

## CODE OF HONOR AT ANNAPOLIS.

Close Adherence to it Resulted  
In the Death of Midshipman Branch.

### MERIWETHER DISOBEYED IT.

Fight Resulted, Ending in a Fatality  
—Midshipman, Before Court-Martial, Tell All About It.

Annapolis, Nov. 22.—Midshipman Meriwether, Jr., of Lafayette, La., a member of the third class of the naval academy, was put on trial here today before a naval court-martial on charges that include that of manslaughter, in having caused the death of Midshipman James R. Branch, Jr., of New York, a member of the class above him, as a result of a pre-arranged fight which took place on the evening of Sunday, Nov. 5, last.

#### THE CHARGES.

The first and gravest charge is manslaughter in having caused the death of Midshipman Branch, but there are two other charges, the second supported by two specifications and the third by one. The second charge is of violation of the third clause of the eighth article of the rules for the government of the navy. The first specification is that Meriwether applied to Branch the names of sneak and coward, and the second that he assaulted him. The third charge, of conduct to the prejudice and good order and discipline, specifies that Meriwether engaged in a fight with Branch.

The sad incident of the death of young Branch under such circumstances has been widely noticed and has called attention to the existence of the naval academy of an unwritten code governing the student body, but quite outside the authoritative regulations and generally in violation of them. Under the "code" every detail of duty is fixed, the midshipmen on duty abstain from reporting them and excusing from formation those connected with them.

These facts were very clearly brought out both by the judge advocate and in the cross-examination by Lieut. Commander Robinson for the defense. The witnesses today included Branch's roommate, the referee and the time-keeper of the contest and all four were examined in a more or less degree about all the circumstances of the fight, the connection of the "code" and their ideas of their duty under the regulations, although this subject was not pressed to such a degree that the midshipman was put on his defense as to the binding force of his oath upon entering the institution to obey all its regulations.

#### CODE NOT ON TRIAL.

The "code" system was therefore not directly put on trial although it was very thoroughly ventilated and was, in fact, to the midshipmen it should be said that everyone of them gave indications of endeavoring to be perfectly frank and believing that there was nothing about the system that they need conceal, or if there were, that they would tell it all notwithstanding.

#### TIE REFERENCE.

Midshipman A. N. Fitch, who refereed the fight, which was followed by Branch's death, stated that he had officiated in 19 such contests, and Midshipman McKittick testified that he had taken part in nine. Detailed accounts were given of the arrangements which midshipmen on duty acquiesced in absence without leave and other deviations in order that the fight might go on, and the testimony also showed that although frequently severe injuries resulted from these fights and the recipients often had to be taken to the hospital, nothing further was ever heard of them. This the defense brought out on cross-examination, it being intended to show that the authorities also winked at the code and the prearranged fights under it.

#### SIDELIGHTS ON "RUNNING."

Interesting side-lights to hazing, or "running," as it is called at the academy, developed from the testimony of the midshipmen. Meriwether has been generally disliked, he said, because he was too "rotty," that is, it was explained, he did not abide by the rules laid down for the government of the academy. Some of these were that he should never enter "Lover's lane," an academy walk; that he should turn all corners at right angles, should not look at an upper classman, and should answer most respectfully when addressed by one of them; that he must never touch the table nor ask for anything during a meal, and under no circumstances "fuss," that is, be in the society of young women.

These rules and many others are contained in that part of the "code" relating to the government of underclassmen. Branch had been one of the midshipmen who, according to the testimony, determined to make life "not worth living" for Meriwether, because he would not abide by these rules, and from that the enmity arose.

#### TO ASSIST PROSECUTION.

A surprise developed in the fact that United States Dist. Atty. John C. Ross of Baltimore would assist Capt. Marx, judge advocate in the prosecution. It is unusual for the judge advocate to have assistance and the incident illustrates how important the present case is regarded by the federal authorities, the personal demand being entirely subverted to the question of the effect of the "code" at the academy and the subjects of fighting and hazing closely connected with it.

Mr. Ross was assigned to the work by the department of justice at the request of the navy department and was present at the beginning of the session today.

The accused is defended by Lieut. Commander James K. Robinson, U. S. N., and James M. Monroe of the Annapolis bar.

#### FIRST WITNESSES.

The first two witnesses called were Midshipmen James P. Van Decar and Earl W. Pritchard, classmates of Branch, and their evidence bore directly on the second charge, that of quarreling with a person in the naval service with an indirect relation to the main charge of manslaughter.

Midshipman Van Decar said that his seat at the table was next to Midshipman Meriwether and that on the evening of Oct. 31 Meriwether had told him that Branch had done all he could to make his (Meriwether's) life miserable while he had been at the academy, that he hated Branch and was going to make him fight if there was any fight in him; that there were only a few people that he hated and that Branch was one of them. The next day, Midshipman Van Decar testified, Meriwether had said that it was fixed, that he and Branch had arranged to fight.

Midshipman Earl W. Pritchard, the next witness, was the roommate of Branch and is also from Louisiana. His testimony was of the utmost importance, covering the whole facts in the incident that led directly to the fight.

