

# THE ONE SURVIVOR

### Great Disasters In Which a Solitary Life Was Spared.

## TALES OF NARROW ESCAPES.

#### Curious Case of a St. Pierre Prisoner During the Mont Pelee Eruption. The British Retreat From Cabul—A Tragedy of the Terrible Manacles.

There are many curious cases on record where death in one of its many dread forms of disaster grips an entire party in its clammy embrace and then, while its icy fingers close upon the rest, lets one solitary member of the band slip away to be the sole survivor of the tragic calamity.

One hundred and fifty-eight dead, one saved. That was in brief the tale of the wreck of the mail steamer General Chanzy, which struck in the terrible storm of Feb. 10, 1910, on the rocks of northwest Minorca.

Marcel Bader, the solitary survivor from the wreck of the Chanzy, owed his preservation entirely to the fact that he was a strong and fearless swimmer.

A few years ago the timber vessel Anna Rebekka, one day out of Memel, was caught in a squall and capsized. Most of her crew were swept away and drowned, but three—the skipper, a sailor and the ship's boy—clambered on to the keel, where they drifted without food or drink. On the third day the sailor was washed off, but the skipper saved him. Then the boy went mad and died. On the fifth day the sailor was washed off again, and this time the captain had no strength to help him. On the seventh day the capsized vessel drifted in sight of land. A lifeboat put out and found the captain still alive.

The Manacles have seen many sights of horror, but none to excel that January night many years ago when two British troopships—the Dispatch and the Primrose—both went ashore on these terrible rocks within a few hours of one another. Seven soldiers struggled ashore from the Dispatch through the crashing breakers and roused the village of St. Neverne. When the fishermen gained the beach the Dispatch had vanished. But there was the second ship—the Primrose—on the rocks. They pushed out, but the doomed vessel was shattered to fragments before they could reach her, and all that the boat brought back was a fifteen-year-old ship's boy, whom they picked up swimming desperately in the trough of the icy waves.

Perhaps the most terrible disaster in modern British history was the retreat from Cabul in the winter of 1842. An army of 3,480 soldiers, with over 12,000 camp followers, started southward from the Afghan capital under promise of safe conduct. On the following Jan. 13 a solitary figure, filthy, unshaven, unkempt, his mind almost destroyed with the horrors through which he had passed, rode out of the mouth of the Khyber pass. He was Dr. Brydone, the only survivor from all that mighty host. The bodies of the rest, slain by the treacherous Ghilzais, lay scattered for miles along the snowclad floor of the defile.

It was stupidity, not treachery, which caused the disaster to a battalion of a Japanese regiment in January, 1901. On the 23d of that month a detach-

ment of 210 men and officers, under command of a major, left the town of Awombri for a long route march. It came on to snow very heavily, and soon a regular blizzard was raging, with the temperature many degrees below freezing point.

They lost their way and wandered on, burning their rifle stocks for fuel. By the 25th only seventy-one were left alive. On the afternoon of the 27th a corporal alone was picked up by a relief party, alive but badly frozen.

At the end of April, 1902, Mount Pelee, the blunt headed volcano behind St. Pierre, began to show signs of activity. These increased until on May 5 a little before 8 in the morning there was a terrific roar, and a huge column of white-hot sand, burning cinders and poisonous gases came rolling down the mountain side.

Whatever that cloud consisted of, it destroyed St. Pierre completely. The very stones were cracked with the awful heat, and within a few seconds 40,000 human beings perished. Yet days afterward, when the ruins were cool enough to explore, a man was found alive. He was a negro prisoner who had been confined in an underground cell and who, though scorched, scarred and almost suffocated, still survived—the only living thing in fifty square miles.—London Answers.

### Soothed Her.

Among the many stories about the bishop of London is one told of him and a dying girl who trembled at the thought of death. "Would you be afraid if I were to carry you into the next room?" he asked. And the girl shook her head. "Then why should you be afraid of being carried away by one who is ten thousand times kinder and more loving?"—London Express.

### The Change of Mind.

"What's the baby's name, Bill?" "Algernon." "What? I thought you were going to name him John!" "Oh that was when I still thought I had something to say in the matter."—

Idleness begets vices as standing water produces serpents. Vices are whetstones which sharpen Time's scythe.

### Asking Too Much.

"If at the end of the first year of your married life," said the bride's father, "you can convince me that you have been a good husband and have made my daughter happy, I will give you \$5,000."

