

THE FRANK FISHERY.
Travels in the Interior of Mexico By Lieut.
R. W. Hardy, R. N.

As an example we will begin with a submarine tale, founded on descents to drag the pearls from the deep.

The oyster secures itself so firmly to the rocks by its beard, that it requires no little force to tear it away; and as its external surface is full of sharp points, the hands are soon severely cut by them.—The effect of the buoyancy of the water is also curious. At the depth of seven or eight fathoms, it requires exertion to keep down; and if you then attempt to lay hold on a rock with the hands, you find yourself as it were, suspended, so that if you let go your hold you will immediately tumble upwards! I remember, the first oyster I ever met with was at the depth of four fathoms only; my head was almost touching it; and forgetting, in my pleasure, to strike out with my legs, as I stretched forward my hand to catch hold of the prize, to my astonishment, the oyster slipped from my grasp, and I found myself nearly at the surface of the water the next instant; so that I had all my labour for nothing.

So firmly does the oyster fix himself to the rocks, that in order to tear him away, it is necessary to get a purchase upon him by placing the feet at the bottom. The excessive difficulty of doing this, is indeed, it requires the muscular strength of the whole body to overcome the resistance of the water's buoyancy. I have no doubt that, by means of its long beard, the oyster has the power of locomotion, and that it changes its situation according to its pleasure or convenience. One principle object of inquiry, however, was, obtained; namely, the true situation of the shell under water. I found that I had been in a complete error in supposing them formed in beds; that is, in heaps; as the word would seem to indicate. With this impression I left England, and continued in it till I have now convinced myself by actual investigation, of the error into which I had been led by every body with whom I had conversed on the subject. A moment's reflection would have pointed out the impossibility of the oysters being piled in heaps together in this gulf. This fish always seeks for tranquillity, which it could never find, in situations exposed to currents and motions occasioned by the undulations of the water. I always found them in sheltered bays the bottoms of which were covered with large rocks.

This brings me to consider the reason why a diving bell, at least in the Gulf of California, can never be profitably employed. After reaching the bottom, if the greatest surface be considered bottom, there are frequently found chasms in the rock below, which extend from one to two, or even three fathoms lower. It is down these apertures that the diver most generally expects to meet with oysters, which even here conceal themselves in the cavities of the rock; and as the power of vision fails in so dense a medium, particularly if the depth be considerable, and the surface rough, the diver is obliged to insert not his hand only, but even his head into every hole and corner, like a person groping about in the dark; holding on to the walls, by the points of the rock, to prevent his rising to the top, in consequence of the water's buoyancy, at the depth for example of seven or eight fathoms, beyond which I cannot speak from experience. The perception of objects under water at this depth is very indistinct, and their magnitude is augmented, so that a very small shell appears of large dimensions, and the divers frequently mortified by the discovery of the mistake when he rises. It is strange that the deception should not be detected by the touch, but it would appear, that in the same way as the eyes measure the capacity of the stomach, so also do they convey to the hands a sort of conviction that the apparent is the true size; so that these organs take pleasure in mutually deluding each other! The fissures in the rocks in the submarine situations, do not frequently exceed ten inches or a foot; so that in descending, the back, chest, and knees, are sometimes dreadfully lacerated. If, then, not even a shark could follow a diver in these situations, how is it possible that a diving bell, which is considerably broader, should be able to do so? The idea that it could, is only to be entertained by a person as grossly ignorant of the circumstance as I was before I convinced myself of the truth.