Meriwether had, he said, come to the matter of a dress suit case containing civilian clothes, and charged Branch with having a grudge against him. The latter Branch admitted. Meriwether then said that Branch was a "damned low-down, sneaking coward."

Branch then told Meriwether that his class could compel him to leave the academy, and to this Meriwether answered that he would care if they did, that he was not going to be used badly by any one.

The conversation continued, and Branch told Meriwether that he had only reported one man since he had been at the academy and that he could not help it. Meriwether rejoined that if he ever reported him he would have to fight. There was some further talk about the standing of the families to which they belonged, and the affair closed with Meriwether calling Branch a "damned coward" and "no gentleman."

After Meriwether and Yeager had left Branch asked the witness what he should do and was told that a fight was necessary. After Branch had told him that he had not reported Meriwether, an upper classman, Noyes, had spoken to him about it and he had come to the conclusion that it would be a dirty trick to do so.

CALLED MERIWETHER NAMES.

Ralph Yeager, a classmate of Meriwether and who went to the room with him on the night of the quarrel, testified that Branch had called Meriwether a "damned coward" and "no gentleman."

## Appetite poor this morning?

**CALIFORNIA  
WHEATINE**  
(Flaked Wheat Food)  
(Cook in 20 minutes.)

Porridge with cream and  
toast will tone you up.  
Delicious—light and all right.

In two pound packages. Sealed to protect its  
flavor. All good grocers.

**Pacific Cereal Association**  
San Francisco, California

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## SALT RHEUM ON HANDS

Suffered Agony and Had to Wear  
Bandages All the Time.

### ANOTHER CURE BY CUTICURA

Another cure by Cuticura is told of by Mrs. Caroline Cable, of Wauconda, Wis., in the following grateful letter: "My husband suffered agony with salt rheum on his hands, and I had to keep them bandaged all the time. We tried everything we could get, but nothing helped him until he used Cuticura. One set of Cuticura Soap, Ointment, and Pills cured him entirely, and his hands have been as smooth as possible ever since. I do hope this letter will be the means of helping some other sufferer."

#### LOST WITH ALL ON BOARD.

Collier Turbine Believed to Have Gone  
Down Off Cape Sable.

Holbrook, N. S., Nov. 21.—Advisers received here today from Cape Sable island are believed to confirm last night's report that the collier Turbine was lost with all on board Friday night.

An official dispatch to the marine and fisheries department received by wireless from Cape Sable, says the steamer struck a rock off Mud Island and went to pieces 10 minutes afterward.

The steamer Turbine was valued at \$50,000. She was chartered by the Dominion Coal company and had on board 800 tons of coal, including 100 tons valued at \$3,500. N. Knudsen was her commander and his first officers were K. Hansen and Chief Engineer A. Anderson. These, with others said to comprise the crew, were all Norwegians.

#### OLGA NETHERSOLE CONSENTS.

To Change Play Objected to by Montreal Women.

Montreal, Nov. 22.—Montreal women who are to take part in the Queen Alexandra charity matinee, to be given at the withdrawal of patronage unless Olga Nethersole, who arranged the benefit, from her program an act from "The Labyrinth."

Miss Nethersole took off the piece in an announcement, in which she said: "Miss Nethersole, regretting the opinion held by the patronesses, is loath to allow anything to interfere with the success of Wednesday's performance, and has therefore consented to substitute some recitations for the second act of 'The Labyrinth.'"

The Montreal newspaper condemns Nethersole's play as immoral.

#### TEA

What is good tea? Tea  
that tastes good and feels  
good afterward.

Your grocer returns your money if you don't like  
Schilling's Best.

#### The Story of 1905

In Utah, Idaho and Nevada,  
with their record in mining,  
smelting and general business,  
will form the main theme of  
The Christmas News. It will  
be issued in beautifully colored  
covers, and will be mailed  
to any address for 15 cents.  
In magazine form 25c. Foreign  
postage 10c extra.

**ALBERT S. REISER,**  
JEWELER,  
12 E. 1ST ST. BELL TEL. 260-K  
Watches, Diamonds and  
Jewelry.  
Repair Work a Specialty.

#### THE SIGN OF THE INDIAN.

The Midland Route between Utah and  
the east is by far the most scenic route  
during any season of the year. The  
service is superior and equipment good.  
It is the perfection of modern car builders,  
and is sure and ask for your tickets via  
the Colorado Midland and get the best.  
Ticket office 77 West Second South,  
Salt Lake City. Write us for rates and  
illustrated literature. L. H. Harding,  
general agent.

#### Keep Yourself Strong

And you will ward off colds, pneumonia, fevers and other diseases. You need to have pure, rich blood and good digestion. Hood's Sarsaparilla makes the blood rich and pure as no other medicine can do. It tones the stomach, creates an appetite and invigorates the whole system. You will be wise to begin taking it now, for it will keep you strong and well.

Hood's Pills are non-irritating.  
Price 25c.

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