

THE FRANKLIN TIMES.

State Library

SAVE THE SHIP.

Our ship of State is in treacherous sea. Never have the waves been so high, never was her path across such dangerous reefs and giddy whirlpools.

What would be thought of the owner of a merchantman, freighted with the riches of the East, who, in a dark and stormy night, would take the captain from the deck the pilot from the wheel, the engineer from the engine, and fill the places with unskilful seamen?

Our ship of State is built of seasoned oak and tempered steel. Every inch of her hull is spread before the tempest as the sails of a ship.

This is no fanciful picture; it is the faint outline of a terrific fate. At a moment's national peril and political danger unequalled in the history of the Republic, it is gravely proposed and rashly determined to throw experience and statesmanship to the winds, and turn over the affairs of State to men who have not learned the alphabet of the science of government.

The transition from long, lingering and painful sickness to robust health marks an epoch in the life of the individual. Such a remarkable event is described in the history of the recovery whereby the young child has been attained in a remarkable way.

But Wednesday night any man, or any combination of men, who try patriots or conspirators, has a right to block the wheel of progress, trample upon justice and experience, charge this justice into a hell and riot in the ruin they have made.

They say "throw Vanoe overboard, and with him every other man who has trod the deck in time of storm. We reply, we will not throw him overboard, for there is no heart so brave and no arm so strong as his; none in all the land so able to save the ship."

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A Hint for the Sleepless.

Years ago I learned in school that man, woman or child should not eat anything for "three or four hours before retiring."

"My child cried so in the night I was afraid she would awake the neighborhood," said a mother to me. "In despair of anything else, I gave her a piece of bread and butter and she sat up in bed and ate every crumb, then lay down and slept like a kitten."

It is but a moment's caution, but I beg you all to "give heed to it, as to a light which shineth in a dark place." If you would have sleep accomplish in your its "most perfect work," do not go to bed hungry.

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Protect all insect-destroying birds. In a railroad smash up in 1876 I had both ankles badly crushed. Soon after blood poison set in, and both legs, from my knees down, were covered with ulcerated sores, that refused all efforts to heal.

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Others' Faults and Our Own

It is often said that while we are keen-eyed to see the faults of others, we often forget our own. But true as this is, and sad because it is true, it is not the worst of the matter.

I found his little daughter crying, because in trying to help her mother she had fallen and broken a platter. Before she could gather up the fragments in came her father. He begun at once to scold and storm.

"Wife, hurry up the dinner. I want to be off to town within fifteen minutes." "Why," she asked, "what is the matter?"

"Nothing, only I run against a stump in the field and broke my plow." "Didn't you see the stump?" I could not help asking.

"Yes, I saw it, but thought that I turned out past it. The fact is that I was a little careless, and that's how it happened."

And your poor little daughter, whom you've been scolding so hard was only a little careless, was it not?"

He himself is one of the most careless fellows in the neighborhood. And yet he cannot endure in his own family any imitation of his own example.

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Jim's Conclusions.

"I reckon little folks like you've been to Little Injun Kill, on the Big Muddy, down in old Arkansas, haint you?" said Jim, lighting his pipe with a fire-brand from the capacious western fire-place.

"Wal, it's about the poorest locality I ever was in. It's an ornery little place for women. They is just as much thicker than men as black snakes is thicker than planner-forty's hair, and I tell yer they is some of 'em mighty sly and active."

"You see, I was out in Illenoya wood-choppin' all winter an' the wood boss was kinder lively then. I made a heap o'money, I tell yer, an' it's allers bin my way, when I'd got a lot of old rusty dollars hangin' about me to some extent amongst friends an' git cleaned out afore I went to work again."

"I know'd a heap o' people down in Arkansas, an' I kinder thort I'd go down thar an' have a little time, so I went to Little Injun Kill an' squatted thar for the summer. I had the ager come, at fust, but I got over a takin' this year Queen Ann. It's powerful good stuff for the ager, I tell yer, but they say it kinder gits in a feller's bones."

"You mean quinine, don't you, Jim?" asked we. "Yes, Queen Ann we call it out thar, an' I reckon you take cuff of it to know what ter call it."

"Wal, we won't argue that now. Go on with the story." "As I was sayin', I got over the ager an' then I commenced to knock round a bit, an' git in with the wimmen, and I thort I'd putty considerable of a party-rot I'd got a good deal of money a piece of caliker with a putty woman critter in it, then the stars an' stripes any day."

"Long toward the fall season, I got ter go in thar shacklin' and quillin' the then kinder hoen-down, an' I putty soon got ter know 'em-most all the wimmen in Little Injun Kill, an' that 'ere's sayin' considerable."

"One night that was a bee of some kind or other, over to old Bob Myers, on 'em, an' the wimmen was all in the room for putty long, an' they didn't know what they was doin'."

