

MADDEST OF ALL STORMS.

THE AWFUL DISASTER IN THE HARBOR OF APIA.

The recent West India Hurricane recalls the Calamity—Brave Sailors Made a Fierce Fight Against Death—Remarkable Escape of the British Man-of-War Calliope.

The recent destructive work of the storm king in West Indian waters, by which so many fine ships were sunk, has started every ancient mariner of story-telling proclivities to spinning yarns of deadly hurricanes experienced in the uncertain tropics. They include stories of a sudden rush of fierce winds, a rising mountains high of waters that five minutes before were smooth, and then catastrophe, death and the escape of the narrator by a hundred to one chances. But of all the stories told of hurricane and death, none compares in interest with the narrative of the great Samoan disaster.

There had been trouble in Samoa, the native chief Mataafa having rebelled and fired on the crew of a German man-of-war as they were rowing ashore. The United States government ordered the Vandalia, Nopsia and the flagship Trenton, under the command of Rear Admiral Kimberly, to proceed to Apia to look after American interests there. When the United States fleet reached Apia they found there one British and three German warships with a mixed lot of merchantmen. The harbor of Apia is entered through a narrow rift in a chain of coral reefs, there being just enough room for a ship of large size to get through. The chain of reefs is only three miles in circumference, and when the great fleet of warships and merchantmen lay at anchor in close proximity to each other and to the treacherous reefs the situation was not a desirable one from a Samoan's point of view.

But the sky was blue, the birds sang and the rebels were quiet on March 11, 1899, when the American ships arrived, and no one abroad thought there was anything more dangerous in prospect than a possible disagreement with the Germans, who were putting on airs and threatening to blow the rebels off the face of the earth for daring to fire on a boat's crew wearing the uniform of the kaiser. This was Monday. On Thursday the scene changed in such an awful manner that the superstitious natives attributed it to the direct interference of Providence.

The instruments aboard the ships in Apia harbor gave the usual warning of an approaching storm, and the customary precautions were taken. Sails were furled, superfluous spars hauled down, an extra hitch taken in the ropes, the fastenings of the guns looked to, additional anchors dropped, and every care taken to be ready for the hurricane which all knew and dreaded in that quarter. Every vessel remained in the harbor, a mistake that some of the naval men had reason to bitterly regret later.

THE STORM COMES.

Thus the storm king found the vessels in Apia harbor when he burst upon them in a whirl of wrath in the afternoon of Thursday, March 14. The fight began with every man at quarters, and the knowledge, from the fury of the elements, that only the best seamanship and strictest and smartest obedience to orders would save the day. Four anchors held the Trenton fast for awhile, but in the course of the long fight the fierce seas and incessant rush of the wind broke the cable of one after another, until at last the Trenton drifted, the interior of the ship a demoralized mass of wreckage, the engine room flooded, and little between the crew and death but the hand of Providence.

More than once in that terrible night when the rudder became fouled and the anchors parted, the officers and men of the Trenton gathered on the heaving deck, and solemnly shook hands preparatory to the final plunge, but narrow as some of the escapes were, the Trenton managed to keep off the deadly reefs. With the reefs only a few feet from the bow of the seemingly doomed Trenton it was seen by Admiral Kimberly that unless some sail could be set the end was only a matter of seconds. To set a sail was an absolute impossibility. The men were ordered to the shaking yards to form a human sail. It looked like death to mount the rigging in that fearful gale, but the Jackies hesitated only a moment. The next they clambered up the rigging, the wind caught the compact human mass, the ship swung around, and again the Trenton was saved.

THE MORNING'S HORROR.

What a sight met the appalled gaze of the Trenton's men when day broke on March 15. On the reefs were the remains of the German warship Eber, the angry waves dashing and pounding over the poor wreck, while the wind howled a triumphant accompaniment. The Eber had been the first to fall a victim to the fury of the storm. Her misfortunes began when she collided with the American vessel Nipsic. Shortly after this the demon of the gale seized the Eber, and she was rushed on to the reefs with frightful force. Only four of her crew of seventy-five men got ashore. What the waves didn't get of the remainder were pounded to death on the coral reefs.

