

**Foundering of the Pericles.**

Continued from page 2.

Fish, French, Spanish, German and Italian:—

"This paper was put overboard for the purpose of tracing ocean currents; the finder to please forward, stating when and where it was found; and reap a just reward."

The captain's name and address at the offices of his company were appended. The "just reward" referred to used to consist of a copy of Froude's "Oceana," though in latter years this has given place to more modern works. The notices are all printed on board ship, and up to the present time over a thousand messages have been returned to him, about a dozen usually awaiting his return to headquarters at the end of each circular voyage.

Bottles have landed on the shores of Portuguese and French Guinea, on the coast of Africa, and in fact in almost every quarter of the globe. Many have been picked up by natives, who imagined they had secured a prize in the carefully sealed beer-bottle, and their chagrin on drawing the cork can be easily imagined. A negro in Sierra Leone, who picked up a bottle and did not receive the promised reward, wrote to say, "I am sorry to inform you that the copy of Froude's 'Oceana' was not transmitted to me."

A bottle thrown overboard one day near the Cape of Good Hope, was, after a long interval, found on the west coast of Scotland, having it is supposed, gone round by the West Indian Islands, until it was caught by the Gulf Stream and carried to its landing place. Shortly after his appointment to the Pericles, Captain Simpson threw over a bottle when about 140 miles from Cape Town. It was washed ashore five months later at Parahyba, in the Brazil, having travelled four thousand miles. Some have gone as far as ten thousand miles before being found.

Ocean meteorology is the one subject, outside his duties as captain of a liner, in which Captain Simpson takes the keenest interest. He is, in fact, the oldest observer for the British Meteorological Council, who supply him with instruments and log books for recording every conceivable detail connected with the weather, atmosphere, temperature, swell of the ocean and other matters; observations being taken as often as every two hours, day and night, throughout each voyage. The records are entered by the captain himself in these elaborate log books and handed over by him to the Meteorological Council on his return to London from every trip.

His immunity from accidents may be traced to the fact that he is one of the most experienced and careful mariners afloat. In proof of this an Australian passenger tells how he was recently returning from England to Sydney. They had been steaming for some time in very hazy weather, which had made it impossible to "take a sight," so as to verify their position. The ship had therefore to be navigated by dead reckoning. The passenger was chatting with Captain Simpson in his cabin, and asked him where he thought the vessel was at the moment. The captain stated the position he estimated they were in at the time and mentioned it was over a particular patch of coral. At that moment the quartermaster entered the captain's cabin, a sounding having been taken with the deep-sea lead. He handed the captain a small object, brought to the surface adhering to the tallow with which the lead is filled. It was a little piece of coral. The captain handed it to the passenger, who regarded him with the astonished look which rewards a conjuror at the successful conclusion of one of his best tricks.

**The British Crisis.**

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largest number of people in the country. Applying the test, he contended that the Free Trade system had hopelessly broken down.

He poured out scorn on the electioneering tactics of Free Traders, with their statement about the consumption of "black bread" and "carrion and offal" by the workers in protected Germany, and wound up an excellent speech by asking the opponents of Tariff Reform whether it was not time they "devoted a little attention to ascertaining the truth that they ceased to meet the case for Tariff Reform by these misrepresentations, and devoted themselves to serious argument on what is a serious proposition?" Mr. Austen Chamberlain was heartily cheered when he resumed his seat.

**THE CASE AGAINST.**

Mr. Sydney Buxton, the new President of the Board of Trade, made a quiet, business-like speech in reply, his main contention being under the present fiscal system trade was improving and unemployment diminishing.

The position of the Nationalists was stated by Mr. Kettle in a speech containing many humorous touches. He refused to entertain the present Tariff Reform policy as applied to Ireland, contending that it did not offer any real protection to Irish agriculture, and that if the Irish textile industry was to benefit Ireland must have a protective tariff as against British manufactured goods.