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"I thort her out for a hoo-down, an' I tell you what it is, we kinder tak the shine off of anythin' round. The gals all got so not up about it they wouldn't darned with any feller but me an' the fellers all got so not up they wouldn't darned with any feller but me an' the fellers a gittin' kinder squally, when all to a sudden, the new schoolmaster, he come in. He was a putty toler'ble nice lookin' feller, an' the only man in the county that were store clothes. Then he had him a good sized, an' a high dicker on, an' by Jerusalem, the way the fellers had ter star' round was a caution ter wild outa."

"He seemed kinder glad ter see 'em all, but they was all too much skeered an' couldn't talk to him, 'cept Sukey. She 'lowed she was good enough fur any man. He seemed ter 'low she was, too, fur he run right in, an' they two got furful thar right off. When they began darnd in agin I was arter Sukey, but she made a mighty pretty bow, an' she says, as poert as a woodchop on a gum log. 'I beg yer pardon, sir, I'm agged.' 'The thunder you is,' thought I, but I didn't say nothin', I just laid low an' kept dark an' thort out the nex' best lookin' gal I could come across."

"Wal, the schoolmaster he, an' Sukey she, kept darndin' and darndin' an' darndin' an' I begin ter think 'bout 'bout tins for somebody else ter gits a sight, so I makes up to 'em an' says I, 'Marn Sukey, I beg yer pardon, but I think yer been ingaged 'bout long enuff, an' if yer haint got nobody else to darned with I wouldn't mind tryin' it agin myself.' Then the schoolmaster he says with a kinder snicker, says he, 'Be so good as to git out the way, sir, the lady an' I are goin' ter darned agin.'"

"I couldn't stan' that 'ere, no how, so I flat made up a little fist like a four-pound ham an' apook it kinder gentle like under his nose, an' says I, 'Do you smell that 'ere, stranger? Mebbe yer think yer darned poert,' says I, 'but I can't lick any man 't wears store clothes an' lies his hair, darn my backskin!'"

"I didn't know then how darnded active some of these yer fancy ducks is. I thort I could 'a' chewed him up in no time and spit the pieces in his face, but he fist draps Sukey's arm and he kinder squares himself off an' says he, 'Wal, tea's ready, will yer take a pot?' I said I didn't keer 't did, an' he fust thort I knowed, as I was about ter gin a yell to skorr him, he fothed me a kinder stils wip on 'thor side of my sneller that made blood run right down on my new buckskin, like I'd been stickin' a pig. Then I went in an' tried ter gin him a real old Arkansas bear hug, but somehow or other I couldn't git close enuff, fur he kep' hittin' me on this 'ere side an' that 'ere side an' all round till I thort I'd got into a wim'l."

"At last, when I'd got putty well lik-ed, Sukey she come behind me an' hold me, an' then the schoolmaster he stoped an' said he guessed I'd got 'bout enuff, an' I reckon I had. When he'd got through and I'd cleaned my face an' put a piece of raw venison on my eyes, says I, 'Now, look a here, stranger, what do yer call yerself?' Ah says he, 'Wal, I dun know, but I will call myself a putty good boxer.'"

"Now, doctor, that 'ere's all the story, 'cept the schoolmaster he married Sukey, but I kinder thort it over, an' I drew some conclusions out'n it." "What were the conclusions, Jim?" we inquired.

"Fust off, that though it was good ter gin a gal putty things, sometimes, that a feller ortn't ter give her anythin' to sot her up above lookin' at hisself. Next off, that though the Arkansas boys was ornery, might peert and active an' putty good on a knock-down, drag-out an' gouge fight that there wasn't no use in their tryin' to come it over a 'boxer,' an' lastly that though I was putty smart I'd got 'bout the darndest lickin' thar any feller ever ketch'd in Little Injun Run."

"Landlord, bring us 'nother pitcher o' that 'ere old roy. I reckon talkin' so much isn't good for me, it allers makes me thunderin' dry. Doctor, here's my respo'a."

Pirates Defeated by a Woman.

One season back in the forties I shipped aboard of a British ship, the Swallow, to make a voyage from Bombay up the Persian Gulf and back. She was an old craft and a poor sailor, and her crew of twelve men was made up of four or five nationalities. I remember there were two Canaks or Sandwich Islanders, one Lascar, a negro or two, and the others were American, English and Dutch.

We had scarcely left Bombay when the captain was taken quite sick with a fever. His name was Aldrich, and his wife, who was a woman of thirty, always sailed with him. She now took command in a general way, and this to the satisfaction of the mates, though both were thorough sailors. I heard one of them say she could take an observation, or work a dead reckoning, and I saw from orders she gave that she knew all about a ship.

