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SIR WALTER RUNCIMAN RECALLS THE DAYS OF THE WINDJAMMER; ONCE SAILED BEFORE THE MAST

There has been an outbreak of reminiscences of the old wind-jammers in recent books. We should pay attention to them, for men who are able to tell us from their own memories stories of the days of sail will not be found among us many more years. They have acquired in the eyes of lovers of the sea a sort of holiness says a writer in T. P.'s Weekly.

They turn up sometimes, these survivors of a picturesque past, in surprising places. For instance, one associates Sir Walter Runciman so closely with modern ships that we learn with a start from his new book, "Collier Brigs and Their Sailors" that he was an apprentice and then an able seaman on a collier brig sixty years ago.

Washed About Decks.

Neither does one readily think of Commodore Sir Bertram Hayes in any other connection than that of the most modern ships. But he recalls in a foreword to Mannin Crane's "Yarns from a Windjammer" that his early days at sea were under sail. "I have vivid recollections," he says, "of being washed about the decks when wearing ship-off Cape Horn."

Think again, Charles Spedding, familiar for many years to transatlantic passengers as purser of the Aquitania. Who would have imagined, seeing his smooth, youthful-looking face and

smart figure, that he could write as he does in his "Reminiscences of Trans-atlantic Travelers." "My first experience of the sea was in a sailing ship barque hailing from Glasgow?"

In high places, then we find these survivors in whose ears the orders of the old sailing ships and the shanties that were sung on them still linger familiarly. And in humbler places we should find more, like old Edward Poole, crack ship-master of the north-east coast in that past time, who talked to Sir Walter Runciman of his first command till "his eyes filled with tears, his lips quivered, and he stopped speaking."

Emotional Love.

This emotional love of the vanished sailing ship characterizes all who speak of it from personal experience. Rex Clements in "A Stately Southerner" tells us of the Southern Cross, a lofty four-masted barque, in which he sailed as second mate, and exclaims: "Merely to step out of the companion-way to feel the rush of wind past one's ears and see the tiering spread of canvas on each steeply-sloping mast was worth many weeks of waiting to experience."

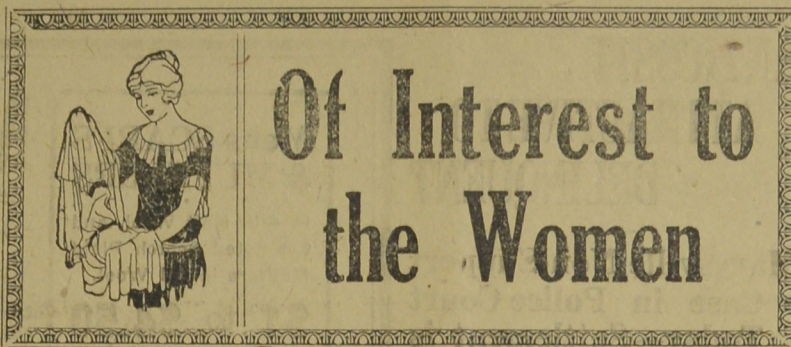
Yet these tributes come from men who do not minimize the discomforts and hardships and perils of the life.

Sir Walter Runciman declares that when he heard of the kind of thing some men grumble at nowadays, "My thoughts went back again to my early sea experiences, the wages paid, the condition of some of the ships I sailed in, their insanitary small forecables, the putrid food meagrely supplied." In these respects Mr. Spedding records that British London and Aberdeen, "were the worst-found ships of any nation." The ships of the Glasgow Line in which he first sailed "were known throughout the seaports and waterfronts of the world as 'Hungry Shires,'" and the nickname was just. British ships generally were called "Lime-juicers" on account of a Board of Trade regulation that compelled the master to supply, and the crew to drink a quantity of lime juice daily as an anti-scorbutic.

Shopkeepers as Sailowners.

In the case of the sailing colliers, their ownership probably accounted for their ill-found state. "The owners," says Sir Walter Runciman, "were all of the small shopkeeping and tradesmen class, who, by frugal habits and the help of other industrious, saving people, were enabled to buy cheap worn-out coffins that made large profits at that period. . . . I made a voyage in one of these old hookers which in stormy weather shivered and shook as though she was falling to pieces. Her fore-castle deck used to open and shut like bellows, and every plunge or roll she took gave the impression that she was splitting in two."

Mr. Spedding's description of his trip in the Duns Law (in rotten sea-going condition) from Maryport, Cumberland, with a cargo of railway irons for Brisbane, records how the crew had become afraid of the ship by the time she reached Madeira, and many tried to desert. One man was drowned attempting to swim ashore. Four



Of Interest to the Women

HOUSEHOLD NOTES.

