TRUTH ABOUT 'POOR JACK

Why the Mates of a Merchantman Are Not Polite.

FICTION AND THE FACTS

Majority of Complaints and Tales of Abuse From Supieriors Untrue-Where Sailors Are Badly Treated it is Mostly Their Own Fault, -Few Use Their Own Name.

There is perhaps no human being of whom so much is written and so little truth told as the sailor. Of late years the novelists have made a martyr of "Poor Jack." They have recounted tales of horrible brutality in the merchant marine service. To read this fiction is to learn that the decks of the ship ran with blood; that the mates vied with one another in murder; that the lamblike tais were treated to capstan bars, marlinspikes, belaying pins and rope ends before and after meals.

All this makes good reading, yet the great majority of such tales are either highly colored, or absolutely untrue. In nine cases out of ten, when sailors are badly treated it is their own fault. There are some good sailors, but they are mighty scarce. The toughest men that wear shoes so to sea. They ship fresh from homes they have made desolate and from all manner of questionable pasts. Few of them dare ship under their own names. As a usual thing they go aboard fighting drunk, and the mates have no alternative but to lick them into shape.

A Glasgow bark that shipped a new crew here last week went to sea from the upper bay, and before the Hook was reached the mates had to best every new hand all over the decks to get them to turn to. The owner of twelve American ships said yesterday that the only tractable seaman he ever met was perched on a pedestal in front of the Sailors' Snug Harbor on Staten Island and was carved, not born. Yet it is hard to shake the faith of landsmen who had read the popular tales of the sea. Unly the other day, at the graduation exercises aboard the scholarship St. Mary's, a well-known citizen drew a picture of how the average sailor is maltreated by devilish mates.

That same day at the British Consulate, close to the Battery, where the brimming harbor laps the seawall, a Door Jack with a rich cargo of rum safely stowed away, was pleading the cause of temperance in the behavior of mates in general, but one second mate in particular. This tar was not quite as trim and yachty-looking as the one who used to turn out with a cheery Aye, aye, sir!" aboard the imhair, a pockmarked face and a wrong font eye, and his greasy cap was catheaded on his port ear in such a way as to give him the appearance of being a very bad man. He had evidently run afoul of a number of "coaling" stations during his cruise in search of the consulate, and his remarks lost nothing in flavor even after he was warned that there were

women within earshot. All that the clerks could unwind at first from his yarn was that there was a mate, and that this particular mate was-well, pretty much everything that is impossible. Finally the viceconsul asked him what was his speciac complaint against the mate. Dropping his topgallant oaths for the moment, the sailor said:

"He was cruel, that's what." "In what way was he cruel?" inquired the faithful representative of King Edward.

"Why," explained the unfortunate mariner, "that beer-swilling ruffian said I warn't no gentleman. I wouldn't have minded it had he said it privatelike, but he ups with it afore the whole watch. I want you to--" 'Did this beer-swilling rufflan lay

hands on you? Beat you, I mean." "That slouch lay hands on me!" shouted poor Jack, exploding with a volume of bon mots picked up perhaps in the sinks of Calcutta or among the cubby holes of Tilbury. "Lay hands on me! I'd like to see him!" And he shifted his cap to the northeast corner of his head and raised his starboard flipper in a way to make a mate tremble.

"What you say doesn't constitute an assault on the part of the mate," remarked the vice-consul. "We can do nothing for you."

"That's how us friendless sailors are abused," roared the jack tar in a rage. "D'ye know what sailor folk ser when anybody talks Consul? 'Go 'round the corner,' we sez, 'an' you'll see three or four scarecrows a settin' on the pavement under the British coat-of-arms. That's the British Consul.' we sez."

