

ERRED IN SINKING MERRIMAC.

Capt. McCalla Says That a Serious Mistake Was Made in Santiago Harbor.

Lecturing before the war college at Newport, R. I., on "Lessons of the Late War," Capt. B. H. McCalla, of the Norfolk navy yard, said: "It is understood from the narrative of Admiral Sampson, published in the Century, that original suggestion for sinking a collier in the entrance of Santiago harbor was presented during a conference of commanding officers on the flagship 'New York' in the Bahama channel, after a report had been received from Schley of Santiago. It was then thought to be necessary that additional means should be adopted to confine Cervera in that port until the blockading squadron of Admiral Schley could be reinforced. But from a military point of view it was a serious error to try to keep the Spanish ships in the harbor. The one thing which seemed desirable was to encourage them to come outside for battle. And in addition by attempting to block the channel we at once committed a more serious mistake, because we advertised the fact that we did not intend to force the entrance to bring Cervera into action. The policy of the blockading force thus foreshadowed must have given Cervera and his government some temporary relief, improved the morale of his officers and men and enabled him to land a force of 1,100 seamen from his ships to assist the army. Under such circumstances success was not probable. But as the attempt failed and did not prevent Cervera from coming out to meet defeat we can never regret that the Merrimac was sent in, for it gave the navy an opportunity of exhibiting such splendid gallantry and fearlessness of death that every American must be proud of Hobson and his companions."

THINK IT REAL SEA SERPENT.

New England's Passengers Sure They Saw It in Mid-ocean Was Certainly a Strange Creature.

The sea serpent—the "straight goods" this time—was seen in mid-ocean by 553 passengers and the crew of the steamship New England, which arrived at Boston from Liverpool. Many of the passengers averred that they had seen the much-talked-of sea serpent on the voyage. They certainly saw a very strange animal, the like of which no one on board, from the captain to the mess boy, had ever seen before. Capt. McAuley when questioned about the strange animal said that when the ship was in latitude 45.37 north, longitude 53.09 west, his attention was called to an object off the starboard bow, which he at first made out to be a ship's boat or part of a derelict. He thought that it might be a wreck, with some people in need of assistance, and brought the steamer within about 40 feet of the object, which still had the appearance of a submerged wreck. Suddenly a thin stream of water was seen in the air, and the animal—as it proved to be—moved off at right angles to the ship, going through the water at an eight-knot clip. Capt. McAuley described the animal as about 45 feet in length, with a carinated back, which projected about six feet out of the water. Its head was visible for only a few seconds. The neck was elongated and the head hooded. The captain did not say it was a sea serpent, but acknowledged it was the strangest animal he had ever seen in his 40 years' experience at sea.

RESTORES VALUABLES.

Honest Superintendent Rewarded by John Jacob Astor with a New Crisp Five-Dollar Bill.

"Honest" John Silver, the superintendent of Col. John Livingston's estate at Tivoli, N. Y., is treasuring a \$5 bill given to him by John Jacob Astor in recognition of his integrity. Mr. Astor and a party of friends drove over to the grounds to play golf. After they left Silver found in the clubhouse about half a bushel of shoes, gloves, hats, jewelry and knickknacks which evidently belonged to the departed guests. He hitched up his horse and hurried after them, hoping to overtake them at the Livingston residence before they returned to Rhinebeck. On his way he came across another treasure mine in the shape of a pile of what looked like loose letters in the roadway. He jumped from the wagon to investigate and was astonished to find a roll of bills worth about \$400. There was a bundle of railroad annual passes, too, and a pocketbook and a number of cards bearing the name of John Jacob Astor.

SENSATIONS OF HYDROPHOBIA.

Victim in a New York Hospital Tells His Feelings to His Attending Physician.

Capt. George M. Bockoven, of the tugboat Corvus, died the other morning at the New York hospital of acute hydrophobia. Capt. Bockoven is the man on whom both the Pasteur and Lissou treatments were tried without effect. During his lucid intervals he evinced an extraordinary fortitude under the excruciating pain which accompanied the disease, and at times related his feelings to the physicians. At times he said that lurid lights appeared before his eyes, and that there was a continual scintillation of bright sparks. As he approached death his agony increased, and he said that most of the pain was centered in the brain and the muscles of the face. The physicians said that the pains in the head and the flashing lights which the patient saw were evidences that the general center of the disease was in the brain, and that Bockoven was past all possibility of cure. Just before the man died he dictated the following note to his wife: "My dear Wife: I know that I have not more than a day to live. I realize that I must die. I understand well that I am suffering from hydrophobia. Don't grieve. You and I have been happy many years. Now let's talk matters over. You are well provided for. Our son will take good care of you. But please don't cry."

