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“A TERRIBLE TALE OF THE SEA”—PARTIAL
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

Our readers will recall the record of barbarity to seamen on the American ship *Gatherer*, on its voyage from Antwerp to Wilmington, Cal., which we printed in the *MAGAZINE* for May, with the intimation that the story of its enormities would bear special reference hereafter. We are now able to present to them the gratifying intelligence that justice, in the way of punishment at the hands of the law, has overtaken one of the agents in this cruelty,—and although our satisfaction in the issue of the case before the courts, is diminished, because the Captain, SPARKS, fails to receive his deserts,—the disappointment is in some degree atoned for by the fact that the long arm of the law has laid hold of the brute, WATTS, the *Gatherer's* first mate, who is now likely to obtain a steady home for many years in a California State Prison.

In respect to WATTS, we are of course, perfectly willing that his own statement be heard, and we therefore print it, in part. It is not difficult to note its variation from parts of the testimony given on the trial of the Captain, and of 2nd mate CURTIS;—nor for that matter, to convict Watts of incompetency, and violence, from his own mouth.

We shall have something to say of the whole dreadful case at another time. Meanwhile we quote from the *American Ship* of this city for the 24th June last:—

would cordially commend this work and the brother and sister engaged in it, to the sympathies, prayers and helpful hands of our churches, and to all whose hearts are moved by the trials and temptations of our toilers on the sea.

Attest,

MYRON EELLS, *Clerk.*"

Obituary.

REV. DR. J. E. ROCKWELL.

The Board of Trustees of this Society, of which Rev. Dr. ROCKWELL was for so many years an honored and influential member, will take early and appropriate notice of his decease. But we are sure that our readers will look to this MAGAZINE, to which he was a frequent contributor,—in its issue next succeeding his death,—for reference to its circumstances, and for some record of his fruitful life. We borrow the article which appeared in the *New York Times*, of July 31st, in full.

"The Rev. JOEL EDSON ROCKWELL, D. D., died on Saturday evening (July 29th) at the residence of his son, Dr. Frank W. Rockwell, of No. 6 Lafayette avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y. He was a native of Salisbury, Vt., where he was born May 4th, 1816. When quite young his parents removed to Hudson, N. Y. In 1837 he was graduated from Amherst College, and in 1841 from the New York Theological Seminary. In the same year he was ordained and installed pastor of the Presbyterian church at Valatie, N. Y., in connection with the New School Presbytery of Columbia. In 1847 he was installed pastor of the Hanover street church in Wilmington, Del., remaining there until Feb. 13th, 1851, when he was installed pastor of the Central (Old School) Presbyterian church of Brooklyn, situated on Willoughby street. Through his efforts, in great part, the new edifice of the society in Schermerhorn street was erected, at a cost of \$34,000, and was dedicated Dec. 10th, 1854. The degree of D. D. was conferred on the deceased by Jefferson College in 1859, and in that year, owing to ill-health, after eighteen years of constant labor, he went to Europe, and there enjoyed a five months' vacation. During the war he served at the front as a member of the Christian Commission. In September, 1878, he became pastor of

the Edgewater Presbyterian Church at Staten Island, and occupied that position at the time of his death, though his last sermon was preached before his congregation on the first Sunday of March last. Under his ministration the church debt was paid off, and its membership largely increased. During his busy life Dr. Rockwell was a frequent contributor to both the secular and religious press, and he was for eight years editor of the *Sunday-School Visitor*. Among the books which he published were 'Sketches of the Presbyterian Church,' 'Young Christian Warned,' 'The Sheet Anchor,' 'The Visitor's Questions,' 'Scenes and Impressions Abroad,' 'Seed Thoughts,' and 'The Diamond in the Cage.' He also published a number of occasional sermons and addresses. Dr. Rockwell was a man of splendid physique, and a thoughtful and profound rather than brilliant speaker. He was not only popular among his people, but among his clerical brethren, counting some of the most distinguished clergy of this city and Brooklyn among his intimate personal friends. Until within the past two years he was very fond of hunting, fishing, and boating, and during his visits to the mountains his proficiency in these sports was the admiration of the guides who accompanied the Doctor and his sons.