"Another of these people," said the groom when he was alone again, "who think a man will do anything for money."—Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph.

### Positive Proof.

"I can say this much for Deacon Blowster. He takes his religion seriously."

"Yes. When anybody puts a counterfeit quarter in the collection plate he gets as mad as if it were a personal loss."—Brooklyn Citizen.

### The Unexpected.

"Sir, I admit being a poor man, but I am determined to marry your daughter in spite of her wealth."

"Oh, well, if that's the case I'll just remove the obstacle!"—Judge.

### Fashion Changes.

Mrs. Nuwed—When we got married didn't you promise me a new hat every season? Nuwed—But you never told me that there were about a dozen hat seasons in a year.—Life.

## INVISIBLE ICEBERGS.

### Conditions Under Which They Cannot Be Seen on Clear Nights.

In a recent communication to the New York Tribune Abbott H. Thayer, the artist, asserts that many vessels have been lost by collisions with icebergs because under certain conditions of sky and light they are invisible. He cites the fact that on the occasion of the Titanic disaster, although the black ship was clearly visible to survivors at a distance of several miles, they could not see the white bergs against which they actually heard the wash of the sea.

Mr. Thayer claims that on a clear, starry night the bergs are so nearly the same color as the sky that they are totally invisible and that the same is the case under many conditions of cloudiness, the only exception being when the side of the berg viewed is in such shadow that it shows black against the sky. In other words, it is impossible to see white against white.

In answer to the criticism of those who say they never saw a berg at night that was the color of the sky the answer is that this is very natural, because this is the very condition under which the berg is invisible. Mr. Thayer makes the suggestion that a very simple way to avoid the danger of colliding with an invisible berg would be to use a searchlight. The reflection would show up the berg very plainly.

## ROMANCE IN GEOGRAPHY.

### Names That Speak of Achievement and of Desperate Need.

Geography is a fascinating study. The history of the human race is written in large characters on the earth's surface for the seeing eye.

Most people know that Pike's peak commemorates the explorations of a daring young officer early in the last century. But how many know that in the name of the Bill Williams river lingers the only memorial to a famous trapper and Indian fighter of Kit Carson's time, to whom the Rocky mountain country was an open book before even Fremont "blazed the trail" to the Pacific.

It is around Hudson straits that names cry most loudly of achievement and of desperate need. Fancy what the Bay of God's Mercy meant to the man who first gave it that name! Or the heart breaking effort indicated by Terror point. Contrast Repulse bay and Mistake bay with the peace implied in Home bay and Cape Comfort.

It is difficult to estimate the exact depth and breadth of the irony that found vent in Navy Board inlet, while Mary Jones bay fairly breathes a longing for the commonplace comforts and safety of home. Resolution island and Hope's Advance bay speak sturdily of the undiminished courage of whalers or explorers in those barren waters.—Outing.

### The Building of Blenheim.

Blenheim palace was built out of the first grant ever voted by parliament in return for public services. But the treasury proved so slow in doling out the money for the building that the architect, Sir John Vanbrugh, tried to extract an advance from the Duke of Marlborough to pay the workmen when their wages fell into arrear. Marlborough refused to be bled. According to Isaac Disraeli, the duke, "aware that if he gave any order or suggested any alteration he might be involved in the expense of the building, was never to be circumvented—never to be surprised into a spontaneous emotion of pleasure or disapprobation. Although friendly with Vanbrugh, he never spoke to him or to any one acting under his orders about Blenheim."—London Globe.

### Wild Cinnamon.

Although the cultivation of cinnamon on the plantations in French Indo-China is constantly increasing, most of the product is obtained from a wild shrub growing in the forest. When a native discovers a cinnamon tree he must make a declaration before the local administration, who cut down the tree and authenticate its product. The profits accruing to the discoverer of a single tree sometimes reach a large sum. The variety most prized is the wild royal cinnamon of Thanh-Hoa, which is thought by the Chinese to possess a high medicinal value.

### Why Is It?

If a young woman is arrested for stealing a bottle of milk and later explains she did it to keep her baby from starving, no judge or jury will convict her—and folks will flock to her side offering assistance. Why is it there isn't any way to know the circumstances until the poor girl is forced to steal the milk?

### Mean Thing.

Patience—I don't think Will is at all observing.

Patrice—You don't?

"No, I don't."

"Well, I do. Why, he said the other night that you had twice as much color on one cheek as on the other."—Yonkers Statesman.

