

REPUTATIONS OF MEN

Rev. Frank De Witt Talmage Tells Us of the Truly Great

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A despatch from Chicago says:—Rev. Frank De Witt Talmage preached from the following text: Matthew xi, 11, "There hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist."

Great men, great events and great epochs, bigger and more colossal than the years pass away from them," once wrote the biographer of Robert Burns. Like the mountain shadows they increase in size and their reputations lengthen in importance as the sun of their day sets and the long night of their rest separates from them. Like the mythological heroes and heroines of old, their leaders' brows become luminous with crowns of gold. No cathedral impresses us so much as the venerable pile that is covered with moss and creeping ivy. Many is seldom so grand and truly great until he has been dead at least twenty years.

But standing to-day under the lengthening shadows of many great reputations these eminent questions naturally arise in many minds:—What is greatness? What are the elements which distinguish the truly noble from the merely selfishly famous?

JOHN THE BAPTIST'S GLORY.

The purpose of this sermon is to show why John the Baptist was greater than all other men before Christ's Jordanic baptism—John the Baptist great, although he was so poor that his home was among the rocks and sands of the wilderness, lying between the capital and the Dead Sea; so poor that his only garments were the coarse skins of the wild beast, through the holes of which stretched his long limbs; and hairy chest; so poor that his only food was the grasshoppers or locusts and the bees which had been hidden by the bees among the caverns and the hills.

From the world's standpoint this is a strange portrait of a great man. But how wonderful is its setting. The faded portrait was of a gold face, a silver frame, but the portrait of John the Baptist is a silver face with a gold frame. Like a ruby glowing red it is set in a circle of most precious diamonds. Like a mirror of burnished brass, and spotless, it reflects the light of a rising sun. It was John the Baptist's glory that he was the harbinger of a greater than himself. As the direct forerunner of the Son of God he came at the supreme crisis of the world's history. His name was thus linked with the most momentous of all events and derives a lustre from the connection. There seems to be a great identity with great events. It cannot be coincidental.

TRAINING FOR GREATNESS.

There must be a training for greatness. The occasion does not create greatness; it only develops and produces it. It cannot create or make greatness out of common clay. We do not assert that history can play a trumpery essential upon a dinner plate or blow a bugle blast with a penny whistle, or catch thunderbolts with a straw hat or shoot mountains with spiders webs. The old poets said that when worlds are used for shuttles and the universe is a plaything and all in all, it is the gods themselves must take part in the sport. It needs stronger arms than yours or mine to pitch islands for quoits, to bowl down mountains for topkins, to swing hemispheres as a shuttle hurls the hammer, or with a trident to make the world submerged continent. Athens, the world once stretched between the old world and the new, with a dying gurgling sink and disappear. But great deeds bring great men from obscurity into prominence. The occasion furnishes the opportunity.

Great men are produced only by great emergencies. The opportunity of greatness, what greater event is there in all history than that of the coming of the promised Messiah? How much it meant to the world and to his life of eternal joy have we except that which revolves about the person of him who was once baptized by John the Baptist, in the river Jordan? Who hope have we of ever meeting our loved ones, our parents and our friends who have gone beyond except through the Divine Being of whom John the Baptist was the direct forerunner? Oh my friends, as John the Baptist's name was great by being linked to the name of Jesus Christ, at his first coming, will you not make your name great by doing your part toward preparing the world for Christ's second coming?

A FORERUNNER OF GOOD.

John the Baptist was a direct forerunner. He was more than that. He was ready to sink and submerge and entirely cover up his individuality with the personality of Jesus Christ. He was ready to let Christ be all in all, and to be merely a footstool to make the divine face shine forth the more clearly. He was willing to decrease and increase that the glory of his Saviour might increase. Do we, like John the Baptist, sink our individualities in Christ's or do we, like some of the ancient forerunners of the east, preceding the king's chariots, wish to be dressed so gorgeously and to make so much noise that people will be watching us and admiring our strides instead of turning their eyes toward the royal Master whom we are proclaiming? Are we wishing that all eyes shall be turned upon us instead of upon Jesus? Are we saying, "This is my footstool," or are we trying to preach so that, as when Demetrius harangued, he

Christ after we are dead? John the Baptist, great before his sacrifice! John the Baptist, great after he was martyred!

