

## Literature, &amp;c.

FROM THE IMPERIAL MAGAZINE.

## FATE OF HENRY HUDSON.

Among the numerous adventurers who have distinguished themselves in the dangerous field of maritime enterprise, Henry Hudson will always hold an exalted rank. The straits and bay which he discovered on the northern coast of America, having received his name, cannot fail to transmit it to the latest posterity. But while we admire his intrepidity, and pay a tribute of respect to the memory of an able, a successful, but an unfortunate navigator, it must always be accompanied with indignant feelings at the baseness of his crew, through whose inhumanity he was doomed to perish. Of this sorrowful narrative, we extract the following from the Edinburgh Cabinet Library.

"The expanse thus discovered by Hudson was the great inland sea, called from him Hudson's Bay; and it was a grand discovery although not exactly what he imagined. The 3d of August was now arrived, a season at which the boldest of northern navigators had been accustomed to think of returning. Little inclined to such a course, he continued to sail along the coast on the left, which must have appeared to him the western boundary of America; hoping probably before the close of autumn to reach some cultivated and temperate shore, where he might take up his winter-quarters. The shores along this bay, however, though not in a very high latitude, are subject to a climate the most rigorous and inclement. Entangled in the gulfs and capes of an unknown coast, struggling with mist and storm, and ill seconded by a discontented crew, he spent three months without reaching any comfortable haven. It was now the first of November, the ice was closing in on all sides, and nothing remained but to meet the cheerless winter, which had actually begun. The sailors were too late of attempting to erect a wooden house: yet the cold, though severe, does not seem to have reached any perilous height. Their chief alarm respected provisions, of which they had brought only a six months' supply, and consequently had now only a small remnant left. Hudson took active measures to relieve this want. He carefully husbanded the original stock, and propounded a reward to whoever should kill beast, fish, or bird; and 'Providence dealt mercifully, in sending such a supply of white partridges, that in three months they killed a hundred dozen.' In spring these birds disappeared, but were succeeded by flocks of geese, swans, ducks, and teal, not denizens of the spot, but on their flight from south to north. When these were passed, the air no longer yielded a supply, but the sea began to open, and having on the first day taken five hundred fishes of tolerable size, they conceived good hopes; but this success did not continue, being reduced to great extremity, they searched the woods for moss, which they compare, however, to pounded timber; they ate even frogs. The commander undertook an excursion with a view to open an intercourse with the natives, but they fled, setting fire even to the woods behind them. Parley was obtained with one, who was loaded with gifts, yet he never returned. Discontents arose, as to the distribution of the small remaining portion of bread and cheese, to allay which the captain made a general and equal partition of the whole. This was a bad measure, among such a crew, many of whom knew not how 'to govern their share,' but greedily devoured it as long as it lasted. One man even ate the whole in a day, and brought on a dangerous surfeit. Their distress becoming thus greater than ever, soon brought on a most fatal crisis.

'Hudson, as may be observed, had from the first to struggle with an unprincipled, ill-tempered crew, void of any concern for the ultimate success of the voyage. He had probably hoped, as the season should advance to push southwards, and reach next summer the wealthy regions which he was commissioned to search. The sailors, on the contrary, had fixed their desires on 'the cape where fowls do breed,' the only place where they expected to obtain both present supply and the means of returning to England. Ringleaders were not wanting to head this growing party of malcontents. At the entrance of the bay the captain had displaced Ivet the mate, who had shown strong propensities towards re-

turning, and appointed in his room Bylot, a man of merit, and who had always shown zeal in the general cause. He had also changed the boatswain. But the most deadly blow was struck by Green, a wretch whom after he had been cast off by all his friends, Hudson, from humanity, had taken on board, and endeavoured to reclaim and restore to society. He was possessed of talents which made him useful, and even a favorite with his superior; and among other discontents, it was reckoned one, that a veil was thrown over several flagrant disorders of which he had been guilty. Yet some hot expressions of Hudson, caused it is said, by a misunderstanding about the purchase of a great coat, so acted on the fierce spirit of this ruffian, that, renouncing every tie of gratitude, and all that is sacred among mankind, he became the chief in a conspiracy to seize the vessel and expose the commander to perish.

'After some days' consultation, the time was fixed for the perpetration of this horrible atrocity. On the 21st June, 1611, Green, and Wilson, the boatswain, come into Pricket the narrator's cabin, and announced their fatal resolution; adding, that they bore him so much good-will as to wish that he should remain on board. Pricket avers most solemnly, that he exhausted every argument which might induce them to desist from their horrid purpose, beseeching them not to do so foul a thing in the sight of God and man, and which would forever banish them from their native country, their wives and children. Green wildly answered, that they had made up their minds to go through with it or die, and that they would rather be hanged at home than starve here. An attempt was then made to negotiate a delay of three, two, or even one day, but all without effect. Ivet came next, of whom, as being a person of mature age, there seemed more hope; but he was worse than Green, declaring that he would justify in England the deed on which they had resolved. John Thomas and Michael Perse now came in, proving themselves 'birds of a feather,' and Moter and Bennet having followed, an oath was administered to the following tenor:—'You shall swear truth to God, your prince, and country; you shall do nothing but to the glory of God and the action in hand, and harm to no man.' Pricket complains of the reproach thrown upon him for having taken this oath, the bare terms of which are certainly unexceptionable; but the dark context by which they were illustrated marks them as containing an implied obligation to remain at least passive on this dreadful occasion. All was now ready, but Pricket persuaded them to delay till daylight the accomplishment of their crime. They agreed, but kept strict watch through the night, and held themselves ready to act at the first appearance of dawn.

