty's ship Benbow was launched, the back-wash swept nine people into the water, but all were rescued.

When Hot

Don't sweat and fret, but keep cool and take Hood's Sarsaparilla. This is good advice, as you will find if you follow it. Hood's Sarsaparilla is a first-class summer medicine, because it is so good for the stomach, so cooling to the blood, so helpful to the whole body. Make no mistake but get only.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Canada's Greatest Medicine.

Hood's Pills cure Liver Ills; easy to take, easy to operate.

TIMIDITY OF CHILDREN.

The first natural duty of a mother is to protect her young; to create around it a shelter, in the midst of which the tender thing can grow, secure from shocks and seeing and hearing only what is good for it to hear and see. . . . By learning the signs of fear in a young child, and knowing how to distinguish true fear from wilfulness, they will be able to exert a soothing and protecting influence at the right moment, and avert danger whose consequences are serious almost beyond belief in the case of our highly organized excitable, modern children.

It is the mother, rather than the father, who is called upon to secure the blessing of a second imagination to her children. She ought to begin away back in the beginning—with the very first surroundings of the new-born infant. Let it find its early life peaceful, quiet and unhurried. And when infancy merges into that older period when young faculties are springing forward in rapid development, and each day the little one takes on more of the hue of its larger fellow-creatures, let her be doubly careful that no untimely scare stunts its intelligence, It is said that to be afraid of shadows is an inevitable passing experience of childhood. Yet I know one small toddler who never has shown any such disposition, but whose great delight is to play with her own shadow and other shadows when the lights are brought in each night. She is a peculiarly sensitive, sympathetic, little thing, and could easily be made timid, by unwise treatment. But, under the sheltering care of fond and judicious parents, she is remarkable for not knowing what it is to be afraid; and although she is given to unpleasant dreams, as many young children are, and often awakened with a start, a low word or touch soothes her into serenity. Happy above others is the little child who thinks of his mother as a veritable refuge from trouble, a bulwark against danger and a sympathizing presence.

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY.
Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All Druggists refund the money if it fails to Cure. 25c.

SOMETHING FOR NOTHING.

Dixon—Biffkins seems to be enjoying the fortune his aunt left him.

Hixon—Why, I understand he lost it all in a wheat deal six months ago.

Dixon—So he did; but it has supplied him with a never-failing topic of conversation ever since.

OFTEN THE CASE.

She—As a rule a man judges all other women by his wife.

He—Yes; and a woman judges her husband by the worst things she hears about other men.

OLD SHOE TRANSFORMED.

It is surprising what a number of useful articles can be made out of objects that we generally discard and regard as altogether useless. Many are the things that are thus thrown aside, and it denotes the careful housekeeper or the handy person who can turn to good account articles which are usually the prey of the junkman.

In every house there are bound to be several old shoes lying about in corners and cupboards, and these, by a pair of clever hands, can be metamorphosed into something that serves at the same time for use and ornament. A lady's workcase made out of an old shoe sounds rather funny, but any one following the directions here given for making such a case will be astonished and delighted at the result.

Take the shoe and remove with a sharp knife all the upper except that portion at the end known as the toecap. Then trim very carefully with the knife or with a sharp pair of scissors the rough free edge of the toecap until you have the projecting edge quite smooth.

Next stand the shoe on a piece of cardboard and mark the outline in pencil. This is to be cut out, as is also another piece of exactly the same size. Each piece thus obtained is placed one inside and one outside the shoe, and the whole covered very neatly with some pretty material, velvet or satin preferred, the stitched side being turned under. Cut out some piece of flannel to put needles in, and sew them to the front of the shoe, just under the ribbon bow.

Now for the toe. Cut a piece of paper like the toe of your shoe, see that it fits the cardboard sole, and then use it for a pattern to cut the cardboard with. You will only need one piece, and this is to be covered with material to match the sole, lined neatly and sewn to the sole.

A pretty cord is then to be sewn right around the edge of the shoe, a loop left to hang it up by, and a ribbon bow tied in the middle of the shoe.

Put scissors and cotton in the pockets, needles in the flannel and pins in the top, just under the hanging loop, and you have a workcase that will not disgrace any room.

CANADA'S GREAT EXPOSITION.

Many new and interesting features will be offered at the Toronto Exhibition this year, which is to be held from the 29th August to the 10th September. The harvest throughout the Dominion is good, and with the return of better times and the unusually low fares now being given by the railways, many will be induced to visit this great exhibition who perhaps would not otherwise do so. The entries in all departments will be great, and the attractions offered will be of a character to draw. Among the many will be realistic representations of the present Cuban-American War, the blockade, bombardment and battles of Santiago, or Havana, firing and explosion of shells, explosion of sub-marine mines and blowing up of vessels on the lake in front of the exhibition grounds, exhibitions by Maxim and Gatling machine guns, etc., all of a specially interesting nature at the present time. The programme of attractions promises to far excel that of last year, which is saying a good deal. The exhibits will include many from Great Britain, France and the United States, whilst almost every section of the Dominion will be represented.

RECRIMINATION.

Listen, Harry, it costs $1,500 a day to run a battleship.

Yes; and our courtship would have cost that much if I hadn't held you in."

CORN SOWING

Is a process conducted by the agency of tight boots, all the year round. Corn reaping is best conducted through the agency of Putnam's Painless Corn Extractor, the only safe and sure-pop corn cure. Putnam's Extractor is now widely imitated. Beware of all poisonous and sore producing substitutes.

FULFILLING HIS DESTINY.

Gwilliams—Slickinger has disappointed me. He was a young man of great promise. Everybody thought he would be a big gun some day.

Sflint—Well, he did become what you might call a pretty smooth bore. He's a life insurance agent.

"Quickcure" removes all pain, and reduces all inflammation. Its effect is wonderful.

DIDN'T WANT MUCH.

Would you not, asked the earnest woman, like to occupy a seat high in the councils of your country?

Naw, said the fat man, as he adjusted himself to the hammock. The end seat in the summer car is good enough for me.

The Sisters of Charity, "Grey Nuns," Guy street, Montreal, write:—"Having made use of your "Quickcure" in our establishment, we are happy to add our testimony, also in its favor."

FAITH.

Have you any faith in the sea serpent story? asked the tourist.

Well, replied the landlord, I used to have, but it doesn't seem to attract people any more. I guess we'll have to think up something else.

See that you get it

NO TESTIMONIAL.

Advertising Agent—Your pardon for intruding, madam, but I understand that you have been sick and are now perfectly well, and that during your illness six bottles of Dr. Curem's Elixir was bought at the corner drug store.

Madam—Yes. The nurse who came to take care of me got sick, and ordered the bottles for herself, I did not take any of it.

Humph! Can I see her!

She's dead.

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We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

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Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Price 75c. per bottle. Sold by all Druggists. Testimonials free.

Hall's family Pills are the best.

THE ANGLO-SAXON CHORUS.

God Save the Queen! some sang so free,
And some, My Country, 'Tis of Thee!
Then, like unfettered birds,
They raised again with might and main
The old unstudied, sweet refrain,
Nor thought about the words.

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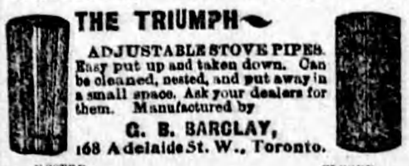

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