A THOUGHT ILLUSTRATED.

Perhaps I can illustrate the Bible thought in a simple way. The wall or fortress has to be built. The work must be pushed. One group of workmen ascend the scaffolding and lay on one layer of stone and then go to their rest. Another group lay another layer of stone upon the preceding layer, and then go to their rest. And so the work upon the wall grows higher and higher, each group of workmen standing upon a lot of scaffolding than that of the preceding laborers. Well, the great wall of progress has been built in this way. Each generation represents a batch of workmen, each layer of stone the completed work of the preceding generation. The college boy of to-day knows more of geography, more of chemistry, more of astronomy, more of all the sciences than the abbot man living three centuries ago. Why? Because he has absorbed the compact knowledge of the last 300 years, which the great scholars of those three centuries have laid at his feet.

But as the wall of mental and spiritual progress went on growing higher and higher century after century suddenly about 1,900 years ago Christ's sacrifice was laid upon the top of it. The Calvary stones were the stones of the year 30 A. D. Those stones will lift all succeeding generations higher in knowledge and in possibilities, higher than all sin and higher than all future condemnations. I once heard a worldly man say: "The best man that ever lived went to heaven on his own merits." If we ever reach the city of the redeemed, it must be through what Christ has done for us and not through what we have done for ourselves. This statement contains the kernel, the essence, the heart of all the gospel. John the Baptist in his own life great? Yes! "Yet, notwithstanding, he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

LOTS OF WORK AHEAD.

Surveying of the Empire Takes Time to Accomplish.

"There are many parts of the Empire of which there are no suitable maps," Lieutenant-General Sir W. G. Nicholson informed the War Commission. "They have not even a sketch of the Ordnance Survey of the United Kingdom, on which they have been at work for the last 118 years. I wonder," added the witness, "how much they have spent on that?"

The survey of the United Kingdom, which was completed a century ago, is costing the country £230,000 a year. During the past decade the work has involved a total expenditure of £2,300,000. The staff comprises 347 officers and men of the Royal Engineers, and 2,254 civil assistants and labourers.

The uninitiated might be excused for supposing that such an army of workers would be equal to preparing a reliable map of these islands in something under a century. But inquiry in official quarters justifies the assumption that they, or rather their successors, will be still engaged in the undertaking another century hence.

The explanation is that the larger scale maps show such details as the number of steps to a house, the position of fire plugs, and the arrangement of trees in fields and allotments. Obviously these maps can be rendered inaccurate and out-of-date with utmost facility, necessitating a resurvey and a recount of the door-steps and the trees.

The plans of a survey of Ireland at present being made indicate every tiny holding in the country. There are as many as 1,800 of these small enclosures on one of the plans. "No such accurate work," it is stated officially, "has been met with on the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain."

It will form another great obstacle. It takes from four to six months to make a bill drawing from the field sketches.

Almost microscopic though the attention paid to Great Britain, the Ordnance Survey, practically ignores the rest of the Empire. There are 3,200,000 square miles of Australia, New Zealand, and adjacent islands, which have not yet been surveyed, and an accurate map of the former country is unobtainable. The whole of South Africa north of Cape Colony are in a strictly geographical sense, unknown to us. What detailed maps exist have been prepared from sketches made by travellers and explorers.

NOTES FROM ANYWHERE.

Tattooing is now done with a needle driven by electricity.

The number of murders per million inhabitants is in England 5.13; in Germany, 5.46; in France, 11.63; in Austria, 15.45; in Italy, 76.11; and in Spain, 41.7.

The intense love of the Filipino for music is notably shown in their funerals, their home entertainments, and in their theatres. The Filipino voice is small and thin, but it makes up the deficiency in shrillness.

TO PREVENT COLLISION.

A Russian inventor has devised an apparatus which is intended to prevent collisions at sea. The apparatus is operated by the use of contact devices which he calls "feelers." The feelers move in advance of the ship, and at such a depth as not to be materially interfered with by the waves. They are so disposed and connected as to indicate an obstruction stationary or floating, beneath the surface, whether in the direct course of the ship or on one of the other side.

It is easier for a woman to conceal her love than it is to hide her indifference.

FOR THE HOME

Recipes for the Kitchen, Hygiene and Other Notes for the Housekeeper.

TESTED COOKERY.