### Quite Necessary.

Victim—Ptomaine poisoning, eh? Well, I surely was a blame fool to eat the stuff. Doctor—But, my dear sir, you can't establish yourself as a recognized epicure without a touch of ptomaine now and then.

### Where the Day Went.

"Where can the day have gone?" exclaimed mamma, as she lighted the evening lamp. "I think its gone to heaven, mamma," answered wee Beth sweetly.—Exchange.

## SELECTING TOMATO SEED.

All tomato plants produce branches which bear perfect flowers. Though the tomato plant is largely self fertile, especially when grown in the open air, there is always more or less mixing of varieties when the plants are grown close together.

The selection of your own seed is a simple matter. Select plants that are ideal in vigor, freedom from disease, production and character of fruit. Practically all the tomatoes from each plant thus selected may be saved, only fruits that happen to be inferior being discarded.

Inasmuch as not all plants possess equal powers in transmitting their qualities, it is desirable to keep the seed from each plant in a separate package and then to plant the contents of the packages in separate lots next year.

This will give you an opportunity to judge the best stock. An excellent plan is to conduct a trial test of about twenty-five plants from each lot of seed. You will not find it much trouble to weigh and even to count the tomatoes from each lot of plants. The results will justify the work involved.

Devilish weighing up to 200 pounds are sometimes caught in Japan. These fish are amphibious. They are often seen wabbling on their tentacles like giant spiders in search of patches of sweet potatoes. The natives kill them with clubs. In the water they are caught in jars lowered to the bottom, which the octopus enters, thinking them a good retreat from which to catch its food.

### Proverb Didn't Apply.

Mrs. Brown was in the kitchen helping Nora, the cook, prepare supper.

"It's an old saying," she remarked to Nora, "that 'too many cooks spoil the broth.' What do you think?"

"Sure, mum," she replied, "there's nothing to worry about. There's only one cook here."—National Monthly.

### One Way Only.

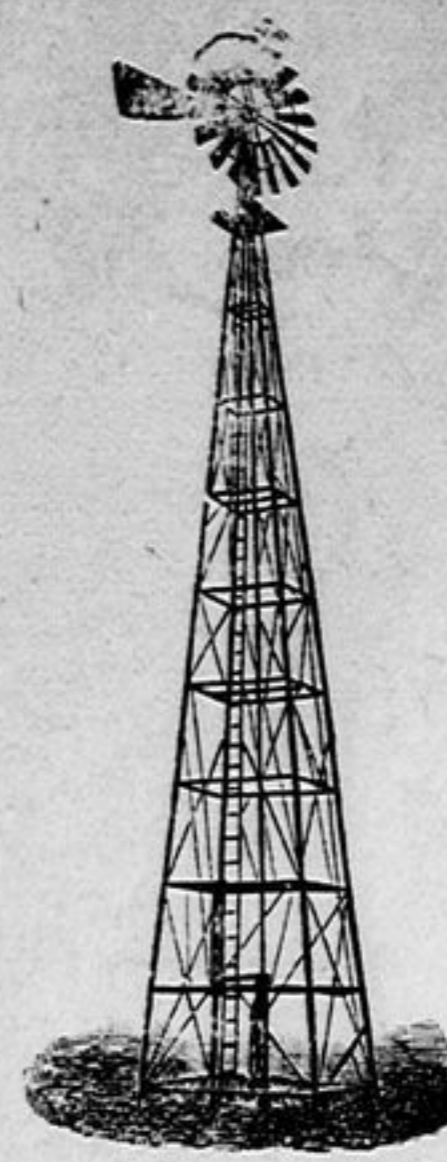
"I always pay as I go," remarked the careful individual.

"Lots of fellows do that who don't save enough to pay their way back," added the mere man.—Judge.

### Earthquakes.

The loss of life occasioned by earthquake generally depends upon the density of population rather than the severity of the shocks.

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## McKECHNIE'S WEEKLY NEWS

### Just Arrived

A fine stock of Men's All Wool Undershirts and Drawers, which, notwithstanding the advance in price of wool we are selling at \$1.00 per garment.

### Flannelettes

A very large stock of Flannelette, 36 inches wide, in a fine assortment of patterns at from 9c per yard.

### Flannelette Blankets

A large stock of Flannelette Blankets at from \$1.19 per pair.

### Linoleums

A new stock of Linoleums in the newest patterns, 2 and 4 yards wide. The 4 yards wide is from \$2.00 per yard up.

