

THE FROZEN PIRATE.

BY W. CLARK RUSSELL. (Continued.) CHAPTER XIX.

WE TAKE A VIEW OF THE ICE.

For seven days the gale raged with uncommon violence; it then broke, and this brought us into the first week in August. The wind fell in the night, and I was awakened by the silence, which you will not think strange if you consider how used were my ears to the fierce seething and strong bellowing of the blast. I slept again, and when I awoke it was half-past nine o'clock in the morning. The Frenchman was snoring lustily. I went on deck before entering the cook-house, and had like to have been blinded by the astonishing brilliancy of the sunshine upon the ice and snow. The water lurched over and on the schooner had frozen upon the masts, rigging, and decks, and this ice, like the pendants, was very sparklingly bright, it gave back all the hues of the sunbeam, so that, stepping from the darkness of the cabin into this effulgent scene, you might easily have persuaded yourself that before you stood the fabric of a ship fashioned out of a rainbow.

My attention, however, was quickly withdrawn from this shining spectacle by the appearance of the starboard cliff over against our quarter. The whole shoulder of it had broken away and I could just catch a view of the horizon of the sea from the deck by stretching my figure. The sight of the ocean showed me that the breakage had been prodigious, for to have come to that prospect before, I should have had to climb to the height of the main lower masthead. No other marked or noteworthy change did I detect from the deck; but on stepping to the larboard side to peer over I spied a split in the ice that reached from the very margin of the ravine, I meant to that end of it where it terminated in a cliff, to past the bows of the schooner by at least four times her own length.

I returned to the cook-room and went about the old business of lighting the fire and preparing the breakfast—this job by an understanding between the Frenchman and me, falling to him who was first out of bed—and in about twenty minutes Tassard arrived. "The wind is gone," said he. "Yes," I replied, "it is a bright, still morning. I have been on deck. There has been a great fall of ice close to."

"Does it block us?" "No, on the contrary, it clears the way to the sea; the ocean is now visible from the deck. Not that it mends our case," I added. "But there is a great rent in the ice that puts a fancy into my head; I'll speak of it later after I have a closer look."

The breakfast was ready, and we fell to in a hurry, the Frenchman gobbling like a hog in his eagerness to make an end. When we were finished he wrapped himself up in three or four coats and cloaks, warming the under ones before folding them about him, and completing his preparations for the excursion by swallowing half a pint of raw brandy. I bade him arm himself with a short-headed spear to save his neck; and thus equipped we went on deck.

He stood stock-still with his eyes shut on emerging through the hatch, crying out with a number of oaths that he had been struck blind. This I did not believe, through I readily supposed that the glare made his eyeballs smart so as to cause him a good deal of agony. Indeed, all along I had been surprised that he should have found his sight so easily after having sat in blindness for forty-eight years, and it was not wonderful that the amazing brilliancy on deck, smiting his sight on a sudden, should have caused him to cry out as if he had lost the use of his eyes forever.

I waited patiently, and in about ten minutes he was able to look about him, and then it was not long before he could see without pain.

The increased heel of the ship brought the larboard fore-channel low, and we stepped without difficulty from it on to the ice. The rent or fissure that I have before spoken of went very deep; it was nearly two feet wide in places, but, though the light poured brilliantly upon it, I could see no bottom.

"If only such another split as this would happen 't'other side," said the Frenchman, "I believe this block would go adrift."

"Well," said I, after musing a little whilst I ran my eye over the hollows, "I'll tell you what was in my mind just now. There is a great quantity of gunpowder in the hold; ten or a dozen barrels. By dropping large parcels of it into the crevices on the right there, and firing it with slow-matches—"

He interrupted me with a cry: "By St. Paul, you have it! What crevices have you?"

"I walked briskly round the vessel, and all about her beam and starboard quarter I found, in addition to the seams I had before noticed, many great cracks and fissures, caused no doubt by the fall of the starboard of the slope. I pushed on further yet, going down the ravine, as I have called it, until I came to the edge; and here I looked down from a height of some twelve or fourteen feet—so greatly had the ice sunk or been changed by the weather—upon the ocean. I called to Tassard. He approached warily. I believe he feared I might be tempted to give him a friendly shove over the edge.