Broiled Sirloin Steak.—Have the steak cut one and one-half inches thick and cut off the flank end, as it will not be good broiled but can be used profitably in other ways. Grease the broiler with some of the fat, then put in the steak and turn as often as you count ten slowly until both sides are seared, then hold each side to the fire longer at a time. Four minutes will give a rare steak and longer time must be allowed to make it well done. Do not take out the bone before broiling but after the steak is laid on a plate, run a sharp knife along next to the bone so that the meat can be cut across for the bone to serve. Spread with seasoned butter. To one-quarter cup of butter creamed add one-half level teaspoon of salt, a speck of pepper, one tablespoon of finely chopped parsley and one tablespoon of an ounce each of Creamed Oysters.—Scald two cups of cream in a double boiler with a slice cut from a large onion. Mix a rounding tablespoon of flour with a little cold milk and add to the hot cream and cook until it thickens. Look a pint of oysters in their own liquor until they begin to curl, skin them out and drain, add to the cream and season with salt and pepper to the taste. Serve in timbal cases or in bread croutades.

Split Pea Soup.—Pick over and wash one cup of dried split peas, soak overnight in cold water, drain and put on to cook in cold water for one hour, add salt and broken up. Add boiling water as needed. Rub through a strainer and put over the fire again. Add stock, milk or boiling water to make of the right consistency. Rub two level tablespoons each of flour and butter together and turn into the boiling soup, cook until smooth and season with one level teaspoon salt, one-half as much sugar and a few dashes of pepper.

Indian Sweet Apple Pudding.—Pare and slice two sweet apples thin. Scald two cups of milk; two rounding tablespoons of corn meal and four rounding tablespoons of flour with one level teaspoon of ginger and pinch of salt, one egg beaten and two tablespoons of melted butter. Mix apple, milk and other ingredients and turn into a buttered pudding dish. Add two cups of cold milk, but do not stir it in, then bake in a slow oven for one hour.

Cocoanut Pudding.—Put three rounding tablespoons of tapioca in cold water to soak overnight. Scald four cups of milk and add the drained tapioca. Cook five minutes, then add the yolks of four eggs, three rounding tablespoons of sugar and three tablespoons of prepared cocoanut. Cook ten minutes and turn into a dish to cool. Beat the whites of four eggs and four level tablespoons of powdered sugar, together to make a meringue, and spread over the top. Sprinkle lightly with cocoanut and brown slightly in the oven.

Soup with Tomatoes.—Heat two cups of canned tomatoes and press through a strainer to take out the seeds, add a few drops of onion juice and add a pea soup made from above rule.

SAVING STEPS.

The woman who does all her own work should make her "head save her heels." By a little foresight and skilful managing she may to in an endless variety of ways. The following are some means of saving steps and labor:

First, plan ahead—have your regular work done first, and thus be mistress of your work and keep at the head of it.

When cooking green beans, cook enough for two or more meals.

Serve once with a plain dressing of butter, salt and pepper, then re-heat and serve some more with a green sauce and again serve cold with mayonnaise or French dressing.

Make enough pie-crust for two bakings at once, and set the unused part in a cold place until wanted.

The last will be better than the first.

Let the boys or hired man wash a dozen or more of potatoes—outdoors at one time.

Cook the breakfast cereal the day before. Cook enough for two or more meals in a double boiler, and re-heat any number of times. This should be cooked on ironing or baking day to save fuel. Those who object to having the same cereal two mornings in succession can still alternate, as the cooked cereal will keep several days in a cold place.

There are many fruits and vegetables which need little or no preparation for the table. Use these generously in season. Serve simply, not untidily.

Get a good foot-climber and use it.

Keep a supply of bread crumbs ready for use.

Keep kitchen utensils in convenient places.

Don't spend time ironing sheets, underclothes, towels, or stockings. They are more sanitary unironed.

For every day wear make the little girl's dresses and bloomers of some strong material—flannel, winter and chambray, or flannel, summer—and do away with the drawers and skirts.

Clean thoroughly as you go, and then keep clean. Insist upon the feet being cleaned outside on something provided for this purpose. Don't allow the dog to track up your porches. Chain him.

Have a place for everything in the house and see that each member of the family puts the article he uses in its proper place.

Make every trip up and down stairs count, make no unnecessary ones.