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald speaking for Labour, offered uncompromising opposition to Tariff Reform, and made a particularly able and vigorous speech in defence of Free Trade.

**MR. BALFOUR'S PLEDGE.**

The debate was continued yesterday, the chief speakers being Mr. Balfour and Mr. Lloyd George. The Leader of the Opposition denounced as "bad political economy," the statement made by Free Traders that the consumer always paid at least the duty on an imported article and probably more. Dealing with working class taxation under Tariff Reform, he contended that this was an administrative matter on which Tariff Reformers could pledge themselves beforehand. "What we say," he remarked, "is that, that the contribution the working class makes to taxation is not to be increased by the mere fact that you substitute a Tariff Reform system for a Free Trade system." Turning to the various devices proposed or supported by the Government for dealing with unemployment he dismissed them all as insufficient in themselves. "All these schemes can only do what you expect from them if you associate with them a scheme of Tariff Reform."

Mr. Balfour admitted that there was a controversy as to the effect of the tariff system on the condition of the working classes, but he laid down the proposition that in no country which had adopted tariffs did the working classes desire to give them up.

**A FREE TRADE "VICTORY."**

Mr. Lloyd George devoted the greater part of his speech to defending his statements about the consumption of black bread, offal, horse, dog and donkey flesh in Germany, winding up with expressing fervent hope that this country would "not commit the folly of returning to Protection."

Finally, after Mr. Bonar Law had put the case for Tariff Reform, the first division of the session was taken. When the result was known it was hailed with a storm of Unionist cheering. Twelve months ago Mr. Austen Chamberlain's Tariff Reform amendment to the Address was rejected by the overwhelming majority of 169. The preponderance record last night against identically the same amendment, moved by the same member, was 31, the figures being 285 to 254. The Irish members again abstained from voting.

**Fashionland.**

(By Our Lady Correspondent.)

LONDON, February 25

**To Gratify Vanity.**

Little or no notice has been taken by women who disregard everything in their desire to be in the forefront of fashion of the publication of statistics dealing with the wanton slaughter of birds to provide millinery trimming, and it is presumed that the information in an article in American and English papers dealing with yet another cruelty will have as little effect.

For many years past a million birds have been slaughtered in the Hawaiian Islands bird reservation by the Japanese, and the Midway Island, once teeming with a bird population, has now very few songsters left.

The poaching is handled directly, according to the "Pall Mall Gazette," by Japan, and the spoils are sold by Osaka merchants in London, Paris and New York.

Wanton cruelty is practised on almost tame birds, for, after cutting off their wings, the poachers leave the helpless little creatures to die a slow death.

**The Chanteleur Veil.**

From hideousness unto worse hideousness we seem to go in some directions, and a rather natural outcome of the Chanteleur hat is a veil to match—a fabric which has woven into its mesh dozens of roosters and rising suns. The effect upon the wearer's face is that she seems to an onlooker to be tattooed, and—if one be allowed the irreverence of seeming to query Fashion's dictate—what is the value of blue eyes and a rosebud mouth that must be hidden by the gawky black legs of a farmyard deity?

**Tailored Costumes.**

Coats, at last, after many false prophecies, are to be much shorter, and the new models are very attractive. Checks and stripes, we are told, are to be favourite materials, and some entire costumes are made of stuff cut on the cross—others have panels cut on the cross as trimming on both coats and skirts.

**To Preserve Old Lace.**

It is a well-known fact that the kindest way to treat valuable lace is to wear it fairly often. When putting it away, so that it may not crack or spoil, make a roll of heavy paper longer than the width of the lace, cover with white material, roll the lace round, and again cover with tissue paper.

**Exit Age.**

The following appears under a couple of black headlines in one of the daily papers, and I give it for what it is worth as showing the quick-change attitude that Fashion demands of those who would serve her. There is more than a little truth in the assertion that "The 'little girl' woman is to be one of the features of the present season."