The Nipsic had made a game fight, but after being rammed by the Olga, she was run on the beach at a spot where the reefs gave place for a narrow space to sand. All the crew got ashore safely.

The German ship Adler was a plaything for the great seas, which lifted her up as though she had been a mere chip and flung her on her side on the coral reefs. A score of men were thrown into the water and lost. The rest of the crew of 130 men managed to cling to the stranded ship until the storm abated. The Vandalia of the American fleet collided with the British ship Calliope early in the struggle and had to be beached. Through the awful night the officers and crew clung to the rigging, but when the men of the Trenton rescued them the next day thirty-nine brave Jackies and four officers had been lost. Among the officers was Capt. Schoonmaker, who was knocked overboard by a gun that had broken loose from its fastenings. He was never seen again.

The German vessel Olga proved to be the most dangerous boat in the harbor, for she tossed around, smashing into almost every ship there. Her captain got her out of the clutches of the storm at last by beaching her and saving her crew.

THE CALLIOPE'S ESCAPE.

The most remarkable escape of all the thrilling experiences of that terrible night was that of the British man-of-war Calliope. When the Trenton's officers looked over the devastated harbor on the Friday morning, the storm was at its height, and there seemed no more hope than before of escaping death, except for the advantage that the daylight afforded. When the Calliope came tearing through the seething waters her commander shouted to Admiral Kimberly that his anchors had gone and as forlorn hope he was going to try to find his way out to the ocean. It was a desperate resolve, and the men of the Trenton, hardly knowing themselves whether or not they would live out the storm, gave a rousing cheer for the Britishers as the Calliope went on her way. Wonderful to relate, the British commander found the path to the open sea and then rode out the storm without the loss of a man or any serious injury to his ship, thereby making a red-letter record for her majesty's navy.

The fight continued among the survivors all that day. Towards nightfall the Trenton, in the course of her erratic and rudderless tossing, ran on a coral reef close to where the ill-fated Vandalia lay. In the rigging of the latter the survivors still clung. Life lines were shot from the Trenton, and the Vandalia's survivors were got on board. It was done none too soon, for the storm had attacked the refuge of the Vandalia's men so furiously that shortly after the work of rescue the masts to which the Vandalia's men had been clinging were swept away.

Not until midnight did the raging storm show signs of abating. At daylight of March 16 the sun shone on as calm a sea as Samoa had ever known. Only the wrecks on the reef and sand, and the bodies that were being washed up by the waves reminded the survivors of the terrible time they had experienced.

EXCITING ADVENTURE IN INDIA

A Young Officers Narrow Escape From a Horrible Death.

Dinner was just finished and several English officers were sitting around the table. The conversation had not been animated, and there came a lull, as the night was too hot for small talk. The major of the regiment, a clean-cut man of fifty-five, turned toward his next neighbor at the table, a young subaltern, who was leaning back in his chair with his hands clasped behind his head, staring through the cigar-smoke at the ceiling. The major was slowly looking the man over, from his handsome face down, when, with a sudden alertness and in a quiet steady voice, he said:—"Don't move, please, Mr. Carruthers, I want to try an experiment with you. Don't move a muscle." "All right, major," replied the subaltern, without even turning his eyes; "hadn't the least idea of moving, assure you! What's the game?" By this time all the others were listening in a lazily expectant way. "Do you think," continued the major—and his voice trembled just a little—"that you can keep absolutely still for, say, two minutes—to save your life?" "Are you joking?" "On the contrary, move a muscle and you are a dead man. Can you stand the strain?" The subaltern barely whispered "Yes," and his face paled slightly. "Burke," said the major, addressing an officer across the table, "pour some of that milk into a saucer, and set it on the floor here just at the back of me. Gently, man! Quiet!" Not a word was spoken, as the officer quietly filled the saucer, walked with it carefully around the table, and set it down where the major had indicated on the floor. Like a marble statue sat the young subaltern in his white linen clothes, while a cobra de capello which had been crawling up the leg of his trousers slowly raised its head, then turned, descended to the floor, and glided toward the milk. Suddenly the silence was broken by the report of the major's revolver, and the snake lay dead on the floor. "Thank you, major," said the subaltern, as the two men shook hands warmly; "you have saved my life!" "You're welcome, my boy," replied the senior; "but you did your share."

