

THE FATAL REPAST.

(Continued.)

I was comparatively but little affected, and therefore employed myself in assisting others until they seemed to be past all relief, and then I sat down, anticipating the horrible consequences which would result from the death of the whole ship's company.

While thus occupied, I heard the steersman call out, "Taken all a-back here." A voice, which I knew to be the mate's, immediately answered, "Well, and what's that to us? Put her before the wind, and let her go where she pleases." I soon perceived, by the rubbing of the water, that there was a great increase in the velocity of the ship's progress, and went upon deck to ascertain the cause.

I found the mate stretched upon the top of the companion, and addressed him, but he made no reply. The man at the helm was tying a rope round the tiller, and told me he had become so blind and dizzy, that he could neither steer nor see the compass, and would therefore fix the rudder in such a manner as would keep the ship's head as near the wind as possible. On going forward to the boom I found the crew lying motionless in every direction. They were either insensible of the dangerous situation in which our vessel was, or totally indifferent to it; and all my representations on this head failed to draw forth an intelligible answer. A great deal of canvass, the lower studding-sails being up, for we had enjoyed a breeze directly astern before the wind headed us in the way already mentioned.

About an hour after sunset almost every person on board seemed to have become unconscious. I alone remained very fresh, and went through the water at the rate of ten miles an hour. The night looked dreary and turbulent. The sky was covered with large fleeces of broken clouds, and the stars flashed angrily through them as they were wildly hurried along by the blast. The sea began to run high, and the masts showed, by their incessant creaking, that they carried more sail than they could well sustain.

I stood alone near the stern of the ship. Nothing could be heard above or below deck, but the dashing of the surges and the moanings of the wind. All the people on board were to me as dead; and I was tossed about in the vast expanse of waters, without a companion or fellow-sufferer. I knew not what might be my fate or where I should be carried. The vessel as it careened along the raging deep, uncontrolled by human hands, seemed under the guidance of a relentless demon, to whose mysterious consigning by some superior power.

I was filled with dread lest we should strike upon rocks, or run ashore, and often imagined that the clouds which bordered the horizon were the black cliffs of some desolate coast. At last I distinctly perceived light at some distance—I grew irresolute whether to remain upon deck, and face death, or to wait for it below. I soon discovered a ship a little way ahead—I instinctively ran to the helm, and raised the black rudder back and knocked me over. A horrible crashing, and loud cries, now broke upon my ear, and I saw that we had got entangled with another vessel. But the velocity with which we swept along rendered our extrication instantaneous; and, on looking back, I saw a ship without a bowsprit, pitching irregularly among the waves, and heard the rattling of cordage and a tumult of voices. But after a little time, nothing was distinguishable by the eye or by the ear. My situation appeared doubly horrible, when I reflected that I had just been within call of human creatures, who might have saved and assisted all on board, had not an evil destiny hurried us along, and made us the cause of injuring those who alone were capable of affording us relief.

About midnight our fore-topmast gave away, and fell upon deck with a crash, and the ship immediately swung round, and began to labour in a terrible manner, while several waves broke over her successively.

I had just resolved to descend the gangway for shelter, when a white figure rushed past me with a wild shriek and sprang overboard. I saw it struggling among the billows, and tossing about its arms distractedly, but

had no means of affording it any assistance. I watched it for some time, and observed its convulsive motions gradually grow more feeble; but its form soon became undistinguishable amidst the foam of the bursting waves. The darkness prevented me from discovering who had thus committed himself to the deep, in a moment of madness, and I felt a strong repugnance at attempting to ascertain it, and rather wished that it might have been some spectre, or the offspring of my perturbed imagination, than a human being.

