

LEAVING THE SHIP

Rules of the Sea When an Ocean Liner Is Sinking.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST.

After They Are All Safe in the Lifeboats It Is Every Man For Himself in a Desperate Fight For Life, With Officers and Crew Trying to Keep Order.

"The women and children first—always, and after them—hell." This was the way the "rules of the sea" were explained by a veteran captain of a big Atlantic liner. He was asked to explain in detail just what would take place on a big steamer when she was sinking and the order to "abandon ship" had been given.

"On the deep sea we use force if necessary," continued the skipper, "to keep back the men and let the women and children get the first chance at the lifeboats. But once they have been loaded then it becomes a case of each man for himself, and, while the officers and crew would try to keep a semblance of order, they have no right to give preference to any one. The first ones in line are the ones to get on the boats. Perhaps they have fought and struggled to get in line. We have nothing to do with that."

"Aren't the old men and the sick men put off first, before the healthier ones?" he was asked. "Not unless the healthier and stronger ones deliberately give up their places," he answered. "There are no sick aboard when danger calls. All are supposed to be well enough to look out for themselves. And so far as the old men go—there is nothing in that. They are certainly not given the preference. Old men have lived their lives. Let the young men have the chance to live theirs. This is the way it is looked on at sea. Besides, young men can be of help in a boat, while an old man just makes that much more dead weight."

"You must remember that when such a gigantic calamity faces you the little fitnesses of life are thrown aside. Men become animals, brutes with the first instinct—that of self preservation. Some are stronger than others and put this desire under control. Others yield to it and become wild beasts, fighting and biting and clawing their way to help. Sometimes we have to shoot these kind—shoot them down like we would mad dogs—if they try to interfere with the orderly first steps when the women and the young are being looked after. But later, when it becomes a free for all, then then type has fuller play. You cannot blame them. Life is sweet, and they are justified in doing all they can to save themselves. All we seek to do is to stop them from interfering with those who cannot protect themselves and so have not the same chance of being saved."

According to the description of the method of abandoning ship which is practiced in daily drill, the passengers as far as possible are gathered in the assembly rooms, when the captain realizes that his ship is in desperate straits. Every measure is employed to calm them, and while the officers and crew take their appointed stations the passengers are told that it has been deemed best to take to the lifeboats.

While the passengers are held in the saloons the crew strip the lifeboats of their incumbrances, rig the falls and then lower themselves in the boats from the boat deck down to the upper deck, where the boats swing from the davits, touching the ship's side just below the rail.

Eight there are eight lifeboats on each side of the vessel. Lanes are formed by members of the crew, and through these lanes the women and children are passed to the officer who stands at the railing and who hands the passengers over the rail into the lifeboat with the help of two of the boat's crew.

If any men try to break through these lines they are thrown back. If they persist and become a menace to order they may be shot. Each officer is armed with a brace of pistols for use in just such emergencies.

In each boat there is food of a compressed sort and water. The boats handle from fifty to seventy persons each, including the sailors who man them. Each boat is commanded by an officer. The surgeon, purser, engineers and other staff officers take their turn in the boats when the list of life officers has been exhausted.

Once the women and children are put in the boats the men take their turn if there is room left. It should be said that in loading the lifeboats absolutely no distinction is drawn between the different classes of passengers. The women and children of the steerage are given the same consideration as their sisters in the imperial staterooms.

The horror of abandoning the ship lies in the enforced separation of members of families. Fathers and brothers are torn from the arms of mothers and daughters. The children must go. There is a "must," too, as regards the women, but if a wife should decide to remain behind with her husband it is doubtful if the "must" would be enforced.—New York World.

Wise Physician. "I told the doctor I was tired of waiting, so he asked me to put out my tongue and close my eyes. Keep me that way for ten minutes." "And meanwhile?" "He attended to four other patients."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

In order to get, you must learn the art of doing without.—Youth's Companion.

A bachelor says that kissing is one way to remove paint. The best jokes told about a man are those he never hears. The woman who fails to say "because" must have another excuse.

PRIMITIVE WAGONS.

The Russian Baskhir is the Oldest Type Still in Use.