"The cause of Dr. Rockwell's death was cancer of the jaw, and his experiences have been very similar to those which have hastened the death of Senator Ben Hill, of Georgia. Something over a year ago he had some trouble with his jaw and went to a dentist for treatment, supposing the trouble to be occasioned by a set of false teeth that he was wearing. Finding no relief from the treatment, he applied to his son, Dr. Frank W. Rockwell, of Brooklyn, who decided that the sore was of a cancerous character. Accordingly, on April 7th, 1881, his upper jaw was removed by Dr. Henry B. Sands, of this city. An incident tending to show the character of the man may be cited in this connection. Immediately on recovering consciousness, after the painful operation, he indicated a desire for writing materials. His son handed him a slate and pencil, and he wrote in a tremulous hand the question:—"Shall I ever preach again?" On being informed that he would undoubtedly be able to do so, he seemed satisfied and very much relieved. Within three months after the operation he was able to articulate, a false jaw having been prepared to replace the natural one that was removed. In the September succeed-

ing the operation he was enabled to resume his clerical duties, and continued to exercise them up to last March, when he preached his last sermon, and prepared to enter upon a vacation that his church had given him, to continue until September next. About that time the old trouble reappeared in the scar of the old wound, and rapidly developed into a tumor of the jaw. This was accompanied by frequent hemorrhages during the last two months of his life. He removed to the residence of his son, that he might be under his constant care, and for some time life was sustained by the use of liquid foods only. The extreme warm weather operated greatly against the patient, who during the past week failed very rapidly and wasted away to but a mere shadow of his former self. During his illness he bore up with wonderful fortitude and patience and resignation, although suffering more deeply in body than it often falls to the lot of man to suffer. The nature of the disease will not permit of his remains being exposed to the view of his friends, and this, coupled with the fact that most of his colleagues are out of the city, has decided his family not to have public funeral services. After private services at the house the remains will be taken to Hudson and interred in the family lot, where his parents and relatives are buried. Dr. Rockwell leaves a widow, two sons—Dr. Frank W. Rockwell, of Brooklyn, and Frederick Rockwell, of Texas—and one daughter, Mrs. H. K. White, of this city.”

HENRY F. STANLEY.

Of this diligent and successful laborer for the good of seamen, who died in this city, July 20th, a daily paper fittingly said:—

“A vigorous healthy man, with closely cut grey whiskers and dark hair, has been a familiar figure about the piers of the City for many years. When a vessel came up, whether a passenger steamer or a full-rigged merchantman, he was the first to go on board. He was often seen in earnest conversation surrounded by a group of sailors, and not unfrequently had a bundle of tracts in his hand. This man was HENRY F. STANLEY, sailor missionary.

“Born in London, Eng., in 1820, he came to America in 1847, and became a clerk in a New York mercantile house. Ten years after he was married to Miss MARY MARTIN, and five years after his marriage he entered upon missionary

work, and was City Missionary for several years. He became interested in seamen, and was an active member of the Mariner's Church, at Catharine and Madison streets. He led many sailors to the membership of this church, and subsequently to that of the Church of Sea and Land. During the last seven years the New York City Missionary Society had employed him for special work among mariners, in which his simple earnestness gave him great success.”

The Closing of the Seamen's Retreat.

President Clarkson Crolius, William H. Macy, Health Officer Smith, Michael Conklin, Wisner H. Townsend and W. N. Hawkins, Trustees of the Seamen's Fund and Retreat, met at No. 24 Old Slip, on Thursday, August 10th. The hospital at Stapleton, S. I., has been closed since July 31st, and nothing now remains to be done except an order from the State Controller, appointing a day when it shall be sold, as provided by an act of the last Legislature. The Controller is in Europe, and is not expected to return for a month yet. The institution was incorporated April 22nd, 1831, and has been supported by the monthly tax upon sailors. In the last thirty-one years, the Retreat has extended medical aid to upward of 68,000 sailors. The report of the Treasurer shows that there is a balance of \$719 99 on hand. The property of the institution consists of thirteen acres of land with 600 feet of water front. The principal building is of granite, and from its windows there is a commanding view of the bay. It is valued at about \$150,000, and the Marine Society contemplates purchasing it for the benefit of aged mariners. President Crolius has offered to give \$5,000 if others will join with him, and purchase it as a home for aged men.

When the Retreat was organized, fifty years ago, the fund was so great that the Legislature took money from it to give to other institutions. In view of this fact, when the bill was pending to close it, a memorial was sent to the Legislature claiming that the State was indebted to the Retreat to the extent of \$288,237 69. Notwithstanding that the act of incorporation declared that the funds collected should be held inviolate, and not diverted to other purposes, a subsequent resolution of March 17th, 1851, directed that \$16,106 should be paid to the Mariner's