

MISCELLANY.

"SELLING" A SHIP-OWNER; OR, THE Ship that had a Hole in Her.

"Are you the owner of the fine vessel lying at the foot of Walnut street?" inquired an inveterate joker of one of our wealthiest ship-owners, a few days since.

"I believe I am," said the merchant, complacently looking over his spectacles at the inquirer; "but why that question?"

"Because in passing her, a few moments since, I observed she had a hole stove in her," responded the wag.

"A hole stove in her?" exclaimed the merchant, hurriedly starting from his desk; "how in the world could that have happened?"

"Can't say, sir," replied the inquirer, "but she is in a sinking condition?"

"Well, sir, I think you might put that in it," pointing to a scuttle of coal. "Whether that would be likely to sink her or not, I cannot say."

"Confusion!" gasped the merchant; some carelessness of the stevedores again. Only a day or two since, a fine vessel was sunk by their negligence, in letting a block of marble fall on her deck; and now one of mine is to share the same fate.

Without stopping to thank our joking friend for his unwelcome intelligence, the shipper started for Walnut street wharf, at (for him) a very unusual pace.

"She hasn't sunk yet, at all events," exclaimed he, as he approached the vessel, which lay quite unconscious of the accident reported to have happened here.

"And there are the men at work loading her with castings. Surely, that will allow them to mistake the vessel!" The merchant did not, however, relax his speed, but, walking hurriedly up to the captain, who was quietly overseeing the workmen, he exclaimed:

"How is it, Captain C—?" A gentleman has just informed me that the Adelia has a hole stove in her."

"A hole stove in her? Where? It's the first thing I have had of it," cried the captain, looking rather incredulously at his employer.

"You must have been misinformed, sir, for I am morally certain that nothing of the kind could have possibly happened. But your own eyes will satisfy you that your information is incorrect."

"I am very glad to hear it," dryly replied the owner; "yet it appears very strange that this man should have made so great a blunder. Has such an accident happened to any other vessel along the wharf?"

"None that I have heard of," said the captain, "and I am very sure that if anything of the kind had occurred, we should have known it."

"It is very singular—very. If it were the 1st of April, instead of the middle of February, I would think the fellow designed making an April fool of me. He appeared so earnest, that I cannot but think he really believed such an accident had happened."

"Saying this, the merchant turned his steps homeward, when his eyes fell upon S—, who was too fond of a joke not to place himself where, at the proper time, he would be forthcoming. As soon as the old shipper spied S—, he beckoned to him—

"With a mischievous eye, S— approached the old man, who, looking sternly at him, inquired:

"Are you not the person who called at my counting-house, a few minutes since, and told me that the ship Adelia had a hole stove in her bottom?"

"I did not say in her bottom, sir," said S—, demurely; "I merely said that she had a whole stove in her."

"Well, sir, you will have the kindness to inform me precisely in what part of the vessel it is. You said, if I recollect rightly, that a scuttle of coal might be put in it."

"That, sir," cried the merchant, looking sharply at S—, "is a complete stove."

"Yes, sir, a complete stove."

"Do you think that stove would hold a scuttle of coal as large as that in your counting-room?"

"I should think it would, sir."

"Is there not another of the same kind on board, sir?" asked S—, inquiringly, of the captain.

"There is, sir," replied the dignitary.

"Well, then, said S—, looking very seriously at the ship-owner, if that's a complete stove, it must be a whole stove, and you will at once agree with me that your vessel has a whole stove in her, large enough to take in that scuttle of coal in your office. Good morning, sir; and, with a wink at the captain, who now understood and relished the "joke," the joker walked off.

"D—d impudent! I wish I knew his name, and a pretty good joke. Captain C—, you will oblige me by saying nothing of this," said the old gentleman, as he started for his office.

"Certainly not, sir," replied the captain, turning away to hide the laughter with which he was bursting.

There was a hearty laugh at Jones' Exchange, when S— related how he had sold the wealthy ship-owner.

THE ROAD TO RICHES.