Ham should be put to boil in cold water.

Leek instead of onion in soups is delicious.

Flies in the house should be killed every day.

Bananas should not be kept in the ice chest.

One cupful of rice is sufficient for six persons.

Brisket makes the best braised beef or pot roast.

Rub a little mustard over the ham before baking.

Celery seed added to soup will give a good flavor.

The weight of poultry is taken after it is dressed.

For pot roasting on the stove there is nothing so good as a cast-iron pot.

If paper sticks to the polished table moisten it with oil and rub gently.

Wax the bottom of your rockers, and they will not mark the hard-wood floors.

A bowl of vegetable soup, followed by either starch or fruit, makes a perfect meal.

ALMOND CUSTARD.

Scald three cups of milk and chicken with two egg yolks, two tablespoons cornstarch, a few grains of salt and one third cup of sugar stirred together. Add one half cup corn flakes and cook over hot water until smooth, stirring frequently. Flavor with a few drops of almond extract and serve very cold with the egg whites whipped stiff, with powdered sugar piled on top.

Banana-Date Nut Cake.

1 1/2 cups of sugar, 1/2 cup butter—scant, 1/2 cup chopped nut meats 1/2 cup dates cut fine; 1 cup mashed banana pulp, 1 cup boiling water, 3 1/2 cups flour sifted, 1 teaspoon of soda, 1 teaspoon of baking powder, 2 whole eggs, 1 teaspoon vanilla. Pour boiling water over dates, add soda, let stand until cool. Add this mixture to the creamed butter, sugar, eggs and banana pulp. Then add sifted flour, nuts and baking powder—bake in layers.

Boiled frosting: 2 1/2 cups of brown sugar, 1/2 cup fresh milk, 1 rounding tablespoon of corn starch pinch of cream of tartar. Mix sugar then add milk. Boil to soft ball stage, remove from fire add 1/2 tea spoon of butter and 1 teaspoon of vanilla, cool five minutes then beat to spread.

Filling: One-half cup of dates, 1/2 cup of nut meats. Mix with boiled frosting and spread between layers of cake.

GINGER COOKIES.

1 cup molasses
1/2 cup shortening
1 level teaspoon salt
1 level teaspoon ginger
2 level teaspoons cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon mace
1 level teaspoon baking soda
3 to 4 cups flour

Put the molasses into bowl, add the baking soda and beat until frothy, then add the melted shortening spices and salt; sift in enough flour to make a stiff dough; knead until smooth. Put into bowl, cover and

were washed overboard and drowned between there and Brisbane. On the return trip two more men were lost overboard off Cape Horn, and an apprentice was killed through falling from the top gallant yard.

Windjammer's Passing.

Mr. Clements is one of the exceptions among the men who served in sail, in that he does regret the windjammer's passing; and since it is pleasanter and perhaps decider to recall the virtues of a dead past than its vices, let us end with his fervent eulogy of windjammers:

"Passing from the oceans of the world, they have not passed beyond the ken of those who set beauty above utility, nor is it in the waters of Lethe that their star has set. A fairer fate has met them. On the happy sea of memory, by coasts of old renown, and flushed with the rainbow hues of imagination, they rest secure—a thing of beauty inalienably and a joy for all time."

let stand three to four hours in cold place. It can be made the evening before and rolled the following morning. Bake in quick, hot oven eight to ten minutes.

FRINGED GENTIAN.

High in air over the river meadow late autumn afternoon

Go flying wedges of wild birds pointing

Southward—winter is coming soon!

Shriveled and brown are the clinging oak leaves,

Dark the pines in the sunset fire

And winds that rustle the dry marsh grasses

Play low tunes on a ready lyre.

Dead golden rod and the withered asters—

Empty seed sheaths—to dry stalks cling;

But I find in the sere grass fair fringed gentians—

Feathers dropped from a bluebird's wing!

—BLANCHE A. SAWYER in New York Sun.

Frank Crane, "but they are sometimes wrong." Why not reverse the observation? Critics are often wrong but they are sometimes right.

"Critics are often right," says Dr.

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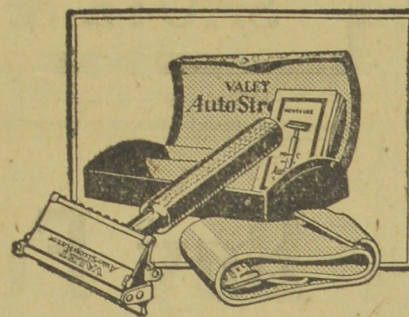
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