"Observe this hollow," said I; "the split there goes down to the water, and you may take it that the block is wholly disconnected on that side. Now look at the face of the ice," said I, pointing to the starboard or right-hand side; "that crack goes as far as the vessel's quarter, and the weakness is carried on to past the bows by the other rents. Mr. Tassard, if we could burst this body of ice by an explosion from its moorings ahead of the bow, split, where it is all too compact, this cradle with the schooner in it will go free of the parent body."

He answered promptly, "Yes; it is the one and only plan. That crack to starboard is like telling us what to do. It is well you came here. We should not have seen it from the top. This valley runs steep. You must expect no more than the surface to be liberated, for the foot of the cliff will go deep."

"I desire no more." "Will the ship stand such a launch, supposing we bring it about?" said he. I responded with one of his own shrugs, and said, "Nothing is certain. We have one of two courses to choose: to venture this launch, or stay till the ice breaks up, and take our chance of floating or of being smashed."

"You are right," he exclaimed. "Here is an opportunity. If we wait, bergs may gather about this point and build us in. As to this island dissolving, we are yet to know which way 'tis heading. Suppose it should be travelling south, hey?"

He struck the ice with his spear, and we toiled up the slippery rocks with difficulty to the ship. We walked past the bows to the distance of the vessel's length. Here were many deep holes and cracks, and as if we were to be taught how these came about, even whilst we were viewing them an ear-splitting crash of noise happened within twenty fathoms of us, a rock many tons in weight rolled over, and left a black gulf behind it.

The Frenchman started, muttered, and crossed himself. "Holy Virgin!" he cried, rolling his eyes. "Let us return to the schooner. We shall be swallowed up here."

"I own I was not a little terrified myself by the sudden loud blast and the thunder of the uproared rock; and the sight of the huge black rent; but I meant to view the scene from the top, and to consider how best to dispose of the powder in the cracks, and said, 'There is nothing to be done on board; skulking below will not deliver us or preserve the treasure. Here are several fissures big enough to receive barrels of gunpowder. See, Mr. Tassard, as they stand they cover the whole width of the hollow.'

And I proceeded to give him my ideas as to lowering, fixing the barrels, and the like. He nodded his head and said, "Yes, very good; yes, it will do, and so on; but was too scared in his heart, I believe, to see my full meaning. He was perpetually moving, as if he feared the ice would split under his feet, and his eyes travelled over the face of the rocks with every manifestation of alarm in their expression. I wondered how so poor a creature should ever have had stomach enough to serve as a pirate; no doubt his spirit had been enfeebled by the long sleep; but then it is also true that the greatest bullies and most bloodthirsty rogues prove themselves despicable curs under conditions which make no demand upon their temper or their lust for plunder.

When came to look close, and to recollect the features of the shore as they showed when I first landed, I found some vital changes near at hand. Where my haven had been the ice had given way and left a gap half a mile broad and a hundred feet deep. The fall on the schooner's starboard quarter was very heavy, and the ice was split in all directions; and in parts was so loose that a point of cliff hard upon the sea rocked with the swell. When Tassard came to a stand he looked about him north and south, shading his eyes with his hand, and then swearing very savagely in French, he cried out in English, freely employing oaths as he spoke,—

"Why, here's as much ice as there was before I fell asleep! See yonder!" pointing to the south. It lies out in the distance. If it does not join the pole there, may the devil rise before me as I speak. Thunder and fury! I had hoped to see it shrivelled to an ordinary berg!"

"What! in a week?" cried I, as if I believed his stupor had not lasted long.

He returned no answer and gaped about him full of consternation and passion.

"And are we to wait for our deliverance till this continent breaks up?" he bawled. "The day of judgement will be a thing of the past by that time. Travelling north! 'sdeath!" he roared, his mouth full of the epithets of his day, French and English. "Who but a madman could suppose that this ice is not as fixed as the antarctic circle to which it is moored? Why, six months ago it was no bigger than it is now!"

And he sent a furious terrified gaze into the white solitudes vanishing in azure faintness in the southwest.

It was not a thing to reason upon. I was as much disappointed as he by the trifling changes the gale had made, and my heart felt very heavy at the sight of the great field disappearing in the south. The bergs in the north signified little. It is true they indicated demolition, but demolition so slow as to be worthless to us. It was not to be questioned that the island was proceeding north, but at what rate? Here, perhaps, might be a frozen crescent of forty or fifty leagues; and at what speed, appreciable enough to be of the least consequence to our calculations, should such a body travel?