As the sea continued to break over the vessel I went down to the cabin, after having closely shut the gangway doors and companion. Total darkness prevailed below. I addressed the captain and all my fellow passengers by name, but received no reply from any of them, though I sometimes fancied I heard moans and quick breathing, when the tumult of waters without happened to subside a little. But I thought that it was perhaps imagination, and that they were probably all dead. I began to catch for breath, and felt as if I had been immersed in a large coffin along with a number of corpses, and was doomed to linger out life beside them. The sea beat against the vessel with a noise like that of artillery, the crashing of the bulwarks driven in by its violence, gave startling proof of the danger that threatened us. Having several times been dashed against the cabin walls by the violent pitching of the ship, I groped for my bed, and lay down in it, and, notwithstanding the horrors that surrounded me, gradually dropped asleep.

When I awaked I perceived, by the sunbeams that shone through the skylight that the morning was far advanced. The ship rolled violently at intervals, but the noise of winds and waves had altogether ceased. I got up hastily, and almost dreaded to look round, lest I should find my worst anticipations concerning my companions too fatally realised.

I immediately discovered the entrance on one side of the cabin quite dead. Opposite him was Major L., stretched along the floor, and grasping firmly the handle of the door of his wife's apartment. He had, I suppose, in a moment of agony, wished to take farewell of the partner of his heart, but had been unable to get beyond the spot where he now lay. He looked like a dying man, and Mrs. L., who sat beside him, seemed to be exhausted with grief and terror. She tried to speak several times, and at last succeeded in informing me that her sister was better. I could not discover Mr. D.—anywhere, and therefore concluded that he was the preceding night.

On going upon deck, I found that everything wore a new aspect. The sky was dazzling and cloudless, and not the faintest breath of wind could be felt. The sea had a beautiful bright green colour, and was calm as a mill-lake, except when an occasional swell rolled from that quarter in which the wind had been the preceding night; and the water was so clear that I saw to the bottom, and even distinguished little fishes sporting around the keel of our vessel.

Four of the seamen were dead, but the mate and the remaining three had so far recovered as to be able to walk across the deck. The ship was almost in a disabled state. Part of the wreck of the fore-topmast lay upon her bows, and the rigging and sails of the main-mast had suffered much injury. The mate told me that the soundings, and almost everything else, proved we were on the Bahama banks, though he had not yet ascertained on what part of them we lay, and consequently could not say whether we had much chance of soon falling in with any vessel.

The day passed gloomily. We regarded every cloud that rose upon the horizon as the forerunner of a breeze, which we above all things feared to encounter. Much of our time was employed in preparing for the painful but necessary duty of interring the dead.

The carpenter soon got ready a sufficient number of boards, to each of which we bound one of the corpses, and also weights enough to make it sink to the bottom.

About ten at night we began to commit the bodies to the deep. A dead calm had prevailed the whole day, and not a cloud obscured the sky. The sea reflected the stars so distinctly, that it seemed as if we were consigning our departed companions to a heaven

as splendid as that above us. There was an awful solemnity, alike in the scene and in our situation. I read the funeral service, and then we dropped the corpses overboard one after another. The sea sparkled around each, as its sullen plunge announced that the waters were closing over it, and they all slowly and successively descended to the bottom, enveloped in a ghastly glimmering brightness, which enabled us to trace their progress through the motionless deep. When these last offices of respect were performed, we retired in silence to different parts of the ship.

About midnight, the mate ordered the men to put down our anchor, which, till then, they had not been able to accomplish. They likewise managed to furl most of the sails, and we went to bed, under the consoling idea that, though a breeze did spring up, our throbbing would enable us to weather it without any risk.

I was roused early next morning by a confused noise upon deck. When I got there, I found the men gazing intently over the side of the ship, and inquired if our anchor held fast. "Ay, ay," returned one of them, "rather faster than we want it." On approaching the bulwarks, and looking down, I perceived to my horror and astonishment, all the corpses lying at the bottom of the sea, as if they had just been dropped into it. We could even distinguish their features, and see them waving their arms, and their agonizing contortions. The superincumbent mass of ocean. A large block happened to fall overboard, and the agitation which it occasioned in the sea produced an apparent augmentation of their number, and a horrible distortion of their limbs and countenances. A bundle was thrown to the surface, and then gradually to vanish among the eddying waters, as they subsided into a state of calmness.

