

EDITORIALS.

THE New York *Standard* of the 22nd instant contains the particulars of a horrible mutiny at sea, on board the English bark *Manitoba*, which left Cardiff, Wales, on the 10th ult. On the 1st instant, when east of the Banks, the men refused to obey the orders of Mr. McKinnan, the first mate. The latter appealed to the Captain, Mr. Alfred R. Durkee who, arming himself, went to the men and threatened to put them in irons if they persisted in their disobedience. One of them replied that they had made up their minds not to work, and he might commence his ironing as soon as he pleased. The Captain drew a pair of handcuffs from his pocket and was about to place them on this man when the whole of the seamen, eight in number, armed with knives, marlin-spikes and belaying-pins, attacked him and the first mate. The second mate, being an old man, took no part in the melee, neither did the carpenter. The Captain was thrown on deck, where blows heavy and fast, were rained upon him; but he managed, finally, to get clear of his assailants, and bleeding and all but fainting, from five scalp wounds and other serious injuries, made his way to the quarter deck. The mate McKinnan, fared worse than the Captain. He was seized and thrown on deck, when two of the sailors commenced slashing at him with their knives. One of them aimed at his throat, and in warding it off the mate was stabbed in the wrist; he also received a stab in the right thigh, which severed the tendons, another in the left shoulder, and one in the hip. By a brisk use of hands and feet he at length succeeded in reaching the quarter deck, completely incapacitated for duty.

The Captain got his wounds dressed, and then gave some orders to the men which they, as if afraid of what they had done, promptly obeyed. They swore, however, that they would cut the mate in pieces.

It was subsequently discovered that the Steward, a brute named Montevell, was the instigator of the mutiny, though no cause is assigned why. It was through his bad conduct, however, that the mutineers were prevented from committing further atrocities and were finally arrested.

Before leaving Cardiff this fellow asked the Captain if he might take his wife on the voyage. The Captain assented, and just before the bark sailed a good looking girl was brought aboard, who was booked as Elizabeth Montivell. She acted as the cook's assistant. One day after the mutiny, the first mate heard this girl sobbing bitterly, and at the first opportunity he asked her what was the matter. It was then learned that she was not Montivell's wife. She stated that she had been a bar tender at Cardiff, that Montivell went there and, representing himself as the Captain of the bark, hired her as stewardess. When he took her aboard he placed her in the pantry, and kept her there till night, when he took her to his berth, and undressing, ordered her to do the same. Upon her asking him what he meant he threatened to kill her if she did not do as he ordered. In fear for her life, she complied, when the scoundrel outraged her.

From the time this recital was made the girl was on the side of the captain and mate, and informed them, from what she had heard among the men, that it was their intention to take command of the ship as soon as they saw land, and that they would go ashore, but would probably murder their principal officers before doing so. When the captain heard this he stood off the land; and she, at his request, told Montivell that nothing would be said about the mutiny, and he told the men; by this means they were lulled into a belief of security and immunity for their dastardly conduct. When the bark sighted the Highlands of New Jersey a pilot came aboard. The captain inquired of him if he had arms with him, so that an attempt might be made then to capture the crew. The pilot had no arms so the idea was deferred; and the bark proceeded towards port, passed quarantine and finally anchored. The captain immediately went ashore and gave information to the police, eight of whom, under two officers, were promptly sent to the bark, where they found the crew packing up ready to decamp, and in fifteen minutes more they would have been missing. As it was the villains were all arrested, and lodged in the First Precinct Station house, to await examination before a United States Commissioner on the following day.

THE Louisville *Courier Journal*, of a recent date, gives the details of a singular case of poisoning at Louisville, in the family of a Mr. Burkhardt, the publication of which may prove a caution to some who use copper vessels for culinary purposes. Some of the members of Mr. Burkhardt's family had been out shopping, and among other purchases, bought a dozen and a half of cream puffs at a confectioner's store. On reaching home these puffs were eaten by Mrs. Burkhardt, her two nieces, six children and three servants, all of whom, shortly after, were seized with violent retching and vomiting. Physicians were called in, and the symptoms were declared to be those of virulent poison. Remedies were administered, but it was not until eleven at night that all were pronounced out of danger.

Sometime after the vomiting commenced some of the matter ejected was analyzed, but nothing poisonous was detected; this, it was believed, was because the poison was expelled when the vomiting commenced.

The confectioner, of whom the puffs were purchased was applied to, and from him it was learned that the puffs had been mixed up in a copper vessel; and the belief was that this vessel had not been cleaned before using, and veridigris, a very deadly poison, had been formed. This should induce all who use copper vessels for culinary purposes to exercise the most extreme cleanliness and care.

SOME time last fall, our readers may remember reading, in the columns of the NEWS, an account of a trip from Liverpool to Boston of the *City of Ragusa*, the smallest steamer that ever crossed the Atlantic. The little craft reached Boston on the 3rd of last September, having been ninety-six days on the voyage. On the morning of the 23rd instant the *Ragusa* commenced her return voyage, having on board her proprietor and builder, Nicholas Primoraz, an Austrian, Edward R. Hayter, a New Zealander, a large gray bull terrier, which the captain says will act as boat-swin; 500 bricks, 120 gallons of water, 500 pounds of coal, and a good stock of provisions and liquors. The steamer is only nineteen feet long, and her width of beam six feet; she weighs one ton, and is one and three-quarter tons burden. The Captain expected to reach Liverpool in forty days.