I looked at the Frenchman. "This must decide us!" said I. "We must fix on one of two courses: endeavour to launch the ship by blowing up the ice, or turn to and rig up the best arrangement we can contrive and put to sea."

"Yes," he answered, scowling as he darted his enraged eyes over the ice. "Better set a slowmatch in the magazine and drink ourselves senseless, and so blow ourselves to hell, than linger here in the hope that this continent will dissolve and release us. Where's Mendoza's body?"

I stared about me, and then pointing to the huge gap the ice had made, answered, "It was there. Where it is now I know not."

He shrugged his shoulders, took another view of the ice and the ocean, and then cried impatiently, "Let us return! the powder-barrels must have the first chance." And he made for the schooner, savagely striking the ice with his spear and growling curses to himself as he ploughed and climbed and jumped his way along.

(To be continued.)

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

GENERAL BUSINESS.

CASTORIA for Infants and Children. Castoria is so well adapted to children that I recommend it as superior to any prescription known to me. H. A. ACHESON, M. D., 111 So. Oxford St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

NORTHERN AND WESTERN RAILWAY.

WINTER Arrangement. O and after WEDNESDAY, NOV. 28th, until further notice, trains will run on the above Railway, daily, as follows: CHATHAM TO FREDERICTON, FREDERICTON TO CHATHAM.

CHATHAM RAILWAY.

WINTER 1888-9. O and after MONDAY, NOV. 26th, trains will run on this Railway in connection with the Inter-Colonial Railway, daily, (Sunday nights excepted) as follows: GOING NORTH, GOING SOUTH.

Trains leave Chatham on Saturday night to connect with Express going South, which runs through to St. John, and Halifax and with Express going North which lies over at Campbellton. The above Table is made up on I. C. Railway standard time, which is 15th meridian time. All the local trains stop at Nelson Station, both going and returning, if signalled. All freight for transportation over this road, if above Fourth (4th) Class, will be taken delivery of at the Union Wharf, Chatham, and forwarded free of Truckage, Custom House Entry or other charges. Special attention given to Shippers of Fish.

SAY! JUST READ THIS.

WHAT YOU CAN GET AT THE Newcastle Drug Store. PUSH GOODS, CONSISTING OF: Brush and Comb Cases, Ladies' and Gents' Dressing Cases, Shaving Cases, Glove and Handkerchief Boxes, Perfumery Cases, Baby Dressing Cases, Manicures, Clocks, Mirrors (set in Plush), Wall Pockets, Photo Frames, Perfumery Boxes and Baby Dressing Cases are Musical and play two tunes each.

SILVERWARE.

CARD BASKETS, BREAKFAST CRUETS SALTS, ETC. ALSO: Cups, Vases, Toilet Sets, Fancy Mustache Cups, Cut Glass Bottles, Chinese Lanterns, Japanese Fire Screens, Bronze Clocks, Smokers' Sets, Cribbage Boards, Ink Stands, Work Baskets (German) Perfumery in Fancy Bottles.

NEWCASTLE DRUG STORE.

Next New Post Office. E. LEE, STREET, PROPRIETOR. Newcastle, Dec. 11th 1886. Duke of Wellington Colt, Sloven, Waggon, Etc., AT AUCTION! Friday, the 26th Inst., opposite Fotheringham's Weigh Scales, Water Street, commencing at 10.30, a.m.

WANTED.

A Housemaid and a Cook, Good Wages—no washing. Apply to Mrs. SNOWBALL.

Z. TINGLEY, HAIRDRESSER, ETC., HAS REMOVED.

SHAVING PARLOR.

WANTED.

Scott's Emulsion.

Estey's Iron & Quinine Tonic.

THE MEDICAL HALL.

Central Business.

TINSHOP. NOTICE OF SALE. As I have now on hand a larger and better assortment of goods than ever before, comprising Japanned, Stamped and Plain Tinware.

The Peerless Creamer.

ROCHESTER LAMP, The Successor Oil Stove.

Parlor and Cooking Stove with PATENT TELESCOPIC OVEN.

A. C. McLean.

THE CANADIAN MAIL BRINGS OUR SEEDS TO EVERY MAN'S DOOR. JOHN S. PEARCE & CO. SEED MERCHANTS LONDON ONT. 64 PAGE CATALOGUE FREE. SEND FOR ONE.

'89-The Weekly Herald-'89.

ONE DOLLAR A YEAR.