We were now exempted from the ravages and actual presence of death, but his form haunted us without intermission. We hardly dared to look over the ship's side, lest our eyes should encounter the ghastly features of some one who had formerly been a companion, and at whose funeral rites we had recently assisted. The seamen began to murmur among themselves, saying that we would never be able to leave the spot where we then were, and that our vessel would rot away as fast as the dead bodies that lay beneath it.

In the evening a strong breeze sprung up, and filled us with hopes that some vessel would soon come in sight, and afford us relief. At sunset, when the mate was giving directions about the watch, one of the seamen cried out, "Thanked be God, there's a light, and the other ran up to him, saying, "Where there?" He pointed to a flock of Mother Carey's chickens that had just appeared astern, and began to count how many there were of them. I inquired what was the matter, and the mate replied, "Why, only that we've seen the worst of it, all master. I've a notion we'll fall in with a sail before twenty hours are past." "Have you any particular reason for thinking so?" said I. "To be sure I have," returned he; "aren't them there birds the spirits of those brave fellows we threw overboard last night? I know another story. Oh, I've witnessed such strange things!—Isn't it reasonable to suppose that these little creatures, having once been such as we are, should feel a sort of friendliness towards a ship's crew, and wish to give warning when bad weather had returned in ahead, that every man may be prepared for the worst?" "Do you conceive," said I, "that any people but seamen are ever changed into the birds we have been talking of?" "No, for certain not," answered the mate, "and none but the sailors that are drowned," he threw overboard last night. While in the form of Carey's chickens they undergo a sort of purgatory, and are punished for their sins. They fly about the wide ocean far out of sight of land, and never find a place where they can rest the soles of their feet, till it pleases the Lord to receive them from their bondage and take them to himself."

Next morning I was awakened by the

joyful intelligence that a schooner was in sight, and that she had hoisted her flag in answer to our signals. She bore down upon us with a good wind, and in about an hour hove to, and spoke us. When we had informed them of our unhappy situation, the captain ordered the boat to be lowered, and came on board of our vessel, with three of his crew. He was a thick, short, dark-complexioned man, and his language and accent discovered him to be a native of the Southern States of America. The mate immediately proceeded to detail minutely all that had happened to us, but his visitor paid very little attention to the narrative, and soon interrupted it, by asking of what our cargo consisted. Having been satisfied on this point, he said, "Seeing as how things stand, I conclude you'd be best for getting into some port."

"Yes, that of course is our earnest wish," replied the mate, "and we hope to be able, by your assistance, to accomplish it."—"Ay, we must all assist one another," returned the captain. "Well, I was just calculating that your plan would be to run into New Providence—I'm bound for St. Thomas and for your prize, 'I swear.'—I should turn about, and go right back with you—neither that I should let you have any of my seamen, for I'll not be able to make a good trade unless I get slick into port. I have three nigger slaves on board of me—curse them, they don't know much about sea matters, and are as lazy as hell, but keep flogging them, mister—keep flogging them, I say—by which means you will make them serve your ends. Well, as I was saying, I will let you have them blacks to help you, if you'll buy them of me at a fair price, and pay 'em in hard cash."—"This proposal," said the mate, "sounds strange enough to a British seaman;—and how much do you ask for your slaves?"—"I can't let them go under three hundred dollars each," replied the captain; "I guess they would fetch more in St. Thomas."

"Why, there isn't that sum of money on board this vessel, that I know of," answered the mate; "and though I could pay it myself, I'm sure the owners never would agree to indemnify me. I thought you would have afforded us some assistance without asking anything in return,—a British sailor would have done so at least,—well, I vow, you're a strange man, said the captain. "Isn't it fair that I should get something for my niggers, and for the chance I'll run of spoiling my trade?"—"You surely do not mean to leave us in this barbarous way!" cried I, the owners of this vessel would not consent to any such thing either, and then the seaman began to pour forth a torrent of invectives and abuse against the heartless and avaricious shipmaster who had inhumanly deserted us. Major L. and his wife, being in the cabin below, heard all that passed. When the captain first came in, and then the seamen began to pour forth a torrent of invectives and abuse against the heartless and avaricious shipmaster who had inhumanly deserted us, but as the conversation proceeded, their hopes gradually diminished, and the conclusion of it made Mrs. L. give way to a flood of tears, in which I found her indulging when I went below.