In fact it might be said that the man in a diving bell would remain suspended half way between hopes and realization, and would feel as I sometimes did when I was crawling about the bottom, like a fish out of water;—an odd expression, by the by, for a fellow eight fathoms deep! I am convinced that there is no stimulant so great as hope. Under its influence, the diver is insensible to danger, although he see himself surrounded by sharks of prodigious magnitude. Armed with his short stick, he considers the invasion of so formidable an enemy's domains as unworthy of a moment's hesitation. Anxious to grasp the prize, he pays little regard to the price of its attainment, which he no sooner possesses than he is ready to fight the stoutest of the finny race. I have myself descended when the horizon was filled with the projecting fins of sharks rising above the surface of the water; and although armed only in the way I have described, I thought myself perfectly secure from molestation notwithstanding they were swimming round me in all directions, at not a greater distance than a few fathoms, I continued my pursuit with the greatest sang froid. I should no more be capable, in my cool moments of reflection, of braving this inconceivably horrible danger, where I might have been mangled and torn to pieces by one of these implacable monsters, than of entering the tiger's den before his breakfast, at Buxter Change. But when the passions are concentrated into one point, though that point be on the verge of eternity, hope still attends us. On these occasions how sensibly have I felt, and how often repeated the beautiful lines of the enraptured poet!—

—Methinks it were an easy leap
To pluck bright honour from the pale-faced moon.

Dun Pablo Ochoa, who was for many years a superintendent of the fishery, and himself a most expert diver, gave me the following account of one of his watery adventures. The place de la Piedra negra, which is near Loreta, was supposed to have quantities of large oysters round it; a supposition which was at once confirmed by the great difficulty of finding this sunken rock. Dun Pablo, however, succeeded in sounding it, and in search of the largest and best shells, dived down in eleven fathoms water. The rock is not above one hundred and fifty or two hundred yards in circumference, and our adventurer swam round and examined it in all directions, but without meeting any indication of peeling his stay. Accordingly, being satisfied that there were no oysters, he thought of ascending to the surface of the water; but first he cast a look upwards; as all divers are obliged to do, who hope to avoid the jaws of a hungry monster. If the coast is clear, they may rise without apprehension. Dun Pablo, however, when he cast a hasty glance upwards, found that a tinterero had taken a station about three or four yards inmediately above him, and most probably had been watching during the whole time that he had been down. A double pointed stick is a useless weapon against a tinterero, as its mouth is of such enormous dimensions that both man and stick would be swallowed together.

He therefore felt himself rather nervous as his retreat was now completely intercepted. But, under water, time is too great an object to be spent in reflection; and therefore he swam round to another part of the rock, hoping by this means to avoid the vigilance of his possessor. What was his dismay when he again looked up, to find the pernicious tinterero still hovering over him, as a hawk would follow a bird. He described him as having large, round and inflated eyes, apparently just ready to start from their sockets with eagerness; and a mouth, (at the recollection of which he still shudders) that was continually opening and shutting, as if the monster was already in imagination devouring his victim, or, at least, that the contemplation of this prey supported a forest of the giant. Two alternatives presented themselves to the mind of Dun Pablo; one to suffer himself to be drowned—the other to be eaten.

He had already been under water so considerable a time, that he found it impossible any longer to retain his breath, and was on the point of giving himself up for lost, with as much philosophy as he possessed. But what is dearer than life?—The invention of man is seldom at a loss to find expedients for its preservation in cases of great extremity. On a sudden he recollected, that on one side of the rock he had observed a sandy spot, and to this he swam with all imaginable speed; his attentive friend still watching his movements and keeping a measured pace with him. As soon as he reached the spot, he commenced stirring it with his pointed stick, and in such a way that fine particles rose and rendered the water perfectly turbid, so that he could not see the monster, nor the tinterero him. Availing himself of the cloud, by which himself and the tinterero were enveloped, he swam very far out in a traversal direction, and reached the surface in safety although completely exhausted. Fortunately he rose close to one of the boats, and those who were within, seeing him in such a state and knowing that an enemy must have been persecuting him and that by some artifice he had saved his life, jumped overboard, as is their common practice in such cases, to frighten the creature away by splashing in the water, and Dun Pablo was taken into the boat more dead than alive.