With that the sadly abused son of the sea lurched adrift in a seaway, and by a wonderful feat of pedestrian a simple cup of black coffee. Then ism managed to make his exit without carrying away the combings of the door. To a crony who had been awaiting his coming he said: "There ain't in the Vatican Gardens. The rest of no law for the sailor man. Why, that | the morning up to 1 p. m. is devoted soft-pated --- up there didn't seem to mind my bein' called out of my rectaries and high officials, public and name. Sorry I didn't lay it on the mate at sea and take my chance." And he hiccoughed himself into the

She Understood It. Sportsman (wishing for fresh fields hand at big game.

find it very hard to hit these little the day's work of the new Pope comes birds!-Punch.

PROFESSIONAL TASTERS.

Lucrative Industry Based on a There are many people in this world. Will Count de Lessens Name cultivated palate. Their sense of taste is such that by exercising it they can be assured of a big yearly income

Amy one who visits the tes district in New York will see in the offices The Shares Were Subscribed for Three —the fellow who takes his tail in his of the big tea dealers men who for—Times Over—His Whole Life Was mouth, rolls hopplike over the ground ever taste tes out of tiny cups. These are the tea-testers, and though they never drink tea, their sense of taste is so accurate that they can tell at once the grade and value of the tea in the boxes from which their samples are taken.

In every large wine dealing estab-Ishment there is a wine taster, who never swallows wine, but whose business it is to taste samples of all wines and decide upon their quality. He can tell when a wine is ready to be put on the market and just what its Suez Canal to be easily practicable. grade is.

But the most curious branch of the tading profession is one which has greatest engineers in France had suslately become a paying business for tained De Lesseps in his judgment women in Parls. There several women earn good salaries by driving be constructed. from one house to another just before dinner is ready to serve and tasting the various dishes which the cook has prepared

They taste, they criticise, they recommend addition of some flavoring or seasoning, and then rush away in their carriages to the house of the next customer.

They are called dinner-tasters, and a part of their duty is to suggest improvements in the manner of prepar-

Thus, if one cook is inclined to use too much salt in his dishes and another too little, these things are jotted down, and a report made to the master of the household, who thereupon requests the cook to reform his

This business of dinner tasting is said to be one which cannot be followed for any length of time without may seem, a dinner-taster, if she kept continuously at her trade, would be in danger of starving to death.

Of course, the taster never eats of the food which she examines, but merely tastes it. and this continual tasting of so many different kinds of food gives her a disgust for food of all kinds, so that it is with the great | must have been a prophet. In the another example of the rare and loathest a square meal.

So once in a while the dinnertaster has to take a month off: but works, and can afford to loaf at least thing -Washington Post.

Underwater Signaliing.

The cause of three-fourth of seems about to be removed. It is not a wire or even the air, but the water this time that is used to transmit sound vibrations. For some weeks there has been installed on the steamers of the Metropolitan Company of Boston an apparatus which may yet make it possible for the vessel beating about the coast in a storm to know where the rocks and shoals are when the fog will not permit the light to be seen and the noise of the wind drawns the sound of the bell-buoy or the siren; for a battleship to know of the approach of a submarine, and a fishing smack of the approach of a

liner off the Banks of Newfoundland. The aparatus is extremely simple. It amounts to nothing more or less than ringing a beil under water which the pllot or captain can hear telephonically. Screwed on both sides of the vessel's hull are two receivers, which are connected by wires with the wheelhouse. These receive the vibrations from the bell hanging in the water on the side of the lightship. The navigator has only to put the earpiece to his ear and ascertain on which side the vibrations are the louder, in order to know the direction of the lighthouse and his own position in the fog with comparative accuracy. For fishing vessels a ball receiver get more delicate intonations aboard a steel vessel. The value of the apparatus was put to a good test recently when the steamer James S. Whitney was approaching the Boston lightship on her return from New York. The lighthouse was obscured by rain and fog. Thanks to the signal apparatus, the captain immediately a great pony cart every day in the heard the bell and got his direction. It was not until five minutes after that he heard the lightship's whistle top of a bushel basket, were his joy