The mate now endeavored to encourage the men to exertion. They cleared away the wreck of the fore-topmast, which had hitherto encumbered the deck, and put up a sort of jury-mast in its stead, on which they rigged two sails. When these things were accomplished, we got up our moorings, and laid our course for New Providence. The mate had fortunately been upon the Bahama seas before, and was aware of the difficulties he would have to encounter in navigating them. The weather continued moderate, and after spending six days in suspense, we made Extrema Island, and cast anchor near its shore.

The arrival of our vessel, and all the circumstances connected with this event, were soon made known upon the island; and a gentleman, who resided on the plantation, sent to request our company at his house. We gladly accepted his hospitable offer, and immediately went ashore.

Those only who have been at sea can conceive the delight which the appearance of trees and verdurous fields—the odours of fruit and flowers—the freedom that arise from treading on the earth, produce in the minds, at the termination of a long voyage. Every step we took seemed to infuse additional vigour into our limbs. Our host met us at the door of his mansion, and immediately indicated us, to his wife and family, and likewise to several persons who were visitors at the time. We were ushered into an airy hall, the window curtains of which had just been sprinkled with water and the juice of limes. The odour of the fruit, and the cool breeze, sent by the evaporation of the fluid, exerted a most tranquillizing influence upon the mind, and made the distressing scene I had recently witnessed pass from my remembrance like a dream. We were soon conducted into another apartment, where an elegant banquet, and a tasteful variety of the most exquisite wines, awaited us. Here we continued till evening, and then returned to the hall. From its windows we beheld the setting sun, curtained by volumes of gloriously-colored clouds, and shedding a dazzling radiance upon the sea, which stretched in stillness to the horizon. Our vessel lay at a little distance; and when a small wave happened to break upon her side, she seemed, for a moment, to be encircled with jets. The dews had just begun to fall, and that composing stillness,

which, in tropical climates, pervades all nature at such a time, was undisturbed by the slightest murmur of any kind. Two young ladies sat down to a harp and a piano, and a gentleman accompanied them upon the flute. The harmony was perfected by the rich gushing voice of one of the females of our party, and the flushed cheeks and trembling eyelids of the charming Bahamians, showed that the music affected their hearts, as much as it delighted their ears.

When the night was advanced, we retired to sleep, lulled by the pleasing consciousness of being secure from those misfortunes and dangers, to the invasion of which we had of late been so cruelly exposed.

THE END.

WEALTH FROM THE EARTH

SOME OF THE RICHEST MINES IN THE WORLD.

And the Profits They Pay Their Fortune Owners—Single Mines That Yield Many Princely Incomes—Tales of the Fabulous Riches of Ophir and Colchida Disclosed by Later Discoveries.

Since that time in the dim past when the first epigrammatic philosopher set forth the fact that money was the root of all evil the desire of mankind has been to get riches quickly. Of the many means employed to achieve this end, mining, if not the surest, has certainly been the speediest, and tales of rich mines possess as great a fascination for those of the present generation as did stories of like strain told at King Solomon's court by returned adventurers from the gold fields of Ophir. There are probably a score of gold mines actively working to-day which are discounting anything ever accomplished at the mines of Ophir in the days of the wise King, and the modern diamond mines of Kimberley in South Africa, are infinitely richer than those of Colchida ever were. The colossal treasure of the Peruvian Incas, which aroused the

CRUEL CUPIDITY OF THE SPANISH invaders, would seem paltry in comparison with the golden treasures now held in the vaults of any great commercial center of the old or new worlds and was smaller by far than the annual output of the gold mines of either Australia, South Africa or the United States.