LABOR CREATES THE VALUE.

A pound of raw cotton is worth five cents; when made into fabrics that pound is worth 25 cents to one dollar. Massachusetts has 8,000,000 spindles, and spins 1,250,000 bales of southern cotton to sell back to the south. The south hews the wood and draws the water; it does the drudgery of producing the raw material for the north to manufacture and get rich upon.

A BANK OF ENGLAND CURIOSITY.

One of the curiosities of the Bank of England is to be seen in the printing room. A man sits at a desk and every three seconds a machine delivers to him two complete five-pound notes. If he sits there six hours he receives \$79,000.00.

OLD BELIEFS REVIVED.

Tennessee Colored People Inaugurate the Ancient Vodoo Dance at Chattanooga.

The colored people of Chattanooga, Tenn., and vicinity have inaugurated the ancient vodoo dance and the entire negro community has gone wild on the subject. They congregated from as far as Alabama and Mississippi to participate in the weird exercise and worship. The city is full of excited colored people, drawn there by the news which has gone forth. The other night several hundred of the negroes danced to the accompaniment of tom-toms and other like instruments.

A RARE DISEASE.

Woman in Bellevue Hospital, New York City, Affected with What Doctors Call Acromegaly.

What may prove to be one of the rarest cases ever received in Bellevue hospital, New York city, was brought there the other night. The patient is Mary Fogarty, who has been living with her sister, Mrs. McDonnell, 238 West Sixtieth street. She is a rare disease, which manifests itself in a swelling of parts of the body to gigantic proportions. After she had been carried into the ward it was discovered that her head was twice the size of an ordinary man's head, her nose three times its normal size, and her hands twice the size of ordinary hands. She is six feet tall and has a heavy beard and mustache, which, with her hair, are gray. The doctors decided that the woman is a victim of the rare disease known as acromegaly.

THE LARGEST STAMP MILL.

The largest stamp mill in the world just started up at the old Treadwell gold mine on Douglas Island, Alaska, has 60 batteries, each of five stamps, and each having a crushing capacity of four tons daily. The Treadwell mines now operate 880 stamps and crush 3,520 tons of ore daily, representing \$14,000.

125,000 DOCTORS.

At the present rate of increase the United States will have in 1900 about 125,000 physicians.

TO TALK OF STARS.

Third National Conference of Astronomers at Williams Bay, Wis.

Constitution to Be Adopted and Permanent Organization Effected. Various Astronomical Subjects to Be Discussed.

The greatest event of the year in astronomical circles will take place at the Yerkes observatory, Williams Bay, Wis., September 8, 7 and 8. It will be a national astronomical conference and will be attended by astronomers and astro-physicists from all over the country, and possibly some from Europe. This will be the third annual affair of the kind to be held in this country. The first was held here in October, 1897, at the time of the dedication of the observatory. Another was held in September at Harvard college observatory, and then it was proposed to form a permanent organization and arrange for a meeting each year at one of the larger observatories. A preliminary meeting was held in Washington last January, and a constitution was drawn up which will be presented at the meeting here and probably adopted. An extended programme will be given, discussing various astronomical subjects.

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Considerable amusement has been caused, as the ladies are invariably from the most aristocratic families of the country. The question arises whether the regulations of August 11, 1810, giving Prussian employers the right of corporal punishment in the correction of servants, applies to the case of these blue-blooded "domestics."

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NEW EXPLOSIVE DISCOVERED.

English Scientist Promises to Revolutionize Methods of Warfare by His Deadly Stuff.

Experiments have been made recently at the Sandy Hook proving grounds with a new explosive which, it is asserted, will mark another era in this line of discovery, despite the wonderful progress made during the last few years. This new explosive, pronounced more destructive than dynamite and at the same time less dangerous to handle than any of the high explosives now in use, was discovered by John Karstair, an English scientist and chemical expert, containing neither nitro-glycerin nor nitro-cellulose, and as far as is known possessing properties entirely different from any other explosive yet discovered. Mr. Karstair returned to England in May, and news of his invention was carefully guarded until Monday, as patent papers were pending. These have now been issued.</