for the first time. -- Collier's Weekly. A Day of the Pope's Life. The daily life of Plus X. is as busy and as simple as that of his predecessor, Leo XIII. He rises at 5, celebrates mass at 6, which is served by After hearing another mass in thanksgiving, he breakfasts; this consists of follows a walk of about an hour, during which a visit is made to a little grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes erected to correspondence, interviews with secprivate audiences. At 1 o'clock the the road bowed and took off their hats one dish of meat. After a short siests surprised at their salutes in his honnearest saloon.-N. Y. Mail and Hr. he recites his breviary and then rewalk in the loggia of the Vatican. Visitors and pilgrims are frequently received there. From 7 until 9 o'clock to conquer)—I should like to try my Pius X. is again at work, and then private devotions engage his attention Fir Ignormus—Yes, I suppose you until about halfpast 10 o'clock, when

to an end.—London Daily News.

be Vindicated?

When Count Ferdinand de Lessons began the Suez Canal, in 1859, he had ed by the frightful venom sezic into difficulty in raising the sum of 2,000, the bark. No snake of the hoop snake, 000 francs, which was ridiculously inadequate. When, in 1880, he opened the subscription books of the Panama "milk snake." When of an evening the Canal it was found that all the shares had been subscribed two or three times over. Yet he had proved the Stephenson had declared the Sirer Canal-uterly impracticable, while the that a sea level Panama canal could

These two cases show how little either engineers or investors know about how some things are going to

The money poured in for Panama because Sues had succeeded-it poured in, and it never came out. Where much of it went to was proved by the great French Panama investigation, of the sun. Another popular fallacy The capital which had been actually sunk, up to that time, amounted to cide when hopelessly cornered by two thirds was actually expended at No poisonous snake is susceptible to of the officers of our command who wide said deep. Of the officers of our command who wide said deep. Of the parama. The rest was used in France the poison of its own kind. Two cobrast so desired to view Booth's booth None occurs on the poison of its own kind. Two cobrast so desired to view Booth's booth None occurs of the poison of its own this. Neither reptile of them went. We all accepted the last two the poison of the poison Dapera

to bribe any one, but believed that he mistaken notion is partly based on had to do so in order to put the canal fact—the only fact which seems to through. His whole life was pledged impute to a snake any of the higher to the success of this great enterprise, motives. A blacksnake, the story has His credit while living, his fame after it, will open its mouth to swallow its intervals of rest, for, paradoxical as it he was dead, hung upon it. He could young in time of danger. It is true not see it fail.

a disappointed and dishonored man.

lieved in Suez as against Stephenson: natural of all cannibals, the consumer. and as he was not an emgineer, he of her own flesh and blood, and but est difficulty she can bring herself to magic glass within his heart he saw some creatures that make up an uning upon it. Nothing could convince Clure's Magazine, him that it was impracticable. He she gets excellent pay while she saw the Corinthian canal, which he also promoted, in the same way; but Panama is, historically, the oldest one-third of the time and est some that was not so much of a feat of portion of the western hemisphere. It prophecy. Later still, he saw in his is but nine degrees north of the equamind's eye, the Panama Canal in the tor and is fertile beyond description. same way, finished, bearing the Every tropical fruit grows wild. Its world's commerce. He knew it was only exports are bananas and a little would justify all he did.

What is now to happen, the building of a lock canal by the United States of nearly all the rice consumed is import America, will vindicate De Lesseps as a wizard, but not as an engineer. People believed in the wizard, and gave him money. But not all their money could dig the canai as he first planned it, nor even with locks, without the government assistance which the United States would not let France

De Lesseps could not in any event have lived to see the actual completion of the Panama Canal. He was born in 1805, and was consequently eighty years old when the report of Lieut. McLean, of the United States Navy, in 1885, showed that if would take \$350,000,000 to build the canal, and that, with \$74.000,000 spent, less than one-tenth of the excavation had been made. It was rather a wonder that the old man did not die when the enterprise in which his heart and soul

were bound up began to flounder. But he lived on until 1894, game to the last, in spite of paralysis. He died a ticket-of-leave man, for a French court of justice had condemned him in 1892 for breach of trust and malversation of funds, and sentenced him to five years' imprisonment. The senhas been provided, and this is used to tence was never carried out. The officers of the law simply never went after De Lessens, and nobody ever expected them to.