WONDERING WHY SHE DID.

Woman, when you married me, you got a wonder!
Yes, and I have been wondering ever since.

THE WORLD'S WHEAT CROP

IT'S THE GREATEST EVER GROWN, BUT NONE TOO GREAT.

Reserves Were Low and There are Every Year Six Million More Months to Fill on This Planet—Resides, There are Lean Years to Make Up For—Good Prices.

With the principal wheat crops of the world now practically secured it is possible to arrive at a fairly accurate estimate of the total production in 1899. From the commencement of seeding the crop scares that are usually plenty in the critical months have been missing, and this fact led many to believe some time ago that the total yield would be above the average, although few anticipated such a record-breaking crop, the world over, as is now calculated by well-known statisticians.

The most recent of these estimates is that compiled by Mr. Broomhall, the editor of the Liverpool Corn Trade News, a recognized authority both in this country and in Europe, and his figures display the stimulating effect that the recent high prices of wheat has had on the acreage sown this season in all countries. A careful study of his figures shows that in calculating the total crops of each year he has departed from the usual method and has taken for his purpose the crops grown in the second half of the years named. In the case of those countries which

HARVEST IN WINTER.

he has relegated the crops grown in the current year to the previous year; for example, the Argentine crop which was ready for marketing in January, 1898, he has reckoned in the crop of the season 1897-98, believing that the disadvantages in so doing are less than in reckoning the crops as still available which were all consumed prior to the opening of the current season. The same thing has been done with Uruguay, Chili, Australasia and India, the crops of which were ready in the first three months of the year; thus in arriving at a total for the year 1898 he has had to be content with estimates of the growing crops. In each of these cases he has allowed for rather over a full average crop except in the case of Australasia, which is so far advanced as to be calculated more exactly. On this continent alone the increase in the crop is extraordinary, the total this year reaching 54,000,000 bushels, or 12,000,000 bushels more than the previous biggest yield; enough to provide an exportable surplus of over 24,000,000 bushels. Other totals are equally surprising, and the grand total for the world's crop of 2,607,000,000 bushels, compared with 2,270,700,000 last year, or an increase of 336,300,000 bushels, is sufficient guarantee that the world is in no danger of a famine just at present.

The crop of the United States has been calculated at 650,000,000 bushels, a total that is stated by many authorities on this side to be too low, but in every case the figures are conservative. Russia, from which country complaints have recently been heard of drought is still calculated as having produced 24,000,000 bushels, or including Poland and Caucasus, which do not come under the head of Russia proper, 296,000,000 bushels compared with 285,000,000 last year. Estima.es of

THE FRENCH CROP

have differed considerably of late, ranging from 339,000,000 to 381,000,000 bushels, but here again Mr. Broomhall strikes an average, his estimate being 352,000,000, compared with 248,000,000, the unusually poor crop of last year. Taking European countries alone, we find that the totals exceed those of last year, by 235,500,000 bushels; the principal increases, apart from those already mentioned, being in Italy, 40,000,000; in Roumania, 23,000,000; in Hungary, 19,000,000; and in the United Kingdom 9,000,000. The only European countries which fall below last year's totals are Spain, 10,000,000; Germany, 7,000,000; Portugal 2,000,000, and Sweden, 800,000.

In America the United States shows a gain of 60,000,000; Canada, 11,000,000; and Argentina, 10,000,000, while Mexico, Chili and Uruguay also show slight gains, the total amounting to 88,000,000 bushels over last year. In Asia we find the only real falling off, the total being 312,000,000 against 332,000,000. Turkey in Asia and India are the two principal delinquents, the former producing 10,000,000 and the latter 8,000,000 bushels less than last year. Africa shows gains all along the line. Algeria, Tunis, Egypt and the Cape all helping to form the increase of 12,000,000 bushels with which she is credited.