Let your own business alone, and attend to everybody else's; buy whatever you fancy, whether you want it or not; let your principal employment consist in recreation; if misfortunes befall you, never retrace, but go on in the hope that something will turn up; have none of your bills receipted; keep no accounts; deny yourself no enjoyment or luxury; dabble in bricks and mortar, and leave all your affairs to the management of your lawyer.

THE TRI-WEEKLY COMMERCIAL.

Published every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at \$5 per annum, payable in advance. BY THOMAS LORING—Editor and Proprietor.

Corner Front and Market Streets, WILMINGTON, N. C.

RATES OF ADVERTISING. 1 sq. insertion \$5 50 1 mo. 2 months, \$10 00 3 months, \$15 00 6 months, \$25 00 1 year, \$45 00

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The privilege of Annual Advertisers is strictly limited to their own business, and all advertisements for the benefit of other persons, as well as all advertisements not in conformity with the above, will be charged at the usual rates.

No advertisement for the sale of real estate, or for the sale of houses or lands in town or country, or for the sale of negroes, whether of the property is owned by the advertiser, or by a third party, will be inserted in this paper.

Advertisements inserted in the tri-weekly Commercial, are entitled to one insertion in the Weekly Free of Charge.

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BUSINESS CARDS. D. C. FREEMAN, GEORGE HOUSTON, FREEMAN & HOUSTON, MERCHANTS AND FACTORS, WILMINGTON, N. C.

D. C. FREEMAN & CO. COMMISSION MERCHANTS, 175 FRONT STREET, NEW YORK.

FREEMAN AND HOUSTON, WILMINGTON, N. C. Keep constantly on hand a stock of Flour, Sugar, Coffee, Tea, Spices, &c.

W. C. HOWARD, GENERAL COMMISSION AND FORWARDING MERCHANT, WILMINGTON, N. C.

A. H. VANBRKLEEN, General Agent, Commission and Forwarding Merchant, WILMINGTON, N. C.

HENRY NUTT, FACTOR AND FORWARDING AGENT, Will give his personal attention to business entrusted to his care.

WILLIAM H. PEAKE, COLLECTOR AND ADVERTISING AGENT, For Country Newspapers throughout the United States.

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S. M. WEST, Auctioneer and Commission Merchant, Will sell or buy Real Estate and Negroes at a small commission.

O. L. FILLIAR, PRODUCE BROKER, COMMISSION AND FORWARDING MERCHANT, WILMINGTON, N. C.

JOSEPH R. BLOSSOM, General Commission and Forwarding Merchant, Prompt personal attention to Consignments for Sale or Shipment.

WILKINSON & ESLER, CASH DEALERS IN Confectionary, Fruit, Nuts, Toys, Fancy Articles, Perfumery, Tobacco, cigars, &c.

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T. C. & B. G. WORTH, COMMISSION AND FORWARDING MERCHANTS, WILMINGTON, N. C.

BUSINESS CARDS.

JAS. H. CHADBOURN & CO., General Commission Merchants, WILMINGTON, N. C.

RUSSELL & BROTHER, (LATE ELLIS, RUSSELL & CO.) GENERAL COMMISSION MERCHANTS, WILMINGTON, N. C.

C. & D. DUPRE, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALERS IN Drugs, Medicines, Chemicals, Paints, Oil, &c.

WILLIAM A. GWYER, General Agent Forwarding & Commission Merchant

GEO. H. KELLY, COMMISSION MERCHANT, Next door to A. A. Wannett's, on North Water St.

GEORGE MYERS, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL GROCER, Keeps constantly on hand, Wines, Teas, Liquors, &c.

S. B. & J. A. EVANS, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRUGGISTS, WILMINGTON, N. C.

JOSEPH H. FLANNER, General Commission Merchant, WILMINGTON, N. C.

J. HATHAWAY & SON, COMMISSION MERCHANTS, WILMINGTON, N. C.

ANDERSON & SAVAGE, GENERAL COMMISSION MERCHANTS, WILMINGTON, N. C.

GEO. HARRISS, General Commission Merchant, WILMINGTON, N. C.