The most important product of mining is coal, a mineral but not a metal. Next in importance to coal stands iron, but neither of these products of the earth's depths can show the profits from single mines that have been secured from mines of diamonds, gold, silver and copper, although from their vast number, iron and coal being of world-wide distribution, the aggregate profits may have exceeded those of the precious metal. Besides iron and coal the principal mines are of gold, copper, silver, tin, diamonds, lead, zinc, quicksilver and nickel, ranking in about the order named. The diamond mines are of comparatively rare occurrence, the principal fields worked at present being in South Africa, South America and India, the South American mines eclipsing the others in output and profits. A little known product of the Brazilian mines is the black diamond, having

THE SAME CHEMICAL FORM as the purest white diamond, but of a dingy black color, and valuable solely because of its use for cutting other minerals. It is used extensively in diamond drills, and is but little lower in price for small stones than white diamonds. The De Beers Consolidated Diamond Mines of Kimberly, Cape Colony, South Africa, have paid dividends on nearly \$10,000,000 approximately \$3,000,000 and according to quotations the company's shares on the London Stock Exchange at the close of June 1898 the mine was worth the enormous sum of \$16,500,000, the largest value of any mine in the world. The Jagersfontein Diamond Mine, of Orange Free State, is a small concern compared with the De Beers, but its shares are selling at the rate of \$7,000,000 for the entire mine.

The credit for paying the greatest amount of unliquidated dividends is given the Consolidated California and Virginia Mines, of Nevada, which have disbursed in profits the tidy sum of \$77,600,000, of which amount \$75,710,000 was paid by the two separate companies previous to their consolidation in August, 1883. Next in antiquated dividends among the world's great mines is the Calumet and Hecla copper mine, of the Lake Superior District, which has paid, to July 1, 1898, no less an amount than \$3,850,000 in dividends.

THE MINE WAS OPENED in 1865 and is therefore less than a third of a century old. It is paying at the rate of \$4,000,000 annually at present, and its net profits are roughly estimated at from five to six millions per annum. On June 30, 1898, its shares were sold at \$56 each, placing thereby a valuation of \$25,500,000 on the mine.

The largest producer of copper in the world is the Anaconda Mine, of Montana. It is credited with dividends of only \$5,750,000, but this sum has been paid within a short period, about two years, since it passed under European control. Its shares are selling on the London Stock Exchange at the rate of about \$90,000,000 for the entire mine. The Boston & Montana is another copper giant, which has paid dividends of \$7,825,000, and on June 30, 1898, its shares were quoted at a figure placing the total value of the mine at \$90,750,000. The fourth among the quartet of the world's greatest copper mines is the Rio Tinto, of Spain, controlled by an English corporation, the value of whose preference shares in June was \$40,250,000, while its common shares were \$10,250,000 additional, or \$50,500,000 for the mine, thus closely approaching the Calumet & Hecla in valuation, although its dividend rate is much lower. There are no four gold fields in the world whose aggregate value is

equal to these four copper mines, or which

PAY SUCH LARGE PROFITS.

The Mexican silver mines of Guanajuato, Zacatecas, and Pachuca, and the South American mines of Potosi, Cerro de Pasco and others have produced billions of dollars' worth of silver since passing into the hands of the white miners, 300 or more years ago, but their total production and net profit it would be impossible to estimate, even if all existing records were unscathed. The same rule applies to the quicksilver mines of Almaden and Idria, in Spain, and Austria, which were first opened in the mists of antiquity, and are still large and profitable producers. The California quicksilver mines at New Almaden are declining in output but have earned millions for their owners within the past 40 years.

Among American mines, besides those already noted, the Ontario, a silver mine in Utah, has paid dividends of \$13,430,000 in Granite Mountain, also a silver producer, has divided profits of \$12,120,000. The Quincy copper mine has paid \$5,770,000, and has declared dividends of \$1,600,000 in single years. The Homestake, a South Dakota gold property, has returned \$6,806,250 to its owners, and bids fair to pay many times that amount in the future, as it is probably the largest gold mine in the world, although excelled in the average richness of its rock by nearly

ALL THE OTHER GREAT MINES. The Standard and Consolidated, a California gold mine, is credited with profits of \$5,554,940; the Horn Silver has paid \$5,190,000, and the Tamarack Copper Mine has divided \$5,330,000 with shareholders in a little over 10 years. The list of American mines which have paid \$1,000,000 or more in profit is so long that its reading would prove monotonous to all except those directly interested in mines and mining matters.