Although the world is confronted with the largest wheat crop ever produced, it must not be immediately concluded that the statistical position of wheat is very bearish, for other considerations have to be taken into account. The present crop has been preceded by three years of comparative small crops, and reserves have been drawn upon to such an extent to fill the deficiency caused by an under-production that they are now acknowledged to be at the lowest point recorded for years.

Unfortunately it is impossible to obtain exact figures of the world's stocks there being no means of accurately knowing what the invisible supplies amount to, but in estimating the actual reserves on the 1st day of August this year at 112,000,000 bushels Mr. Broomhall is probably somewhat near the mark. Adding this total to

THE WORLD'S WHEAT CROP

we find that the total supply of wheat available during the cereal year 1897-98, amounts to 2,719,000,000 bushels. Following the same course with the records of previous years we find that in 1895 the total crop of wheat was 2,420,100,000 bushels and the reserves 236,000,000, making a total of 2,716,100,000 bushels, or very close to this year's total, while in 1894, the banner year, although the crop was less than this year's amounting to 2,588,900,000, yet the reserves amounted to 323,000,000, making a total available supply of 2,916,900,000 bu. or a larger supply by 197,900,000 bushels than we have now. Looking at it in another way we find that the total crops of the four last years are smaller by 348,400,000 bushels than the crops of the four preceding years, and that the average crop of the past four years is 2,415,600,000, compared with 2,501,400,000, the average crop of the preceding four years.

Since 1894 the population of the world has been increasing at the rate of 6,000,000 people a year, according to Sir William Crookes, and thus, comparing the present situation with that in 1894, we find that with 197,900,000 bushels less available, we have a population 24,000,000 larger to feed. It stands to reason, therefore, that there is no reason for prices to go back to the level of 1894, and present indications are that farmers the world over are not inclined to part with their wheat at low prices after their recent experiences. Ever since July last they have demonstrated their intention of holding on to their wheat, and if farmers in northern Europe follow the example of those of Italy, Greece, Spain, and America there is no immediate prospect of large supplies unless the price should rise.

TWO THOUSAND MINERS.

THE NUMBER ROSSLAND PROPERTIES WILL EMPLOY.

A Prediction of the Miner—Progress in the Different Camps—Mining Notes.

The Rossland Miner says that the ore body on the Velvet has been located at the 165-foot level, and the showing at that point is the finest that has yet been uncovered. The Centre Star has resumed operations, and J. B. Hastings, the Superintendent, expects to have close upon 100 men at work shortly. The Miner says that there is no doubt that 300 men will be employed there. The War Eagle force is to be increased to the same number, while the Le Roi will be working as many men in the course of the next few weeks. It is evident that these three properties alone will employ between 900 and 1,000 men as soon as the arrangements now pending can be completed. On the basis of the universally accepted maxim that every miner supports at least five people, Rossland will have a population of 5,000 on the strength of the men employed only in these three great mines. Other properties, however, will certainly work at least as many men as the three already mentioned, and it will be a matter of only a few months before Rossland will have 2,000 men employed in the mines right around the city.

The strike in the Commander is regarded as an important one. At a depth of 225 feet in the shaft a body of ore that is two and a half feet wide has been encountered. The ore at this point is of a shipping quality, as it averages \$32 to the ton in all values. There are 200 tons of marketable ore on the dump. The work of development is in progress on the Monte Cristo, principally on the 400-foot and 600-foot levels. A strike is reported on the 400-foot level, the extent of which has not yet been determined. It is announced that the mine will resume shipping as soon as the spur from the C. & W. is extended to its bunkers.

Development of the Grand Prize, under the management of W. T. McDonald, commenced last week. Two ledges have been exposed, and it is believed that one of them is the extension of the Deer Park lead, although the fact has not yet been definitely ascertained. On the Iron Horse the double compartment shaft is now down to a depth of 20 feet, and the entire bottom is in ore. As soon as the seven-drill compressor is installed the work of sinking the shaft will be accelerated. The Victory shaft is down 88 feet. During six days the shaft, which is 4x7 in the clear, was sunk 13.5 feet. The shaft on the Novelty has reached a depth of 20 feet, and there is four feet of ore carrying a high per cent. in copper, but small values in gold. The main shaft of the Giant is down a distance of 70 feet and the showing of mineral increases with depth.