COCHRAN & RUSSELL, (SUCCESSORS TO THOS. ALDRIDGE & CO.) General Commission Merchants, PHILADELPHIA.

DOLLNER & POTTER, GENERAL COMMISSION MERCHANTS, NEW YORK.

C. DUPRE & CO., WHOLESALE AND RETAIL GROCERS, Corner Front and Princess Streets, WILMINGTON, N. C.

J. D. LOVE, MANUFACTURER AND DEALER IN CABINET FURNITURE, BEDSTEADS, CHAIRS, MATTRESSES, &c.

MESS PORK, 50 BBLs City Mess; 100 bbls. Plated Mess; 50 lb bbls. Rusty do. For sale by F. B. HARRIS & HOUSTON.

VALUABLE DWELLING HOUSE FOR SALE, THE Subscriber offers for sale that most desirable DWELLING AND PREMISES located at the North-Western intersection of Third Street with Red Cross street.

HOPLAND'S GERMAN BITTERS, We have seen many flattering notices of this medicine, and the source from which we came induced us to make inquiry respecting its merits.

NOTICE, THE subscriber, respectfully informs the public, that he is now transacting the Auction business on his own account, and hopes by strict attention to merit a continuance of the patronage heretofore so liberally bestowed upon him.

PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT FOR SALE, By agreement, to close the affairs of the "Wilmington Free Press" establishment, all the type, fixtures, Press, Galleys, &c. &c. are offered for sale.

SHAWLS, 100 Long and Square Bay State Shawls, just received HENDRICK & WYAN.

DR. GEORGE BETTNER, OF NORTH CAROLINA, OFFICE, NO. 688, BROADWAY, PRESOTT HOUSE—NEW YORK, 142 yrs. Feb. 16.

T. C. WORTH, General Commission Merchant, WILMINGTON, N. C.

MORSE'S COMPOUND SYRUP OF YELLOW DOCK ROOT, This is a Purely Vegetable Compound, scientifically prepared from the best Roots and Herbs of the Materia Medica, and has gained an unrivaled reputation.

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MEDICAL HOUSE, No. 16, SOUTH FREDERICK STREET, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

DR. I. B. SMITH has for many years devoted his whole attention to the treatment of Private Complaints, in all their various and complicated forms.

TO FEMALES, All diseases peculiar to Females (as also Suppressions, Irregularities, &c.) speedily and effectually removed.

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BALTIMORE LOCK HOSPITAL, DR. JOHNSON Preclaims to the afflicted, that he has discovered the most effectual and safe plan for treating particular cases of Gonorrhoea, &c.

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A GHOUL IN VALPARAISO, We learn by the Valparaiso Herald that an extraordinary excitement prevails in that place, in consequence of a report, having arisen that an individual—no one knows of which sex—is in the habit of devouring any number of children he or she can get hold of.

The juvenile population is of course in as great terror as the parents and mamma, and one day a boy, on being asked by a Frenchman for a light to his cigar, took to his heels in such trepidation, that he stumbled and rubbed the skin off the point of his nose. This was seen at a glance to be the first bite of the ghoul, and the exasperated populace made a rush to pieces if he had not been rescued by the police.

These "put him in a carriage, and whirled him to the station-house; the crowd, crying, "bring forth the monster, and let us see him!" ran looking and yelling after the carriage, everywhere the alarm spread, and the mob increased; they poured through the streets like a torrent, and ladies, as they swept by, crossed themselves, and exclaimed: "A revolution!" But the unfortunate prisoner was safely landed at the station-house, and the mob, by thousands pressed round, eager and furious: then the story ran: "This is the man who eats our children! he has been at it two years and a half! he has eaten one hundred and ten infants!"

"Two hundred!" says another. "Two hundred and fifty!" says a third. He eats them raw! "He broils them on a gridiron!" "He makes them into sausages, and sells them!" The end of the adventure was, that as the mob seemed determined not to raise the siege of the station-house, the Frenchman was dressed in some disguise, let out by a private door, and so escaped for the time. But the most curious part of the story is to come; it is an assertion, that not one child in Valparaiso is missing!

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