A CURIOUS SIGNAL.

The Bloody Hand of a Scottish Company—Its Significance.

The private signals of ships often seem curiously which cannot always be guessed. Each line has some peculiar mark which is known as the house flag, and which serves for identification when other signals might fail. One of the most curious of these signals is that of the British steamship Dunmore Head, of Belfast, Ireland. It is the representation of a bloody hand on one side of the vessel, and in the reverse side of the vessel, and in the reverse side of a white diamond in a blue flag with a white diamond. Below the flying boat, the standard. Below the ensign are the usual marks of ownership, representing dripping blood. It is a bloody hand, as it shows by the thumb laid forward on the port side and all the starboard side of the hand.

This very curious sign is amusing. It is the sole and of some of the provinces of Ulster Ireland, which derived it from the men of the O'Neills, who were once the royal family of that kingdom. The whole is based upon a tradition which the men of the Dunmore Head tells the passers by relating. Two sons of the Lord of Ulster were foraging in Scotland when the death of their father was heard.

The two raced to row across the channel to their paternal manors, and he first to touch land was to be king, to succeed the father. When morning came one of the brothers was about to be the men, who he drew his sword, and placing his left hand on the gunwale of the boat chopped it off, and pitching it up there it colored. He became king, and the Bloody Hand became the crest of the family.

In the dense fog upon it has to show situation then served to decide the friends of a fleet of freight steamships. The Dunmore Head belongs to the Ulster Steamship company. The line is better known as the Head line, as all the vessels are named after headlands in the maritime counties of Ulster. They are the Bengore Head, Toda Head, Annaghmore Head, Horn Head, Black Head, Fair Head, White Head, Dunmore Head and the Balmore Head. On all these steamships the flag over the sanctuary hand on their caps. The plates and caps and letter and table linen are likewise ornamented. In fact the bloody hand of Ulster is prominent everywhere.—Baltimore Sun.

Actions and Their Work.

Literary workers do not like to discuss their methods. Perhaps they are ashamed a little ashamed of the machinery out of which they get names for their characters, just as they might be of their dressing-gowns and slippers. How many authors have written stories with all the names left blank, or with the actual names of their best friends or the best known of people, and afterward sat down with a directory, a list of the members of a college, or the list of victims in a railroad disaster, to select a random laboriously the right names to give to their people?

Others do not do this at all; they pick the name to begin with, and in the evolution of the story associate the assigned character with the name so arbitrarily that they would not part on with the story if the personage were to change other name. A good deal, it is known, depends upon a name, and people of the pageant and the power of the page of realism, there is no yet no such thing as absolute, nonsense plan, even by realism in fiction name.—Boston Transcript.

New Blotting Paper.

A new process for manufacturing blotting paper consists in taking unsized paper as it comes from the paper machine and exposing one or both of its sides to the disturbing action of mechanical means for opening up its texture, for example, by the grinding or abrasive action of sandpaper, emery wheels, wire brushes, or by the action of steel or scrapers. Such action separates and lifts the surface fibres. This process is said to produce a highly absorbent or adhesive paper, especially adapted for use as commercial blotting paper and for other purposes where an absorbent paper is required, and having its fibres separated and raised and presenting a velvety surface as distinguished from ordinary blotting paper. By the process blotting paper can be manufactured from any kind of paper, regardless of the stock or material from which it is made.—Paper Making.

A Woman in the Moon.

It may not be generally known, but there is the head of a girl in the moon. It is a profile and can be easily discovered when the moon is full. When the moon is in the eastern sky she is looking north, and the head inclines upward. At the top of the yellow orb you will see her hair and a sort of knotty knap which conceals most of her forehead; a little below you will see her eyes; then comes her nose (this is rather indistinct); then will be seen the chin, underneath which a very sharply cut curves back, indicating that she is well fed.—Atchison Globe.

Pin Money, Modern Style.

Mrs Wife (coaxingly)—And now I ask my own hubby for some pin money!

Husband—I beg pardon for my forgetfulness. Here's a double X.

W. W.—But I—I need five hundred, dearie.

Husband—What! For pin money?

W. W.—Yes, love—for diamond pin money.—Pittsburg Bulletin.

The Serious Treatment of the Dead.

It was the custom of the original Mormons to dress the dead in the garb appropriate to the guardian deity of his craft or conditions in life. They buried a jug of water with him and placed small bits of white bark in his hands which were covered with charcoal, this last probably his passport to the regions beyond the stars. As soon as one of their number died they took a few of his personal effects and brought the clothes in which he was to be buried, the idea being to warm the next dying to light through the cold regions of space.—St. Louis Republic.

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