THE BEST YET.

In regard to the Le Roi, the Miner says:—"For the month of September, ending Friday night, the Le Roi shipped 10,208 tons of ore, and for the following week the output of the mine highest that have ever been established in the Rossland camp. Superintendent Tregear is enthusiastic regarding the showing in the mine. "We have not commenced to prospect it yet," he said. "When the new vertical shaft is in operation we shall be in a position to output 1,000 tons daily." Down at the 700-foot level, where the recent amazing developments have taken place, the ore body is now 42 feet eight inches in width. About 280 men are at work, and the pay roll for this month will be \$28,000.

The new electrical plant at the War Eagle will be in running order by the first of next month, unless something unexpected happens. Underground

there is little change. One continues to be met all over the mine, and although mineral to the value of a million and a half has been extracted it is not noticeable. With the completion of the electrical plant, Superintendent Hastings expects to increase the force materially, and in all likelihood there will be at least 300 men employed at the War Eagle by the first of next January, three months hence. To accommodate the employees a new bunk house will be erected, capable of accommodating 90 men. Adequately the hotel accommodations at the property are sufficient for 170 men.

Depth has shown a complete change in the character of the Deer Park ore. From a low-grade deposit of iron sulphides on the surface, the lower workings have changed into a fine-grained blue quartz, carrying at times gold in enormously high values.

The Pug Mine, which was formerly owned by the Columbia & Ontario Gold Mining Company, has been purchased by F. B. Chapin, of Sudbury, Ont. He has arranged for the resumption of work on the claim, and fifteen men will soon start operations.

The British Columbia Gazette gives notice of the incorporation of the War Eagle Hotel Company, limited, with a capital of \$25,000 in 250 shares of the value of \$100 each. Its announced purpose is to run hotels and boarding houses in Rossland and throughout the Province of British Columbia. The company owns the new boarding house being erected at the War Eagle. The head office of the company will be located in Rossland.

IN THE YIMIR CAMP.

A good strike has been made on the Evening Star, which property, with the Morning Star, was recently incorporated under the name of the Fairmont Gold Mining Company. The properties lie near the well-known Dundee, and contain the extension of the Dundee ledge.

The work now being done is on the main ledge of the Evening Star, and consists of a shaft which is opening an excellent body of fine-grained sugar quartz, carrying white ore in very noticeable quantities. Five men are at work at present.

The find was made at a point about 400 feet away from the shaft, and an entirely new ledge has been opened. A miner made the discovery accidentally. He found an outcrop being about twelve feet wide, showing galena and zinc in white quartz.

WHY?

Why isn't a drunken steer corned beef?

Why are not two bootblacks a pair of rubbers?

Why shouldn't one expect to find ticks on a watch dog?

Why don't more people follow the advice they give to others?

Why does the desire to make a fool of one's self spring eternal in the human breast.

Why does a man boot a dog, shoot a hen, foot a bill, cap a climax and steal a glance?

WILLIE'S CRITICISM.

Willie—Say pa, are you a self-made man?

Pa—Yes, my son, and I'm proud of it.

Willie—But pa, why didn't you use a looking-glass?

PROUD OF IT.

Mrs. Booze—Aren't you ashamed! People all over town are saying you can drink enough for three or four men.

Mr. Booze—That's envy, my dear pure envy.

THE THOUGHTFUL MANAGER.

Mrs. De Style in theater box—What was this pizazz. No Loud Talking, put in our box for?

Mrs. Forundered, after reflection—I presume the manager left it there so we could show it to the people on the stage when their chatter interrupts our conversation.

DOCTORS DIFFER.

Lady—You say, professor, that tobacco is an aid to thought and a stimulant to the reasoning faculties, but Professor Greathead says to acco is in every way injurious. How do you account for that difference?

The Professor—Easily enough, madam. Profes or Greathead does not smoke, and consequently he can neither think straight nor reason correctly.

REPAIRS WANTED.