> In his old age Count de Lesseps had taken a young wife, a Spaniard, and their immense family of blooming. black-eyed h ldren. who overflower Bois de Boulogne like a bushel and a half of red apples running over the and his sustainer in his old age.

As it was an American frost that finally carried off the De Lesseps Panama project, perhaps, when it has finished the canal, the American Government will have money enough left with which to raise a statue of the Perceur his private secretary, Mgr. Bressau. d'Isthmes at Panama, by way of spontaneous expiation.-J. E. C.

Mr. Steadman's Mistake.

Edmund Clarence Steadman, the veteran author, while on a visit to France, stopped one day on a comtry road to admire the surrounding country. As he stood gazing meditatively over the fields he noticed that several peasants who passed him on Pope dines, and his dinner consists of to him. Mr. Steadman was at first or, and wondered for whom these posumes work until 6, when he takes a lite peasants mistook him; but as they were repeated by peasant after nearaut, he finally concluded that his reputation had penetrated farther than he had ventured to suppose. As he moved away from the spot he harpened to glance behind him. He had been standing in front of a statue of the Virgin.-Harper's Weekly.

HIGHER CRITICISM OF SHARES

It is natural that from time immen orial a creature so repulsive and so in

comprehensible as the make should

have given excuse for many of the Weirdest and most abourd myths There is the story of the "boop snake" Pledged to its Success-He Died with the rapidity of a whirlwind till Disappointed and Dishonored in he fetches up against the invariable cottonwood free, which begins to fade within the hour, and it less than a day stands charred and black, polsonspecies is known outside of mythical science. Similarly mythical is the farmer finds the output of a herd short by thirty or forty quarts, he says that the milk snake has been around. The reptile he describes as but three feet long with a proportionate wirth, and yet this diminutive animal is charged with having stored something like baif a can of milk. Many popular misconceptions regarding the lives of snakes are still prevalent. The setting of the sun, for example, has nothsensitive and will wriggle for several hours after death, but the movement is purely spasmodic and ceases in time without reference to the position is that a rattlesnake will commit sul 1,300,000,000 france. Of this amount sinking its own fangs into its sides. tries to strike the other. The combat De Lesseps probably never wanted is a live swallowing match. Another the black racer will swallow its young But it did fail, and De Lesseps died when threatened, but there is no record that the little ones ever see day. light again. Instead, the mother lies He was right in believing that the peaceful, much in the manner of have canal could and would be dug. He be- ing enjoyed a good meal-the most unthe Suez Canal finished, the ships rid- canny world by themselves .- Me

mahogany. While a large part of the inhabitants live upon rice, and thousands of scres of rice lands exist ed. The population does not increase, says the Portland Oregonian, nor does Panama wax in riches.

The people in their habits resemble the Chinese. They are cleanly in their persons and bathe frequently, but their surroundings are so flithy that but for the ubiquitous buzzard existence would be intolerable. The Jews absorb most of the commercial trains actions. Many Chinese are established along the line of the railroad and the canal who are married to the native women and are for the most part excessive users of onlum. The only labor to be dependended upon is that of negroes brought under contract from Jamaica: These men are steady, temperate, and compare favorably with any labor in the world. Gold is always at a premium of several thousand per cent. There is plenty of paper which no one will touch, and the medium of exchange 'is silver, more or less debased. For trading purposes it, however, passes current at about 40 per cent. of its face value in gold. This puts a premium upon most articles of import and depreclates the value of the country's products.