Sit at your work whenever possible. Do as much mending on the sewing machine as possible. Use the reefer.

When "dead tired," stop and rest; you will accomplish more in the end.

SOME USES OF BORAX.

In sudden hoarseness or loss of voice from colds relief may be obtained by dissolving and partially swallowing a lump of borax the size of a pea. Borax may be dusted on a scald or wet burn surface. It is nice for cleaning the teeth and to sweeten the breath, a little added to hard water renders it much nicer for bathing purposes. Equal parts of powdered orris-root, borax prepared chalk and one sixth as much soap make a fine dentifrice. There is no better remedy for dandruff than a wash of an ounce each of borax and camphor to one and one half pints of cold water. Scurf may be removed from the baby's head by rubbing on a little borax and then washing with soap and water. Use one tablespoonful of borax to one gallon of water for washing woolen fabrics; it makes a better lather. For washing silk handkerchiefs and gloves borax may be used instead of soap. It is also nice for cleaning hair-brushes. When meat is ready to hang up, wash it in water as hot as you can bear it on your hands, then carefully cover the flesh side with powdered borax, and you will not be troubled with bugs or worms.

COOKING VEGETABLES.

Onions should be boiled in hard water salted, because they lose much of their flavor and aroma if boiled in pure soft water. String-beans usually need to boil for forty-five minutes. The addition of a small amount of salt to the water will minimize any rank flavor and will prove them. When done, drain thoroughly, season with salt, pepper and butter. Turnips, carrots, cabbage and onions should be boiled in a great deal of water, then taken up immediately and drained when sufficiently done. Overcooking destroys the taste and too little water will allow them to turn dark in color. New potatoes are best baked. A very little sugar added to tomatoes, squash peas, corn, beans and turnips will improve them. Summer squash should be steamed and not boiled. Cauliflower should be tied in a net to prevent boiling to pieces. Put a piece of bread the size of an egg into a cheese-cloth bag and drop into a pot of boiling greens to absorb the odor.

SHE'D SAID TOO MUCH.

"Now, Maud," said Edgar, with a complacent smile, "I am ready to try that little experiment. I am sure I can bring you under hypnotic influence if you will agree not to resist. Just put your mind in a passive condition. Try to think of nothing at all. Fix your eye on the light, now, and don't forget to keep your eyes a blank. I will count sixty seconds by my watch."

The girl followed his directions literally. In twenty seconds her eyes blinked; in forty they closed.

"Ah! I knew I would succeed!" exclaimed Edgar, highly elated. "Now, Maud, I command you to tell me the secrets of your heart. Whom do you love? Tell me, I command you."

A momentary expression of resistance crossed the girl's face; then she spoke in a monotone.

"I love Edgar Popham, and—"

"Yes, yes!" cried Edgar, trembling with delight. "Go on. Tell me all the secrets of your heart."

"I love Edgar Popham," continued the girl, in the same tone, "and I would love him more if he were not so stingy. I want to go to the theatre twice a week, and he takes me only once in three months. I want diamond-rings, and he gives me rings with imitation stones in them. I want a drive in the Park once or twice a week, and I never get it. When I go out with him and get hungry, he never thinks of oysters. When I—"

"Enough!" cried the young man. "Awake! I command you!" And he fled, without waiting to see the result of his command. As the front door slammed the young girl opened her eyes, smiled, and said:

"I hope I did not spring too much on his nerves. Perhaps I should have let the drive and oysters go till another time."

GETTING ON.

A lady on entering the kitchen early one morning saw a plate and knife and fork, the former of which had evidently contained rabbit pie. The lady strongly suspected a certain policeman of having snatched off it, and the following conversation took place between her and the cook:

Mistress—"Jane, what's become of the cold rabbit pie that was left?"

Jane—"Oh, I didn't think it was wanted, mum, so I gave it to the dog."

Mistress (sarcastically)—"Does the dog use a knife and fork, then?"

Jane (unabashed)—"Not very well yet, mum; but I am teaching him to!"

SOLD BY THE STOCK.

A farmer went on a visit to a friend. After dinner the husband man requested to be shown round the town.

After visiting several places they finally reached the electric lighting works.

"What do you call this place, Dan?" queried the farmer.

"This is called the electric plant," was the reply.

"What do they grow?"

"They grow currents."

"How do they sell 'em—by the bushel?"