THE LATE MAJOR LAING.
(From Rene Caillie's Journey of Timbuctoo)

I employed the remainder of the time I stayed in Timbuctoo in collecting information respecting the unfortunate death of Major Laing, which I had heard mentioned at Jenne, and which was confirmed by the inhabitants of Timbuctoo, whom I questioned respecting the melancholy event. I learned, that when within a few days' journey of the city, the caravan to which the Major belonged was stopped on the road by Tripoli, by the Tossaris, or, as others alleged, by the Berberiche, a wandering tribe, near the Dioliba. Laing, being discovered to be a Christian, was cruelly attacked, and his assailants continued beating him with a club until they thought him dead. I concluded that the other Christian, who was said to have been actually murdered, was a servant of the Major's. The Moors belonging to the caravan raised Laing up, and succeeded in restoring him to animation.—When he became sensible, they placed him upon a camel, but he was so weak that they were obliged to tie him on. The robbers left him almost destitute, having robbed him of the greater part of his merchandise. On his arrival at Timbuctoo, Major Laing healed his wounds by the aid of an ointment which he brought with him from England. His recovery was slow; but he was made very comfortable, owing to the letters of recommendation which he had brought from Tripoli, and especially to the attention of his landlord, a Tripolitan, to whom he had been directed.—The house of this Moor was near that in which I lodged at Timbuctoo. I had frequent opportunities of seeing him; he appeared to be a man full of kindly feelings. Many a time he has given me dates, from mere charity, and the day before I left, he made me a present

LATEST FROM ENGLAND.

The American Minister transacted business with the Earl of Aberdeen on the 10th Feb. On the same day despatches were received from Mr. Vaughan, his majesty's Envoy to the United States of America, dated Washington 12th Jan. 1880.

We noticed, several weeks ago, (says the London Courier,) that the destination of the ships of war equipping at Toulon would probably be Algiers; and the last Paris papers assert, that unless the Dey of Algiers consent to lower his tone, the expedition against that port will be on a scale of considerable magnitude. A land force is, it seems, an indispensable accompaniment; the fortifications of Algiers, on the sea side, having been so greatly weakened since Lord Exmouth's attack, as to make it quite unadvisable for an invading force to build its expectations of success on a fleet; particularly as from the nature of the currents and badness of the coast, it is dangerous or ships of war to cruise long in that quarter with northerly winds.

A land force being thus a sine qua non, the next question with the Paris politicians is on what point of the Algerine coast is it to be landed? Some recommend Oran, a good harbour, about 130 miles to the west of Algiers; others propose Bona, which is less remote. Be this as it may, in two months, it is said, a large armament will be equipped, and will sail from Toulon, unless the Dey make a timely and satisfactory submission.

The probability of the gradual diminution of our trade to the United States gives a new motive for turning attention to our colonial possessions. It is one advantage of a large empire, extending to different climates, that it contains within itself the facilities for carrying on a large commerce, unaffected by the changes which the perverse regulations of other states may operate.

It is singular enough by the way, that if an empire extended to 3 quarters of the world, every one would acknowledge the benefit of a freedom of intercourse among all its provinces; while no sooner is a political division established, than people fancy that the freedom of commerce, which would make the world in this respect like one empire, must be mischievous, and that the true policy of all nations collectively is, that each should try to catch an advantage by hampering its intercourse with the other.—Globe.

The latest news from Lisbon states, that Don Miguel, unable to obtain money from other quarters, has ordered a tax to be made on the different monastic orders; and that these make them expiate, in part, their mischievous machinations against the free institutions of their country. The decree issued for this purpose has not been published in the Gazette; but there seems to be no reason to doubt its authenticity. The following is the amount of the assessment on each order:—

The Hieronimites	68,000 milreas
The Bernardines	170,000
The Benedictines	150,000
The Monks of St. Vincent	120,000
The Convents of L. Grace	60,000
The Dominicans	39,000
The Carmelites	38,000

Making in all 752,000
or, at the present rate of exchange, about £130,000.

It is now fixed that Prince Leopold of Saxe Coburg, is to be the future Sovereign of the new kingdom of Greece, the limits of which will be fully as extensive as could well be expected. It is also reported, that all the Ionian islands will be added to the kingdom of Greece, Corcyra excepted, which, as it commands the Adriatic, the British will maintain possession of, in perpetuity.