'Daybreak approaching, Hudson came out of his cabin, when he was instantly set upon by Thomas, Bennet, and Wilson, who seized him, and bound his hands behind his back; and on his eagerly asking what they meant, told him he should know when on board the shallop Ivet then attacked King the Carpenter, known as the commander's most devoted adherent. That brave fellow, having a sword, made a most desperate resistance, and would have killed his assailant, had not the latter been speedily reinforced. The mutineers then offered to him the choice of continuing in the ship; but he absolutely refused to be detained otherwise than by force, and immediately followed his master whom the conspirators were already letting down the sides of the vessel into the shallop. Then with a barbarity beyond all example, they called from their beds, and drove into it, not the firm adherents of Hudson, but the sick and infirm sailors who could afford no aid, and whose support would have been burdensome. They threw after them the carpenter's box, with some powder and shot. Scarcely was this transaction completed, when they cut off the boat from the stern, 'out with their topsail,' and set off, flying as from an enemy. Hudson, thus abandoned, was never heard of more; and this great navigator undoubtedly perished on these remote and desolate shores, though the form or duration of the distress to which he fell a victim, must be forever unknown.

'The sailors, as soon as the guilty deed was done, fell upon the ship as on a captured vessel, breaking open every chest, and seizing on every remnant of food which could be discovered. Green, however, who now assumed the command, used some vigor in restoring

order. He placed the cabin and provisions under the charge of Pricket, who was afterwards accused of a matter no less than treason,—that of secreting some cakes of bread. As soon as the mutineers had time to reflect, rueful musing began to arise. Even Green admitted that England at this time was no place for them, nor could he contrive any better scheme than to keep the high sea till, by some means or other, they might procure a pardon from under his Majesty's hand and seal. The vessel was now embayed, and detained for a fortnight amid fields of ice, which extended for miles around it, and, but for some cockle grass found on an island, the crew must have perished by famine. Considerable disputes with respect to the steerage arose between Ivet and Bylot, who alone had any pretensions to skill; but the latter, being justly viewed with the greatest confidence, at length guided them to Cape Digges, the long-for spot, the breeding place of fowls, crowds of which accordingly continued still to darken the air. The party immediately landed, spread themselves among the rocks and began to shoot. While the boat was on shore, they saw seven canoes rowing towards them, whereupon 'they prepared themselves for all essays.' However, the savages came forward beating their breasts, dancing and leaping, with every familiar and friendly sign. The utmost intimacy commenced, the parties went back and forward, showed each other their mode of catching fowls, and made mutual presents and exchanges. In short, these appeared the most kind and simple people in the world, and 'God so blinded Henry Green,' that he viewed them with implicit confidence. One day, amid the height of this intimacy, Pricket sitting in the boat, suddenly saw a man's leg close to him. Raising up his head, he perceived a savage with a knife uplifted and ready to strike. In attempting to arrest the blow, his hand was cut, and he could not escape three wounds, one on the breast, and one in the right thigh; by which time he got hold of the handle of the knife, and wrenched it from the assassin, whom he then pierced with his dagger in the left side. At the same time a general attack was made on the English crew, dispersed in different quarters. Green and Perse came tumbling down wounded in the boat, which was pushed off, while Moter, seeing 'this medley,' leaped into the sea, swam out, and getting hold of the stern, was pulled in by Perse. Green now cried *coragio*, and he and Perse brandished their weapons with such vigor, that the savages ceased attempting to enter the boat; but they poured in clouds of arrows, one of which struck Green with such force, that he died on the spot, and his body was thrown into the sea. At length the party reached the vessel; but Moter and Wilson died that day, and Perse two days after. 'I have perished the chief perpetrators of the late dreadful tragedy, visited by Providence with a fate not less terrible than that which they had inflicted on their illustrious and unfortunate victim.'

'The crew thus deprived of their best hands, were in extreme perplexity, obliged to ply the ship to and fro across the straits, and unable, without the utmost fear and peril, to venture on shore; which yet was absolutely necessary for obtaining provisions to carry them to England. They contrived, during some anxious and unhappy excursions, to collect three hundred birds, which they salted and preserved as the only stock whereupon to attempt the voyage. They suffered, during the passage, the most dreadful extremities of famine, allowing only half a fowl a day to each man, and considering it a luxury to have them fried with candles, of which a weekly distribution was made for that purpose. Ivet, now the sole survivor of the ringleaders in the late dreadful transaction, sunk under these privations. The last fowl was in the steep-tub, and the men were become careless and desperate, when suddenly it pleased God to give them sight of land, which proved to be the north of Ireland. They complain that, on going ashore at Berehaven, they did not meet the sympathy and kindness which they so much needed; however, by mortgaging their vessel, they obtained the means of proceeding to Plymouth.'

MARCH OF INTELLECT.—A labourer reading the newspaper to his wife, came to the following passage:—"His Grace was received with three HUZZAS"—which he read, "His Grace was received with three HUSSIES." "More shame for him," said the good woman.