LITERARY.—Hans Breitmann's new book, entitled "Hans Breitmann in Europe, and other new ballads," is in press and will be published in a few days by T. E. Peterson & Bro's., Philadelphia. It contains Breitmann's travels and experiences in Paris, in Belgium, in Holland, in Germany, in Italy, in Rome, where he interviews the Pope; also, Breitmann as Trumpeter, etc. It will no doubt prove to be more popular than his celebrated "Barty." It will be published in one volume, on the finest tinted plate paper, with a portrait of Breitmann on the cover, and sold by all booksellers at Seventy-five cents a copy, or copies of it will be sent to any one, at once, to any place, post-paid, on receipt of its price by the Publishers.

THE Williamsport, (Penn.) *Daily Gazette* gives an illustration of a style of swindling which has been practiced upon farmers in that vicinity with some success. As all manner of schemes are being introduced into this country at the present time, and among others patent right dodges, our citizens cannot be too careful about signing their names to papers, no matter how good a bargain is promised. To do business with a person whom one does not know, and give one's note to him, is an imprudent proceeding.

The *Gazette* says:

"Among the many swindling operations of the day, the patent right dodge is largely practiced on farmers, and we have heard of several cases in this country within a year. The following note is a copy of one now in use by these sharpers. It will appear at first sight to be perfectly simple, and no person wishing to take an agency for any of the many patents, would hesitate to sign it:

SMITHVILLE, PA., April 15th, 1871.

One year after date, I promise to pay A. Sharp or bearer ten dollars, when I sell by order, Two Hundred and seventy five dollars worth of Seeding Machines for value received, at ten per cent, per annum, said Ten Dollars, when due, is payable at Smithville, Pa.

Witness: JOHN DOE.

Now, having read the above carefully, and supposing it to be all right for ten dollars, just cut it in two between the words "or" and "bearer" in the first line and you will find that the left hand piece is a perfect note for \$275. Having induced a farmer to accept an agency, as specified in the original note, and having obtained his signature, the sharper departs. He then cuts off the right-hand portion, proceeds to the nearest broker or banker to whom he offers to sell the note at a discount on the plea of needing the money. The signer is generally a responsible person, well known to the business men of the village, and the note is purchased. When the note falls due it is presented for collection, and as the signature is indisputable, the horrified farmer is compelled to pay \$275, when he only supposed that he owed ten dollars.

This is one of the most infamous of all tricks of deception, and is largely practiced throughout the country. Farmers should cut this out and preserve it carefully, in order to guard against being imposed upon by unscrupulous scoundrels.

OCCASIONALLY of late years the public mind has been horrified with the details of immoralities or cruel discipline and treatment practiced in convents. Something of this kind formed the subject of a long trial in the courts, in London, some year or two ago; and, according to the *London Times*' Paris correspondent, a great sensation and scandal has recently been caused by some revelations of convent life in Paris.

The correspondent says that in the Rue de Picpus, near Mazas Prison, stand two large buildings, one an establishment of the Jesuits, the other the convent of the White Nuns. During the recent troubles in Paris these buildings were taken possession of by the national guards, and subsequently, some circumstances came to light which indicate that outrageous cruelties, worthy only of the dark days of Inquisition times, have been practised within the confines and towards some of the inmates of these buildings.

It is believed from certain apertures in the walls, recently closed up, that communication has hitherto existed between the retreat of the Fathers and that of the White sisters; but the former, on the first sign of trouble, abandoned theirs and made their exit to parts unknown.

That which has created great feeling among the people of Paris in the quarter in which the Convent of the White Nuns was situate, was the discovery, side by side, at the extreme end of the garden, of three little conical huts, six feet square by seven in height, in which, when the guards took possession of the place, enclosed in wooden cages, like chicken pens, were three old women idiots. The Lady Superior admitted that these poor creatures had inhabited these pens for nine years, during which time they had had to endure stifling heat in summer, and were half frozen with cold in winter.

In another part of the garden in an isolated building, were found mattresses furnished with straps and buckles, two iron corsets, a skull cap, and a rack turned by a cog-wheel. The Superior explained that these were orthopedic instruments; but the belief was that the mattresses and straps were for midwifery purposes, and that the remainder of the articles were instruments of torture. Among the papers a key was discovered labelled "Key of the great vault;" but all searching has failed to discover the great vault, and the nuns either deny its existence or refuse to disclose its whereabouts.

In view of this combination of suspicious circumstances the sisters have all been arrested and placed in confinement in the cells of St. Lazare, to await the result of a judicial investigation.

IMPORTANT ORDER.—We are informed that a general order has lately been issued from the War Department that no citizen prisoner shall be kept at any of the military posts of the United States.

Z. C. M. I.

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H. B. CLAWSON, Supt.