The proprietors and Editor of the Morning Journal were brought up for judgment in the court of King's Bench, for libelling the Duke of Wellington, when Mr. Alexander, the editor, was sentenced to an imprisonment of 12 months, viz. four months for each offence; the first, the libel on the Duke of Wellington, secondly, the libel on the Lord Chancellor; and thirdly, the libel on the House of Commons, and to pay a fine of 500 pounds. The Rev. Mr. Jackson was sentenced to pay a fine of 100 pounds; and Mr. Mardon was sentenced to go at large upon his own recognizances.

REPORT
OF THE MANAGERS OF THE FEMALE ORPHAN ASYLUM OF ANNAPOLIS.

The period for which we were elected to preside over the business of the Society, having expired, your Managers, in accordance with custom, proceed to lay before you a brief detail of their proceedings during the past year, before they resign into your hands their delegated powers—and in doing so, they assure you that they have, according to the best exercise of their judgment, pursued the course they deemed calculated, to promote the future and permanent prosperity of the Institution.

Immediately after the last annual meeting of the Society, we received into the Asylum two Orphans, under circumstances which claimed for them the refuge it afforded, which increased the number under our care to six—a step we considered ourselves justified in taking, by the amount of funds in our hands, and by the expectation that we should be enabled to add to it, an expectation which experience has proved was not too sanguine. The plan we had observed, and indeed the only one that in the infancy of our society could be adopted, was to board the children with the Matron; but as the house she occupied was in a situation too contracted to allow any room for out-door exercise for the children, and moreover, an increase of rent being demanded for it, we thought it eligible to purchase a building for an Asylum, and rent it to the Matron, which has accordingly been effected. The property has been insured, and an act of Incorporation obtained for the society, by which the property is secured from taxation, and the Managers for the time being, legally qualified to hold it, and to transact any business connected with it.

A Fair was held in behalf of the institution on the 21st of January last, the result of which was extremely flattering, the amount gained by it, the cost of the building purchased, and a statement of our contingent expenses, will be found by a reference to the Treasurer's Report hereto annexed. The Asylum has been regularly visited by committees appointed for that purpose; the improvement of the children carefully tested, and the management of them minutely enquired into; at our monthly meetings the children have been brought before, and particularly examined by, the members of the board.—We feel great pleasure in being able to state, that so far our endeavours have produced a satisfactory result, and our expectations have been fully answered. We have found the Matron kind and attentive to the children, and the children uniformly obedient to her, and affectionate towards each other, and we think improved in their education as much as could reasonably be anticipated, after taking into consideration their previous destitution of all useful knowledge. We have, indeed, often been truly gratified when witnessing this little group rescued from the abodes of penury, where it was next to impossible that they should escape the contagion of vice, receiving instruction in the ways of piety, happy in themselves, and grateful to those who, under Heaven, have been the instruments of bringing them into a state of comparative felicity.—We lament, indeed, that the circle which our means can grasp must necessarily be a small one, but we are satisfied that this circumstance should not cramp our energies.

"A man is accepted according to that he hath, and not according to that he hath not." The almighty himself does not despise the day of small things, and if we are faithful to our trust, we may yet see our infant Institution conferring benefits, the effects of which will exist through all eternity on those it receives into its arms. Before we surrender our trust, we would earnestly beseech all those who have befriended this charity to continue their aid. As members of this society we would humbly venture to remind you, that it is only by patient continuance in well doing that we can expect to benefit others, or ensure our own reward. If for want of support this interesting association should fail, how melancholy would the consequences be—thrown back into the wretchedness from which they had escaped, the objects of our care would experience double misery, from having for a time enjoyed the blessed reverse, and we should have to feel the painful conviction of having done evil where we had intended good. Providence has kindly smiled upon our feeble efforts; let them be continued with unabated zeal and assiduous perseverance, and our hearts, we are persuaded, shall be gladdened with increasing success. The time is at hand for our yearly collection. We humbly trust that those whose names have heretofore added strength to our cause, will be found withdrawing the hand of liberality. May we not hope that some who have hitherto stood aloof will add to their number?