We had good weather and made good progress until after we were above Muscat, in the Bay of Ormuz. Then one forenoon we got a squall, which did not last two minutes, but which brought down our fore and main top gallant masts and carried off a sail or two. There was only a light breeze after the squall had passed and we were lying-to and hard at work when an Arabian dhow of about two hundred tons burthen came stealing down the coast. We were within four miles of the rocky and mountainous shore, but she was two miles inside of us. She was no sooner made out than the first mate became very anxious, and Mrs. Aldrich was sent for to come on deck. She took a good look at the stranger through the glass, as she turned away and queried of the mate.

"Can we depend on the crew to fight?" "I hope so, matam," he replied. "Have them come all."

All moved aft, and I can remember through all the long years just how she looked and every word she said. She had a worried, anxious look—and no wonder—and there was a trembling in her voice as she said.

"Men, you know that your captain is very sick. Tender comes a pirate if there ever was one. If he captures us, those who live through the fight, will go into the interior as slaves and worse. If we are all agreed, we can beat them off. What do you say?"

"We'll fight to the last!" shouted one, and the cry was taken up by all. "Thank God," she fervently exclaimed. "Give them a brave fight and no one can be blamed if we are defeated. Sooner than to fall into their hands, I will blow the old ship sky high and all of us with her."

We had no cannon, but we had fifteen muskets, a lot of cavalry sabres, and the captain had not dodged about those waters with his eyes shut. He had two or three years before purchased a dozen hand grenades or stink-pots, such as are used by the Chinese. These were brought up with the rest and found to be fused and in good condition. They weighed about two pounds apiece and each was inclosed in a net, so that it could be tossed quite a distance.

We loaded our muskets, took our stations and were as ready as could be. The captain's wife alternated between the deck and cabin. He was out of his head, which was better for him, and she had the revolver for use.

The dhow sneaked along till nearly opposite us. All work had been suspended aloft, and she must have known by this that we were ready for her, but she came on just the same. And no wonder. One of the men went aloft with the glass and he made out two guns on her deck and a perfect swarm of men. She was going to do a bold thing—run us aboard in broad daylight. She would not use her guns, fearing they would be heard and bring us assistance, but, if that mob ever gained our decks, we were gone.

We lay with our head to the northwest so she would pass our port quarter first. Here two of the strongest men were placed with the grenades, and two of us with muskets were between them. The others were placed to fire over the stern.

Dawn came cheer from the crowd of cut throats on her deck. There was a menace in her silence, but it had no effect upon us. We were determined to fight, and to fight to the last. I got the first shot and knocked over a man on her fore-castle and then all began to blaze away. She did not fire in return, but forged up on our quarter, and I could see fifty Arabs, each one armed with a crescent, crowding up against the rail to be ready to board.

"Now, heaven!" yelled one of the sailors with the bombs, and both lighted the fuses and heaved away.

Before we could tell what damage had been done the dhow was alongside. She threw her grapnels, but they did not catch and she rubbed our whole length and went ahead. She had just put her helm over when there was an explosion, followed by a great sheet of flame, and we saw that she was hard hit. Confusion reigned from stem to stern in a moment, and we added to it by peppering away at fair range. All afloat within five minutes, she fell off, headed for shore and was run on a reef about a mile away.

We saw some save themselves by boats and rafts, being swept upon the shore by the tide, but it was afterwards learned that upward of forty-five men were killed or drowned, and the loss of the dhow broke up a bad gang of pirates.

Mrs. Aldrich was on deck through it all, emptying the revolver into the crowd as the dhow passed us, and when all was over she went down to her husband with a face only a little whiter and mouth more firmly set. She did not betray her womanly weakness until the mate came to thank us. Then she broke down and cried like a weal, just like a woman.

"At last, when I'd got putty well lik-ed, Sukey she come behind me an' hold me, an' then the schoolmaster he stoped an' said he guessed I'd got 'bout enuff, an' I reckon I had. When he'd got through and I'd cleaned my face an' put a piece of raw venison on my eyes, says I, 'Now, look a here, stranger, what do yer call yerself?' Ah says he, 'Wal, I dun know, but I will call myself a putty good boxer.'"

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McKinley is making the effort of his life in favor of the gold bugs against the interests of the people. It is natural for McKinley to stand by the interests of the men who furnished \$135,000 for his election a few years ago, as a new election is coming on and he will want this aid again.—Cleveland Plaindealer.

The conferring of honorary degrees by colleges is a time honored custom, meritorious and beneficial, but when a great university conferred LL.D. upon Tom Reed it went very far towards showing that its usefulness was at an end, and the doctrine of the "survival of the fittest" an exploded lumber.—New Bern Journal.

Division of the Democratic party in the South on financial or "economic" issues is not to be thought of for an instant at present. The tariff, silver, sub-treasury, and other questions are of great importance to all classes of people. But greater than all these put together, so far as the South is concerned, is the control of affairs at home by the party that represents the intelligence and the resources of the land. There is no financial question important enough, nor any grievance great enough, to justify at this time any course that will weaken the Democracy in this section of the country.—Charlotte Chronicle.

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