

A COLD-BLOODED MURDER.

David Leach, steward, and Thomas Ward, second mate on board the American brig *Ellen O. Pinney*, of Portland, Maine, were taken before Commissioner Shields on Saturday on a charge of murdering, under circumstances of unusual brutality, Jack Shields, an Austrian sailor, while the vessel was lying in the harbor of Montevideo. The following are the facts as related by the seamen: The vessel was commanded by Capt. Boyd, who is also her owner. She cleared from Portland with a cargo of lumber, for Montevideo and a market. Her crew consisted of John Scott, first mate; Thomas Ward, second mate; David Leach, steward; a cook and three seamen. Montevideo was sighted at daybreak on the 9th of August. The vessel anchored off the mole, and while the captain was ashore selling his freight the first mate sent three men aloft to scrape the mainmast. A triangle was rigged for this purpose, and after a time Jack Shields, who spoke indifferent English, saw out to the man on deck who had charge of the yardstick to "Lower away." The triangle was lowered a certain distance when Jack shouted "Aval!" meaning that the triangle was low enough. The man on deck not understanding the Austrian kept on lowering, and Jack cried out, in a loud and angry tone, "What the— are you doing? Make fast."

The first mate, hearing this, shouted, "Come down on deck, you son of a—." Jack answered, "Yes, yes, me come down." No sooner had he reached the deck than the mate attacked him, beat him about the head and face with an iron belaying pin and drawing blood. Jack was taken by surprise and almost stunned, but recovering his presence of mind he grappled with the mate and threw him to the deck. At this moment the second mate, Thomas Ward, rushed forward picked up a heavy billet of wood and knocked the poor wretch down and belabored him until he became unconscious.

The mates then walked aft satisfied with their brutal work, and Jack staggered to his feet, covered with blood and with his knife in his right hand. Just then the steward stepped out of the cabin with a revolver in his hand, and advancing within four or five feet of Jack, deliberately shot him through the head. Poor Jack fell to the deck, his brains oozing from the pistol wound, and his blood gushing forth on the boards. The seamen, hearing the report of the pistol, ran aft, but were brought to a halt by the steward, who shouted, with an oath: "Don't move, you—, or I'll shoot you all!" The steward and mates then entered the cabin and drank copious draughts of rum while the poor Austrian lay in his death agony, without comfort from any one.

In twenty minutes Jack was dead, and the captain, having been signaled for, hastened to his vessel, and, hearing what the steward had done, asked, in a careless tone, "Has he croaked?" "Yes sir," said the steward, "and I'm sorry it's not all of them." "So am I," said the captain.

After a short consultation the steward went on board a Brazilian steamer, and from her to the brig *Edward* of Boston in which he reached Buenos Ayres, about twenty miles distant. The captain informed the American Consul, on the following day, of the death of Shields; but, though he had connived at the escape of the murderer, he disclaimed all knowledge of his whereabouts. No further action was taken, and the murdered man was hurriedly buried ashore.

The captain disposed of his cargo, shipped a quantity of hides for Miller & Houghton, of New York, and on the 10th of October sailed for Buenos Ayres. Two days afterward the murderer was cordially received on board by the captain and mates, and was installed in his former position on board the vessel, which in due course of time arrived at this city.

The murderer was under no apprehension of suffering for his crime. But justice was dogging his footsteps, and, owing to some remarks of the crew, he and the second mate were arrested on a charge of murder on the high seas. The sailors, James Fandelden, a Dane, John Peterson, a German, and Henry Solomon, were taken to Ludlow Street Jail, where they have been since confined to testify against the murderers.

The principal witnesses appeared in the United States building, but owing to the absence of the prisoner's counsel, Mr. Bell, the hearing was adjourned. David Leach, the murderer, is a native of Boston. He is low-sized, with dark, beetling eyebrows, fierce eyes, and has a villainous countenance.—*N. Y. Standard.*

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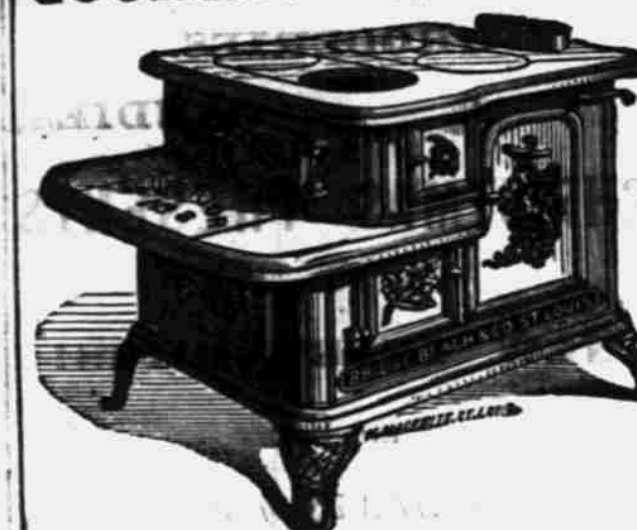
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