Y. Y. Weekly Herald.

IN THE UNITED STATES.

Caution & Notice.

NOTICE.

Steam Saw-Mills.

MUSIC.

SEED TIME!

Guarantee to be Fresh.

Beets, Carrots, Cucumber, Lettuce, Onion, Parsnip, Pumpkin, Turnip, Sage, Savory, Marjoram.

J. D. B. MACKENZIE, Medical Hall.

BRICKS!

MIRAMICHI STEAM BRICK WORKS.

BRICKS MANUFACTURED.

HAY.

200 TONS BEST QUALITY TIMOTHY.

HORSES & CATTLE.

Kendall's Spavin Cure.

Kendall's Blister.

Kendall's Condition Powders.

CAUTION!

SPECTACLES.

The Medical Hall.

MACKENZIE'S MEDICAL HALL.

GENERAL BUSINESS.

New Goods! New Goods! Grand Display of New Goods at Albert Patterson's. 'Crusader' and all other Leading Brands of Imported and Domestic Cigars.

ALBERT PATTERSON, STONE BUILDING, - - - - - PALLEN'S CORNER.

JOB - PRINTING.

'ADVANCE' Building.

Having completed the removal of the ADVANCE establishment to the old Methodist Church building, corner Duke and Cunard Streets, we are now prepared to execute all kinds of BOOK AND JOB - PRINTING.

in first class style. This establishment was the only one in the Province in a position to enter into competition with the city offices at the Dominion Centennial Exhibition.

MEDAL AND DIPLOMA.

for "Book and Job Printing" and "Letter-Press Printing." This is good evidence of the fine character of its work.

We have also, constantly on sale a large line of blank-forms, such as: RAILWAY SHIPPING RECEIPTS, FISH INVOICES, (newest form), MAGISTRATE'S BLANKS, DEEDS AND MORTGAGES, SUPREME AND COUNTY COURT BLANKS, SHERIFFS' BLANKS, TEACHERS' AGREEMENTS, SCHOOL ASSESSMENT FORMS, ETC., ETC., ETC.

D. G. SMITH.

MUSICIANS TAKE NOTICE!

GEO. A. CUTTER, DEALER IN PIANOS ORGANS AND SEWING MACHINES. CHATHAM, N. B.

REPRESENTING THE Evans Bros. Piano Co.; Wm. Bell Pianos; Estey Piano Co.; Thomas Organ Co.; Wm. Bell Organs and the New Williams Sewing Machine.

A Full Line of Violins, Accordions, Banjos, Strings, Sheet Music and Music Books kept constantly on hand.

Send for a 120 page Catalogue of Sheet Music and Books sent free to any address. If I purchase the above direct from the Manufacturers I can afford to sell as low as any house in the trade. Send for Catalogue and prices before buying elsewhere.

GEO. A. CUTTER, Chatham, N. B.

FIRE!

NATIONAL ASSURANCE COMPANY OF IRELAND, Incorporated 1822. Capital \$5,000,000.

ATLAS ASSURANCE COMPANY OF LONDON, Incorporated 1838. Capital \$5,000,000.

NORTHERN ASSURANCE COMPANY OF LONDON, Incorporated 1836. Capital \$15,000,000.

CITY OF LONDON FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, Incorporated 1881. Capital \$10,000,000.

BRITISH AMERICA INSURANCE COMPANY, Incorporated 1853. Cash Capital & Assets \$1,233,666.52.

CITIZENS, INSURANCE COMPANY, Incorporated 1866. Cash Capital & Assets \$1,531,900.

LIFE!

EQUITABLE LIFE ASSUR. SOCIETY OF THE U. S. Assets \$84,375,000.55. Liabilities 4 per cent. \$66,274,650.00. Surplus \$18,100,350.55.

NOTE—Policies issued and endorsed at this Agency of the British America without delay or reference to head office. Fire Risks accepted and made binding in all Companies without reference to head office.

WARREN C. WINSLOW, BARRISTER, CHATHAM, NEW BRUNSWICK.

Now Opening AN IMMENSE STOCK OF New Dry Goods.

imported direct from LONDON and GLASGOW also DOMINION Manufactures. Variety, Style and Value UNSURPASSED.

William Murray. CHATHAM, Feb. 28th, 1889.

COLLINS' CORN MILLER. CERTAIN REMEDY FOR HARD & SOFT CORNS.