"She is the woman of forty who when attired in the present fashion really looks that twenty-five to which she modestly confesses, or the woman of thirty with the appearance of twenty-two. Mother and daughter, in fact, seem just girls together."

"The fashion of the little dress with its short skirts, displaying boots with coloured tops and even a hint of stocking, the little bunch of flowers under the chin, the bracelet with its tiny gollywogs and Teddy bears, and the bare throat with the turned-down collar or toby frill, all play a part in the production of the 'little girl' woman."

"The simple little frock that a few years ago would have been considered the wear for the girl of eighteen is now quite right for the woman of mature years."

**New Fashion Covers.**

A novel and pretty adjustment to drawingroom furniture is a stencilled chamois skin cushion cover, or one with a design burnt into it, or, again, with squares of embroidered linen fastened on.

**Veils.**

Long veils which fall from the hat to below the waistline have returned to favour, and are very graceful additions to picture hats. It is noticeable that, so far, even on coloured hats nearly all the veils are black.

**No Collars.**

In my description of Lady Duff Gordon's dress exhibition this week at Hanover Square I forgot to mention one very important characteristic of every dress, whether coat and skirt or silk—nowhere were collars to be seen, save Peter Pan's of lace, embroidered lawn, or chiffon.

**Favourite Colours.**

Violet in all its many variations is to be prime favourite of colours this season, and on choosing a violet frock the editress of a weekly magazine gives a sensible piece of advice, which I quote. "Never be persuaded to wear only one shade of violet at a time. Always, if at all possible, work in two or more. It is curiously true that this very softest of all colours is oddly hard if worn in only one shade—it must graduate its lights to be becoming. That is why it is more flattering in velvets and silks or faced cloths, because then it takes on surface shadings of its own."

**Notes for Women.**

(From Our Lady Correspondent.)

LONDON, February 25.

**Madame Curie's Genius.**

Some interesting notes about Madame Curie, who, since her husband's death, has been a professor of chemistry at the Sorbonne, appear in this week's "M.A.P."

It appears that Madame Curie has been a scientist from the cradle. She was born at a college in Varsova, where her father, who was a noted experimentalist, was Professor of Physics. Even when she was only a baby Madame Curie, then called affectionately the Professorina, showed the keenest interest in all that her father loved, and it is evident that she possessed natural scientific genius.

**From "London Opinion."**

"Wanted—Travellers to push new motorcar," is obviously an advertisement which might have been better expressed,

**Definite Instructions Indeed.**

A letter quoted in the "Daily Graphic" from an Indian man milliner who describes his firm as "Drapers, Haberdashers, and General Merchant," gives an amusing insight into his methods.

"In placing this indent (for hats) with you," he says, "we have to draw your particular attention to the following instructions, which should be strictly adhered to in the execution of the present order. The hats now required are to be of such a description that not a single one of them should fail to attract the attention of the constituents, and that the one should excel the other by their fascinating appearance resulted from the beautiful style in which they are trimmed, and the best materials used for such trimmings to suit their respective colours. Customers must be quite admired on looking at the hats, and should be left in confusion as to which hat they should have, and they should say that all the hats are very pretty."

**Children as Necessities.**

It is a severe test, says James Douglas, to be close to a child's mind, and that is why many of us dread children. Children are our consciences, and as a rule they are our guilty consciences. . . . we can kill our consciences, but we cannot kill our children. Their still small voices are never hushed in our hearts. That is why children are necessary.

**Woman Wants—**

Man wants but little here below, but woman wants everything that other women have."—"Puck," N.Y.

**Lady Aeroplane Builder.**

Miss Lilian Bland, an Irish woman, has just designed and built a biplane glider, to which engine and propellers will be fitted later. With the machine controlled from the ground by ropes satisfactory glides have already been made.

**Simon the Jester's Tie.**

Few budding authors realise, says the "Bodleian," until they have passed through the disillusioning process known as publication, the many stages through which a manuscript often has to pass.

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