There is an interesting collection of wheeled vehicles in the National museum in Washington which was got together for the purpose of showing the development of conveyances for men and chattels from the most primitive times. One of the exhibits is a full sized cart or ox cart used by the Indians of Arizona and New Mexico as well as in some of the remote parts of Spain. This cart was brought over by the early Spanish settlers. It has wheels about three and a half feet in diameter, made of three pieces of timber fastened together with dovetails of wood, the wheel being thick at the center to form the hub.

Another primitive type of wagon known as the Red river cart and used by the half breeds in Canada has five foot wheels, the wheels in this case having eight or twelve in number. The native driver of this cart sits in it with his feet higher than his hips, the shafts being higher than the bed of the wagon. There is also a reproduction of an Egyptian chariot in the collection, the wheels of which have twelve spokes, with slots in them near the hub so that a rope can be run through to hold the spokes firmly in place.

What is thought to be the oldest type of vehicle still in use is the Russian baskhir or child's coach, with wheels made out of a solid slab of wood, having holes bored through the center for the axle.—New York Sun.

GOVERNMENT PROFITS.

Uncle Sam Has a Good Income From a Few Side Lines.

Customs receipts and internal revenue taxation furnish the bulk of the government's income, but the government profits by a snug sum from the sources that grow out of sovereignty, usually on the "penny saved, penny earned" principle. For instance, about \$2,000,000 of small change is absorbed in the channels of trade each year. During periods of great prosperity the amount has been as high as \$5,000,000.

Buying for 50 cents a pound blanks that will make ninety nickel five cent pieces is profitable business. The gain is hardly less in one cent pieces. The silver in the quarter dollar would not now cost more than 10 cents, although it was somewhat higher when the stock was being minted and purchased. The treasury is the gainer from the destruction of paper money not redeemed. It also derives an income from patents in the form of fees that patentees pay for the privilege of monopolizing their inventions and thus in a slight degree shares their profits. Other returns of this sort might be enumerated, but the receipts growing out of sovereignty are limited in scope and are, after all, merely indirect forms of taxation.—Harper's Weekly.

Just Like Home.

The two little girls, six years old or so, were playing housekeeping all along the garden wall, says the Milwaukee Sentinel. On some principle that no grownup could realize one section of it was the kitchen, another the dining room, another the sitting room, and so on. One small maid was the mistress of the house, and the other was the servant girl. Then the big man came strolling along with a book in his hand and, all unconscious, perched himself on the softest stone in the middle of that wall.

"Oh, look how he comes and spoils our play!" wailed one of the twain. "No, indeed," replied the other, with a happy inspiration. "He's my husband, and he's reading in his den, and he's not to be disturbed, so we needn't notice him." So the game went on.

Hidden Treasures of the Tiber.

The waters of the Tiber are said to cover many costly treasures of antiquity. From Lake Nemi, near Rome, many bronze armaments and statuary from the floating palaces of the Emperors Tiberius and Caligula have already been recovered. It has long been the dream of poets and the belief of antiquaries that the Tiber's bed conceals a vast amount of artistic treasures which have been sunk into it either from wanton recklessness or for the purpose of preservation from sacrilege. There is a legend that Attila buried all his treasure beneath the river.

No Reply.

Two English soldiers, seeing a comrade's coat lying on his bed, thought they would play a joke on him, as he happened to be an Irishman. So they chalked a donkey's head on the back of the coat and then waited to see him put it on. When Mike took up the coat he gazed at the donkey's head with deep earnestness, and then, turning to the Englishmen, he inquired, "Which of you wiped your face on my coat?"

Inevitable.

"Why, she used to be a theatrical star, but since she has grown fat she's just an ordinary actress." "Nothing strange about that. Any astronomer will tell you that as stars increase in magnitude they decrease in brightness."—Chicago Tribune.

Mandatory.

Ethel—I'm awfully sorry, but I can't come to the party tonight, as I have a date. Gladys—Can't you break it? Ethel—Not this one, dear. It's a mandata.—Lippincott's.

If you cannot be free, be as free as you can.—Emerson.

It's a stand-still race between a woman's age and waist measurement. Good resolutions are the only buried treasures most people have. This year should be the best of your life.—Lippincott's.

ENGLAND'S BIG BOAT RACE.

Origin of the Annual Match Between Oxford and Cambridge.

