

THE EVENING NEWS.

Wednesday, May 17, 1871.

SEARCHING FOR A MURDER.

[CONTINUED.]

Mrs. Bellamy kept up her admonitions to the last. "Louise, mind; mind again, and again," she reiterated on the eve of the departure; "your sisters have all done well, but you will do better. You are by far the best looking of them all, and have only to play your cards well. I think I need not caution you against falling in love with a poor man; love is very well in its way, but married poverty is not. You have been reported to know this! Never, never make a fool of yourself in that manner!"

Louise quite laughed at the charge; in her case it sounded so utterly needless. "Never fear, mamma," were her parting words, spoken emphatically.

"I know. I'll take care of myself. See if I don't make a position worth all the trouble you take for me. That would be far inferior to that of the wife of the governor general."

"Heaven bless you, my dear!" returned the happy mother. "You were always my favorite child, Louise, and I have ever looked forward to your welfare in life."

What Louise Bellamy dreamed of that night I cannot tell. Before falling asleep, she lay for some time wrapped in visions of a palace, with hosts of black servants in and about it. Carriages, horses, company, music, dancing, jewels, pomp and state, each held a place in the panorama. And in the midst of it all, she, herself, figured conspicuously, the reigning queen.

On the deck of the "Bengal" we took down to Gravemore, and anchored. Two days were spent there in getting ready for sea and receiving the passengers with their piles of luggage. It was a fine morning in February when we started finally on our voyage. The wind was northwest, blowing a steady breeze. We soon had all sail set, and bounded along merrily down past the "Noss," and so on.

Going down channel I saw but little of the passengers. A ship just leaving home, especially with a fresh crew, gives the officer, and more particularly the chief, plenty of occupation. By the time we reached Madeira, things had got into good working order, and I had a little spare time. The weather was constantly fine; none of the passengers had been ill. They had had ample time to get initiated, which, as a rule, is where people quickly do who make long voyages together. We carried about thirty, of whom some two-thirds were ladies; one or two had children with them. They all seemed very nice, and we got on well.

Of the mere passengers one in particular gained my liking more than the rest. For his name, George Armstrong, may have had something to do with the first attraction. It was that of an old school chum who had died, with whom, as a boy, I had been very intimate. This George Armstrong was a frank, gentlemanly, handsome fellow, six feet high, and a pair of shoulders to match. His face, with its habitual good-humored expression, was kindly, showing a good deal of frankness and ability. He had come out about third at the examination for a commission, and was now going out as a lieutenant in the engineers. A smart, pushing fellow, who would in time make a name for himself, if not knocked over by a cannon ball. Many have been, surely.

George Armstrong had nothing but his pay and a small private income of fifty pounds a year. After all, this is not so great a misfortune; perhaps the contrary, for a clever, steady young man in India. If he has it in him, the very fact of his being obliged to work for a position, spurs him on to exertion, and he often rises far beyond those who have a coat-sleeve, and are content to vegetate and take life easily. Armstrong grew to be quite a favorite on board the "Bengal," and he and I struck up a real friendship. He took a fancy to me, just as I did to him.

The days on board passed very pleasantly. One had not time to feel愁, every hour had its occupation or amusement, and nothing to do but to have the morning breakfast at 9 o'clock, dinner at noon; dinner at 4; tea at 7. It seemed like one continual meal. At 8 o'clock the steward put, grog and wine on the table with cakes and such light things. During the day the ladies read, sewed, practised music, played with the children, and found various other pastimes. The men, however, did not, and tired at bottles enough from stans-lbom and. Often we had a ship in sight; sometimes a homeward-bound. There would be plenty of signaling of answering, and raising eager questions on both sides. In fine light weather we once or twice boarded another ship, seven or eight of the passengers, seven or eight of the passengers, we caught plenty, including many sharks. These also afforded much amusement, and caused not a little trepidation to the ladies when they came to take a near view of the shark's fangs on the deck. There was a rubber in the evenings for those who cared about it; sometimes a round game, chess, checkers, cards, etc. On land, also singing master, once or twice a week dancing on the poop—a fine large room was that of the Bengal. But the amusement in the warm sultry nights of the tropics, was the desultory lingering on the same poop, walking, sitting and chatting.

Several young ladies on board were in the service of Miss Bellamy, going out to their friends in the hope of getting well married. It is a kind of institution with us, you know, this going out. Nearly all were under the captain's charge, and he looked after them pretty well. Most of the men were in the army; the gallantry with every lady on board. It was clear as the day that each one looked best pleased when he was her cavalier. Perhaps it was from seeing this that Miss Bellamy said to me, "I am sorry, but I certainly did do it. For a long time I did it all for what it was worth, and tried to pay her off in kind. With Miss Bellamy, she was proof against all his efforts, and only laughed at him.

To be continued.

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SEA FOAM saves Eggs, Shortening, Milk,
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