### Wall Paper

A pretty stock of Wall Paper in all the new fall styles, durable and having a nice appearance, but not too costly.

### Fall Shoes

Our Shoe stock is being replenished weekly, so that we have the most approved styles, made on easy fitting lasts.

### Brooms

We have just received another consignment of the 28c Brooms.

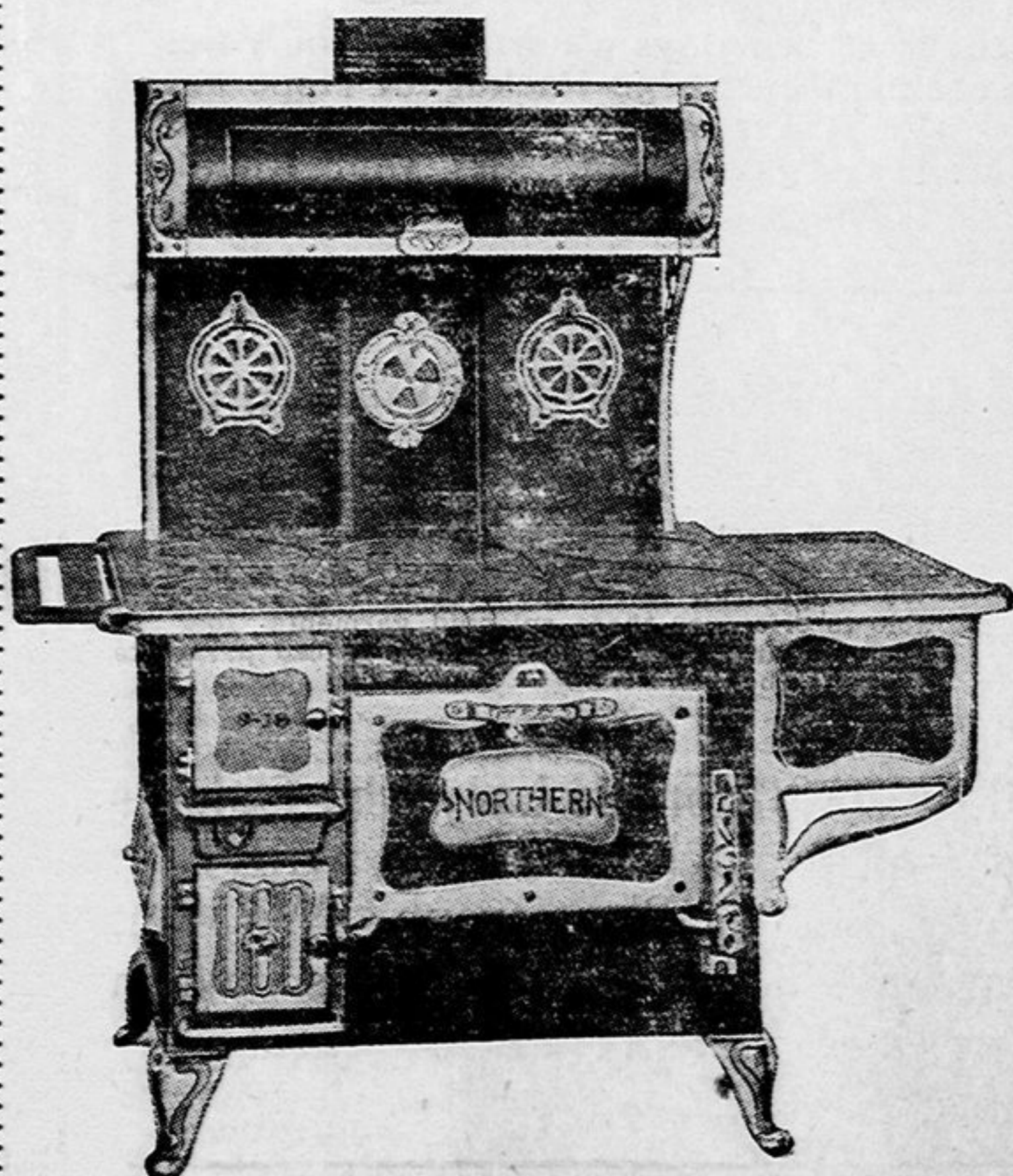
### Blankets

Don't forget to see our new Scotch Blankets, they are \$4.50, \$5.25 and \$6.00 per pair.

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