In the year 1829 two university eights met in a rowing match from Hambleton lock to Henley bridge. One crew wore dark striped jerseys and black hats, and the other appeared in white shirts, wearing a pink necktie. The race was rowed in slow, heavy boats, built with high sides, and square oars propelled the crews along.

No enthusiastic crowds lined the banks of the river all along the course, and no evening papers, giving the result of the race, sold in hundreds of thousands all over the country when the race was over. Yet this was the beginning of the most popular racing event in the rowing world—the Oxford and Cambridge boat race.

The boats used by the eights in those days were clumsy and uncomfortable. Sliding seats were unknown, and the craft were weighed down with heavy metal keels. Outriggers—the extended parts of a boat's gunwale, that give a greater leverage—were also unheeded of, for it was not until 1846 that they were introduced by the university crews. In 1857 keelless boats were adopted, and sliding seats were used in them in 1874.

Oxford did not adopt the dark blue that is so well known today until 1894, when Cambridge appeared in Eton colors.—Pearson's Weekly.

SWASTIKA CHARMS.

They Must Be Pointed the Right Way to Bring Good Luck.

One of the lucky charms most generally worn recently was the swastika. Superstitious persons would do well to examine their reproductions of it and make sure that they are correct in form and material, for Sir George Birdwood, an authority on Indian matters, has been giving some interesting and alarming facts concerning this ancient and mystic symbol.

The right handed swastika—that is, the one whose transom or arm points to the right—is the symbol of the sun and of light, of health and happiness and other good qualities, and it alone is lucky. It should be fashioned only of gold and colored (if enameled on any other metal) only red, the color of the east, or yellow, the color of the south.

The left handed swastika is the symbol of the moon and of moonlight, of all darkness and supernatural terrors, of all mortal diseases and disgraces and other forms of ill omen.

It should be formed only of silver or colored blue, green, white or black if it is expected to perform its work in a thoroughly businesslike unlovely way.—London Cor. New York Sun.

His Incurable Disease.

The late John Hay had been ailing one time, and a friend made bold to ask what the trouble was. "I am suffering from an incurable disease," Mr. Hay replied with due gravity. Delicacy prevented the friend from making further inquiry, but he told the story to acquaintances, and the report soon spread through Washington that a deadly disease held the secretary of state within its grasp. At last an intimate acquaintance determined to ascertain the nature of the secretary's ailment, and, meeting the latter one day, he said: "I have been told that you are suffering from an incurable disease. Is it true?" "Yes," said Mr. Hay in a sad tone. "What is the incurable disease?" asked the insistent acquaintance. "Old age," said Mr. Hay, with a chuckle.

The Word "Strike."

The earliest use of the word "strike" in the sense of stopping work occurs in the London Chronicle for September, 1765, in connection with a coal strike. This publication reports a great suspension of labor in the Northumberland coal fields, and the colliers are stated to have "struck out" for a higher bounty before entering into their usual yearly "bond." The time honored illustration of profitless labor, "carrying coals to Newcastle," appears to have received its first slip in the face during this strike. The Chronicle reports that "several pokes of coal were brought from Durham to Newcastle by one of the common carriers and sold on the sand hill for ningsence a poke, by which he cleared sixpence a poke."—London Chronicle.

Love.

We are oft deceived in love, and oftener wounded, and oftener unhappy; but, after all, we love, and when we stand on the threshold of the tomb and turn about to look back upon the ground we have traversed it will be well if we can say, "I have suffered often, I have been deceived many times, but I have loved. It is I who have lived, therefore, and not a dream being created out of my pride and my weariness."—George Sand.

Little Drops of Water.

"Did they make you recite 'Little Drops of Water' when you were a child?" "Yes," replied Colonel Stillwell. "And it didn't stop there. When I grew up they tried to insist on my adopting them as a beverage."—Washington Star.

Admit the Wrong.

A man should never be ashamed to own he has been in the wrong. It is but saying in other words that he is wiser today than yesterday.

Experienced.

Manager—Could you do this landlady in "The Lady of Lyons"? Actor—Well, I should think so. I've done a good many.—London Tatler.

All a woman needs to believe gossip is to know it isn't so. It's a wise man who doesn't repeat his own wisdom. Love letters take a lot more ink than brains.

DECATUR'S DUEL.

The Meeting With Barron That Ended the Brave Commodore's Life.