After a recent railway collision in Midlands, a Scotsman was extracted from the wreckage by a companion who had escaped unhurt.

Never mind, Sandy, his rescuer remarked, it's nothing serious. And you'll get damages for it.

Damages! roared Sandy. He's no baneuch! Guid sakes, it's repairs I'm seeking the noo!

A PROPER CERTIFICATE.

Money Lender—I must have something to certify to your financial standing before I can favor you with this loan.

Rollingbrooke—Er-ah-will a marriage certificate do?

THE DISTINCTION.

The minister—It is a shame that you should not be trying to earn your living at your age.

His son—Oh! well, father, consider the lilies of the field. They toil not, neither do they spin.

The minister—But they can afford it.

WEATHER CHANGES.

Little Isaac—Fadder, it looks like rain.

Isaac, Senior—Mark dose two-tollar umrellas oop to five tollars, and sell 'em for three and a half.

About the House.

LEGEND OF RED ROSEBUD.

When cruel hands the crown did place, Which pressed the Savior's brow, Unconsciously a rosebud white, Was twined among the sharp thorns.

And lying on His holy hair, It saw where thorns had been there.

So gently from its place it slid, To kiss the wound with fragrant red.

And ever since, the legend said, His blood has stained the rose.

Fit emblem of His love and life, Amid the thorns it found its life.

So every grief that here we find, Has some sweet blossom hid within.

And every sorrow, without doubt, Some helpful lesson twines about.

Search mid the fingers of each hand, You'll find the rosebud hidden there.

CLOSETS AND SHELVES.

Many houses are built without the proper arrangements of closets and cupboards, and it becomes necessary to provide a place for the hanging of trunks and other things, very useful but which do not improve the appearance of the rooms, if exposed to view, says a writer.

A corner wardrobe or closet convenient in a bed-room of room and is easily constructed with wide pieces of board are fastened to two walls which meet in a corner, a height of five or six feet will do.

A row of hooks placed along the lower edge of the boards is used for hanging the clothing on, and a corner shelf rests upon the edge. A foot above this is a shelf fastened to the wall in the same way, and from the front edge a curtain of prettily figured muslin or tulle, of a color which harmonizes with the other furnishings of the room, is used for the upper one is a good place for a box with a hinged lid set on the edge, a convenient receptacle for shoes and rubbers. A panel of glass is substituted for the curtain, and the expense will be small if you have some one in the family who knows how to use a saw.

A friend of mine has a very comfortable lounge in her room, which I was surprised was also used as a chest for her comforts and other bed clothes needed in the summer. A box long and two feet wide, with under the corners and a lid to one side with hinges, is the solution. The top of the box is covered with several thicknesses of oil cloth that were too badly worn to use in any other way, then covered with blue denim, putting the light and a full ruffle of the denim around the front and two ends, reaching the floor, and concealed from view. A large pillow, covered with denim, is placed at the head of the lounge. A lounge made like this for a room would do nicely for table linen. Place a partition across the middle, dividing it in two parts, use one for tablecloths, napkin covers, doilies, etc., and the other for sheets and pillow cases, window seats and cozy covers, much in favor now-a-days, utilized in the same way.

A recess or jog in the wall fitted up as a bookcase or closet, extends from the floor to the ceiling, have lattice panels set in top and under this place a wooden board to the side pieces of wood up to secure the lattice transoms, this pole suspended a curtain falls before the shelves, and their contents from the dust of light. This might be fitted with clothes press or wardrobe.

A convenient medicine chest by fastening a box twelve inches deep, near the end of the material, a strip of moulding is put on the upper edge. It was divided into two parts, one for tall bottles for short, by putting in a momic cloth, fini hed at the edge with bell fringe, at the across the front. In these were kept various toilet articles, cerine, cologne, ammonia, and other useful but unsightly. The work should always be painted to correspond with the woodwork in the room.

A friend of mine found, on up stairs bed-rooms was quite narrow, both ends being cut off, and the roof, until the upright were only four feet high. A double window in one side of the room was highest, furnished with a man called a carpenter to be made to fit in the spaces. A drawers were quite deep, and places for skirts, capes