"They don't sell 'em by the bushel; they sell 'em by the shock."

Shads: should be pretty sure of anything they feel in their bones.

THE S. S. LESSON. WHEN A ROGUE IS MASTER

INTERNATIONAL LESSON, NOV. 1.

Text of the Lesson, II. Sam. xv, 1-12. Golden Text, Ex. xx, 12.

After the overlying, unconditional covenant made with David concerning his son, who would be Israel's Messiah, and the kingdom of righteousness, as recorded in our last lesson in this book (chapter vii), we read David's great prosperity and righteous reign (ch. xii, 15). Then comes the record of his greater sin and repentance, the sin of Amnon and his death at the hands of his brother Absalom, after which Absalom fled to the king of Geshur and remained there three years, but through the pleading of the wise woman of Tekoa, employed by Joab, he came back to Jerusalem and dwelt whole years without reconciliation to his father, after which through Joab's intercession, the king became reconciled to him, saw him and kissed him (xiii, 28, 33). Absalom signifies "father of peace," but his conduct suggests one who is of his father, the devil (John viii, 44). The king's kiss to Absalom was the loving kiss of a heartbroken father welcoming his erring son, but the kiss which Absalom (if he did kiss his father) when he betrayed his Master. This is the third time in fourteen lessons that we have had this portion of this chapter assigned as a lesson instead of the much more helpful and suggestive portion following, but we are asked to-day to study verse 23, which is some improvement.

The story of Absalom is one of deceit and lying and treachery and rebellion even against his own father. Perhaps there was no one more wicked than Absalom. His unscrupulous self-seeking, even at the cost of his father's life, is suggestive of the devil, who would if possible betray God, and who will yet seek to do so ere the age closes. Make a careful and prayerful study of the following passages and be ever on your guard against all such manifestations. Isa. xiv, 13; Dan. vii, 25; viii, 24, 25; xi, 26; II. Thess. ii, 3, 4; Rev. xiii, 5-7; xvii, 14; xix, 19, 20. There are many foreshadowings of a small scale—politicians who will not take up a matter without first considering how it may affect their own political prospect; those who, for their own ends, by good words and fair speeches, deceive the hearts of the simple; those who under pretense of worshipping God have only in view their own promotion and possibly their own wealth; those who, justly or unjustly, are despised and mistreated, but whose hearts are full of devotion to God on his lips and his father's blessing sounding in his ears, goes forth to carry out his devilish designs against his father. Yet there is an ever increasing multitude who are rebellious to parents and in open rebellion against God (II. Tim. iii, 4-5). But as truly as David returned and sat on his throne in peace (xix, 14) so shall our Lord Jesus return and reign on David's throne, and the work of righteousness shall be peace and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever (Isa. ix, 6; 7; xxxii, 17). There are many antitheses (foolish brethren, the name signifies) who stand high before men in relation to the king, but whose while outwardly professing allegiance are really on the side of the enemy. Let us turn from the dark picture of self and sin to the faithful few who said to David in this dark hour, "Behold thy servants are ready to do whatsoever my lord the king shall appoint," and to Ithai, who said, "As the Lord liveth and as my lord the king liveth, I will be with thee in what place my lord the king shall bid, even there shall I be with thee" (verses 15, 21).

To more natural sight it looked dark for David, but God had promised that the kingdom would be established forever, and there were also who had faith in God and were also ready to die with David rather than live with Absalom. The time was, when in China only two years ago, when to live meant to deny Christ, but many confessed Him and died with Him. See in Rev. xiii, 15-17, a description of coming days, and see in Rev. xiv, 9-11; xv, 2-4, the future of those who deny Christ in order to live and the future of such as die for His sake. May we have the spirit of Ruth 1:16-17. If Kings ii, 2, 4, 6, 9; and may our determination stand by that of Paul in Phil. i, 20; iii, 8-10. Note David's submission and recognition of God in this great trial "Behold; here am I, let Him do to me as he seemeth good unto Him" (verses 25, 26). Over the same brook Kidron (verse 23; John xviii, 1) went the son of David on the night of the agony in Gethsemane and the betrayal by Judas Iscariot, and the faithful followers were very few. From the same Olivet (verse 20) the rejected Christ returned to His home in Heaven, and to the same Olivet will He come again to overthrow His enemies and establish the promised kingdom with Jerusalem as a center (Acts i, 11; 12; Zech. xiv, 4), therefore let us obey Isa. lxii, 6, 7.