The gold mines of Australia have been not only wonderfully prolific, but highly profitable. In point of dividends the list is headed by the Broken Hill Proprietary Company, which is credited with having paid £6,920,000, or, with the profits of subsidiary companies, which should be included £8,740,000, equivalent to \$15,580,000. El Callao, of Colombia, has paid \$9,684,400, and is still earning money for its owners. Among South African mines the Robinson is credited with dividends equivalent to \$2,212,500 up to an early date in 1897, and later dividends, data of which is not at hand, increase this amount to something like \$10,000,000. The property itself is valued at \$23,500,000. The Ferreira, another gold mine of South Africa, is selling at the rate of \$11,250,000 for the entire mine, and the Simmer & Jack, a mine on the Witwaters and valued at the comparatively low figure of \$3,400,000 has

THE LARGEST GOLD MINE in the world, with 569 gravity stamps. It will soon be exceeded, however, in this respect by the Homestake, of the Black Hills, which already has mills in which 800 stamps will be kept pounding regularly on gold-bearing quartz. The Rand Mines Company is the greatest of the South African mining corporations, in valuation, its shares selling at the rate of \$60,000,000 for the entire property.

Among the trendwell and the Alaskan-Mexican Mining Companies are English corporations, closely connected, operating mines near Juneau, Alaska. The Trendwell has the third largest gold mine in the world, and is valued at \$5,900,000. In the Klondike district over 2,000,000,000, and the Esperanza, a Ana, valued at \$1,500,000. In justice to Mexican mines it should be noted that many of the best properties are

OWNED BY INDIVIDUALS and close corporations. Were their earnings and values made public the great richness of Mexican mines would appear more readily.

Among the mines of other than the precious metals or copper, which latter product is much better entitled to the appellation of precious than is silver, judging from the relative profits of the two metals, first rank should be given to the Laurium. From the earliest historical times this Grecian mine has produced lead and zinc in vast quantities, and after almost continuous working for more than 2,000 years is still valued at \$2,250,000 with few signs of approaching decay. To estimate its profits would be a futile attempt, but at even a moderate annual return it should have made several score generations of very wealthy men.

The Malfidano zinc mine of Italy is owned mainly in France, and on the selling price of its shares is worth \$5,000,000. The Nickel, producing the metal from which the mine takes its name, is in far-away New Caledonia, and its owners consider it worth \$25,000,000, judging from the price at which they part with their shares. A Cleveland, Ohio, corporation holds control of the richest nickel mines of the world, near Sudbury, Canada. Its profits cannot be learned, but must be very large.

The most valuable iron mine in the world is the Minnesota, in the state of that name, with a nominal capital of \$16,700,000 and a market value of \$11,000,000, credited with dividends of \$3,735,000. The Lake Superior mine and the Lake Angelina mine, at Ishpeming, Mich., are each worth about \$2,000,000 based on recent sales of stock. The Sicilian sulphur mines are the largest in the world and are highly profitable, but accurate figures of value and profits are unobtainable.

A LITTLE CHERUB.

Little Boy—Mamma, may I give what's in my savings-bank to that beggar man?
Mamma—You dear, sweet little cherub! Do you want to give away all of that money your uncle gave you? There was over a dollar.
I spent some of it, mamma.
Did you? How much is there left?
There's a twenty-five cent piece left, but 't chandy man said it was bad.



SAN JUAN BARRACKS, WHERE THE U. S. TROOPS MAY SOON BE QUARTERED. The view shows that interior or yard of the Spanish barracks in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The quarters have lately been remodelled and brought up to date in a Spanish way, and are probably comfortable. When the U. S. expedition lands in San Juan, and if the Spanish troops do not burn their barracks in evacuating, it is probable that the United States soldiers will have quarters within these walls.