The practice of dueling, inherited from England, led to some tragic events in early American history. One of our early naval heroes, Commodore Stephen Decatur. He had gained distinction in the Tripolitan war, in the war of 1812 and stood very high in popular esteem.

Another naval officer of the period was Commodore Barron, who commanded the Chesapeake in the fight with the British frigate Leopard. While in command of the Chesapeake he was charged with neglect of duty, was tried by a court martial, on which Decatur served, and was found guilty and suspended from the service.

Later when he applied for restoration Decatur declined to approve it, and out of this grew a correspondence culminating in a duel. In one of his letters Decatur said, "Between you and myself there has never been a personal animosity, but I have entertained and do still entertain the opinion that your conduct as an officer of the Chesapeake has been such as ought to forever bar your readmission to the service."

Barron sent a challenge, which Decatur accepted, and the duel took place at Bladensburg, near Washington, March 22, 1820. They fought with pistols at eight paces, and both fired and fell together, Decatur apparently killed, but he soon revived enough to say a few friendly words to his antagonist, who also lay on the ground. Both were removed to Washington, where Decatur died that night, but Barron recovered and lived till 1851.

GYPSIES OF SPAIN.

Quick to Use Their Knives in Quarrels Among Themselves.

One of the things to attract the notice of every traveler that visits Spain is that strange race which are found scattered here and there in small groups in the remote rural districts or near the great centers of population. It presents a type that can be mistaken for no other in the Spanish dominions.

The lips thick, the eyes large, black and piercing; the hair long, black and straight; the complexion olive tinted, the Spanish gypsy, whether encamped in a sheltering ravine or under the arches of an aqueduct or in the shadow of an overhanging cliff, is indeed Spanish because born in Spain, but in all else he is a gypsy.

Time was when Spaniards of the true blue blood called gypsies "New Castilians," or "Egyptians," or "Moorish footpads"; but, while their traits have undergone no change, their name is now definitely gitanos, or gypsies.

Between 50,000 and 60,000 is the number now in Spain. Most of them have no fixed abode, but in some parts, and notably in Andalusia, there are several small settlements, for towns they can hardly be called, where these wanderers have taken possession of caves in the mountain sides, whence they sally forth to tell fortunes and to fish. Wherever they are they are inclined to be quarrelsome among themselves and to enforce their arguments by means of wicked looking knives, which they wield with great dexterity.—America.

When Silk Hats First Came In.

Silk hats were known in France some years before John Hetherington's frighten Londoners by wearing one. They came in with the French revolution, when all patriotic citizens abandoned wigs and had their hair cut short. Engravings printed so early as 1780 depict sans culotte dandies wearing top hats. In a rare print of the trial of the Girondists, which took place in 1793, all the judges appear crowned with silk hats. Although the silk top hat is not much more than a hundred years old, hats of that shape were worn hundreds of years before. In Elizabethan times a cylindrical hat with a brim rather similar to that of the fifties and with the addition of a plume was worn by the nobility. According to Raphael, it was worn very much earlier even than that. A red top hat appears in the cartoon "Paul Preaching at Athens."

The Life of the Soil.

The soil may be said to be alive. It is a matrix supporting various groups of definite micro-organisms, and the investigations of the past few years indicate the possibility of determining by bacteriological diagnoses the crop producing capacities of different soils. It has been shown that the action of the nitrifying bacteria, especially in samples of soil, correlates fairly well with the productiveness of the same soils under field conditions.

Her Jewels.

"These are my jewels," said Cornelia proudly as she lined up her children on the sidewalk. "For the land's sake!" exclaimed the Roman lady who had just moved next door. "I do hope you will keep them in the safe."—Galveston News.

Fair Warning.

Impetuous Noblesman—Sir, I understand you have a peerless daughter. Old Moneybags—Yes, and you might as well understand first as last that she is going to stay peerless as far as you fortune hunters are concerned.—Baltimore American.

Two Views.

Kaicker—What you spend for a hat would pay the grocer's bill. Mrs. Kaicker—That just shows how economical I market.—Puck.

Success is not in an endeavor to do a great thing, but in repeated endeavors to do greater things.—Cope.

It may be the duty of the strong to carry the weak, but their backs aren't broad enough for all that want to get on. The half-a-loaf theory is a bad one to advocate.

The Wise Old Owl Says

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