David's going barefoot is suggestive of his acknowledgement that this was all of God, and God must manage it, for it is His affair. He knows how to perform His every purpose, and it becomes us to put our shoes in His presence, as He said to Moses and to Joshua (Ex. ii, 5; v, 15). We have come to a place of great rest when, with true humility and absolute confidence in God, we can go day by day with unshod feet, acknowledging that the whole life and all its service, passive or active, are of God. He appointed us, prepared for us, and we have only to walk with Him. He is the author and finisher of all.

ROGUE'S ADVANTAGE.

In those cases where shipowners allow a sum of money to the master for provisions, the dishonest commander will grind quality and quantity to the lowest point, thus adding to the banking account standing in his wife's name. The men may grumble, but the skipper, who is the owner, and the "common sailor" has no chance. The mates have occasionally to be kept quiet, which deprives the chief of a small portion of his hard-earned pilferings, but that is only a small drawback. Not only the provisions, but also the ship itself, this was one of the cases where the mates have to be tipped; they had £2 each for the helping, and the copper fetched £23. One skipper found it necessary to throw overboard no fewer than fifty bags of good Russian wheat during a storm; a sudden moderation of the gale saved the greater part of the cargo from the same fate. That was a loss, but it is not uncommon to throw over some of the cargo to lighten the vessel, and there are losses as well as gains in all businesses. But the strange part of the affair was that those bags of wheat were thrown over the several days after the gale, and about 1,600 miles from the supposed spot—in fact, when the vessel was a long way out on another voyage.

SEEMS TO PAY.

The bags had been removed and hidden, in the anticipation of being able to dispose of them at the end of the next trip; but, to the dismay of the skipper, the vessel was sent with ballast to a port where there was no chance of selling the ill-gotten goods. If the frogs were permitted to remain in their place of concealment too long they might be discovered, so they were thrown over the side at night.

An "advance" on account to pay to men who desire to go ashore at a port of call gives the dishonest master another opportunity of making a little by charging interest. It may be that the men are entitled to an allowance, and thus no interest can be charged, but if the port be a foreign one, the captain does not fall to change the money for them and charge a high rate of exchange.

"If I could get a master's berth," once said a mate who had held a captain's certificate, but had been unable to obtain the coveted position, "I would make enough in five years to turn up seafaring and retire."

"He meant it, and as he was 'in it,'" he knew, what he was talking about. Further, in support of his assertion, he mentioned a captain who, in a dozen years had acquired property to the value of four thousand pounds. "This was more than his pay amounted to in the whole period, to say nothing of the fact that he had kept a family in good style all the time."

WHAT MAMMA SAID.

An amusing story is told of a miserly old gentleman who visited his relatives unvisited.

One morning his little niece of five summers came up to him unexpectedly with the indignant question, "Uncle, are you a cannibal?"

The gentleman was startled, and said: "No, of course not, my dear child, but what on earth makes you ask?"

"Oh, I thought you must be, because mamma was saying this morning just as you came in, that you always lived on your relations."

PECULIAR THINGS ARE LIABLE TO HAPPEN.

Some Captains of Vessels Make Their Dishonesty Pay Them Well.

Captains of merchant vessels have a larger field than anyone else for the exercise of roguery, and many of them do not fail to work the field to the fullest extent.

The ways in which a skipper can build up a competency are numerous. First of all there is the iniquitous system of commissions. If the owners order the stores to be of a certain price and quality, the suppliers find it advisable to condescend to the captain, or there will be complaints. To compensate for this outlay, the supplier probably has to send in a part of the stores of quality inferior to that agreed, or the exact quantity is not always given and this is winked at by the master. He has to sign for the goods or report on the quality, and there is no complaint from him.

Some skippers' stores are sometimes sent in, and the master signs a voucher for half as much again; the firm pays, and half, or more than half the supplies goes into the skipper's pocket.

It is surprising, too, to notice how quickly certain articles in the way of cutlery and linen will wear out or be lost or damaged. Tablecloths, knives and forks, and the like, find their way to the home of the captain. The wives and families of some captains have an abundant supply of provisions at the end of a voyage, which means that the skipper has pinched the food supply at sea.

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