Friends of humanity! compassionate females whose hearts warm with sympathy for the sufferings of others, and who find your purest pleasure in relieving them, will you not all unite with us? Deny us not without previously considering the merits of our cause, personal investigation will, we are persuaded, produce conviction of the utility of the object, and if we can but excite that, we confidently hope that our efforts will be strengthened by the addition of numbers, and our hearts encouraged in this work of mercy.

(Signed)
Elizabeth Maynard 1st. Directress
Rebecca Nicholson 2d. Directress
Prudence G. Ridout Treasurer
Amelia Pinkney Secretary

MANAGERS
Elizabeth Bowie, Elizabeth Blanchard,
Ann Stockett, Elizabeth Mills,
Ann Franklin, Mary Jones,
Mary Green, Susan Ann Brewer.

"INTEMPERANCE"

We proceed to make some further extracts from Mr. Anderson's address to the Washington County Temperance Association.

Before we proceed further, it may be well to state what we mean by intemperance, for most persons have a very imperfect idea of its nature. When a man is known to drink freely, and is often seen with a flushed countenance, a stammering tongue, and tottering gait, none hesitate to call him intemperate. But if he drinks moderately, merely takes a little, just enough to make him feel comfortable, and to render him somewhat sprightly, all agreeable in conversation, he commonly regards himself, and is called by his friends, a very temperate man; and when he has once secured this character, he not infrequently, without suspecting himself, or being warned by his friends, gradually extends his indulgence, until he is seen treading on the heels of the notoriously intemperate. When, if he is asked, does such a one begin to be intemperate? Answer, he is so at the very first, as I have described him. If spirituous liquors were a part of our proper aliment, a moderate degree of indulgence in the use of them might be allowed, without a breach of temperance. But it is well ascertained that they contain no nutriment whatever, and do not serve at all to repair the continual waste of our bodies. This is expressly asserted by the opinion of our eminent physicians; and their opinion is supported by the observation of experience of practical men, who state, that what remains of grain after the spirits are extracted by distillation, goes as well in feeding and fattening animals, as the same quantity of grain, used without distilling. If it be true that there is no nutriment in ardent spirits, then it is obvious that their habitual or common use, cannot contribute to the permanent strength, and vigour of the system. By exciting the nerves, and stimulating some of the important organs, they impart a momentary energy—but this effect soon wears off, and is fully counterbalanced by the debility which succeeds. It is not dissipated occasionally, and under peculiar circumstances, they may be advantageously used as a medicine—and are a valuable remedy in the hands of physicians. Whilst restricted to their legitimate use as a medicine, ardent spirits may be serviceable; but whenever this limit is overstepped, and they begin to be used as an indulgence, the voice of experience declares them to be unsafe and prejudicial, not only unnecessary, but decidedly improper and dangerous. This furnishes us with the only safe rule of temperance, and here we should draw the strong line of demarcation, between the proper, and improper—the temperate and intemperate use of spirituous liquors.

It is impossible to ascertain all the pernicious effects of spirituous liquors, on the human system—but no doubt can be entertained that they are the immediate or remote cause of many of the most destructive diseases. Our bodies are most wonderfully organized, and liable to infinite derangements, it is easy to conceive, that any unnatural stimulant, however trifling, applied to many of the delicate organs, may excite them to morbid action, and produce a serious derangement of their functions. Sometimes a very small quantity will have this effect. The derangement may be slight at first, and yet proceed with speed and rapid steps, to a fatal termination.

1880

For Printing, books and stationery for the Orphans, Paid Mrs. White one year's salary, including \$40 for house rent. 525 1/2
Advanced to purchase materials for the Fair. 297 50
For the Fair, including for Home and Lot. 18 15
For the Fair, including for Home and Lot. 11 50
For the Fair, including for Home and Lot. 4 00
For the Fair, including for Home and Lot. 2 02
For the Fair, including for Home and Lot. 1 20
For the Fair, including for Home and Lot. 60 23 84
For the Fair, including for Home and Lot. 79 28
For the Fair, including for Home and Lot. 9 08
Total 1089 81 1/2

Examined and found correct.
M. Green,
A. Franklin.

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