A Huge Claim. Prussia has been brought face to face with a claim for \$20,000,000, which is said to be supported by necessary documents, duly authenticated by the Russian Department of State archives, The persons concerned are the two Counts Muennich, descendants of the Russian field marshal. Count Muennich, to whom Frederick the Great gave an estate in 1741. Count Meunnich refused it, and it was transferred to his son who died shortly after returning to Russia from abroad. whither he had accompanied his exiled father. Before leaving Prussia he obtained from Frederick a written promise to pay him 312,000 "Albertthalers." The money was never paid and now his descendents are making a claim for it, plus compound interest.

New Jungle Fashion According to the Electrical World telegraph wire belts have recently been added to the costume of fashionable East African belies. The telegraph authorities discovered the new fashion. They found great difficulty in maintaining lines through the forests. One of their society reporters. technically known as a lineman, while "covering" a native lawn fete in the Jungle, noted the new fashion, and custom for the young men to present at so much per pound.

NURE ROOF WA AND THE THE STATE OF THE PARTY alog of the question unother or not J. Wilkes Booth was that and killed in a barn is Virginia by Corbet! says

Mr. D. Eldroge Monroe, the well

with the great trigoly of the assured than the high water nation of Lincoln and in which events | Mil Me | In past los I was a participant. I have never had the Gulf of Merfeet a south that Hooth was killed our lates in the Vision of Charles County, Maryland; organized for the land lecter. isse to hunt down and capture the Abracanding the Lowe. day of our service we were at a point be pushed se se ter on the Maryland shore of the Poto- Lake Postchartrain as ing to do with the death of a snake mad nearly opposite Smith's Point, on The city itself covers a When a snake is decapitated it is the Virginia above. An officer from though the major port dead at once. The tail will remain one of the United States, gunboats, is not built up as said that at anchor in the Potomac, was present chiefly occupied round ashore to ascertain who we consists of a siring a wore. When informed of our object sloop the beak of their he told us that we could shaped and the graces of his body was then on a boat, which he has been about I id a pointed out ready to be taken to sweats four bears washington. He offered to take any left to a cube of water

officer's statement as true, and, as we carease sees and had been three days and mights at the minter most continuously in the saidle and year, and these reco were tired and sleepy we immediately continued until the proceeded homeward. Capt. P. H. hig the mouth of Jan Muschette, who was in command of 830 cubic feet of water the provest guard, and who now red away from should wiffer sides in Baltimore, will verify these included in the draining statements. "I do not know of any witness in to a limbe of welon out

now living except myself. I think it feet wide and ten toot deep. probable I am the only one. The in- and elsaty miles long there cidents of the frist are as clear in my and itventy feet deep memory as though it had taken place. Magasine. yesterday. One of them thught me a lesson I have never forgulten. Gen. Ewing, the senior counsel for the de Con this day, the day of fence, notified me one morning that ding, I shall eat nothing bet he would call me as a witness that it was through he seg that afternoon. The rourt about midday wire and George took a recess, I understood for an hour Cleveland, as he will which considered the Anacostia, where I kept: mylcherses, and description they and savielsurely returned to the Ar a Chile end toloniend the building an our that I age where the trial was held, the guard was hearhed ness. He said the court had adjourn land I wil od-and asked me my name : | gave th

to him. They have offine for her constitutions the afternoom; hair oples, it will all the same and I think there is an order off for the lake Should your arrest. I confess I felt rather ordered was a learned as a fact that there was no order out for my arrest it went to w neen Onid I wrote room and remained there till more; lowing might and to de quiet out of the way hotel, secured m and remained there ill more with he added the charles went early in the morning to the charles are considered.

Atsens) and, on-his arrival, explained Mrs. Ses of the source the matter to Gen. Dwing. He took had written her name me to Judge Advocate, General Holt, but said alle little them who had the order for my arrest re- it would win her a habital

"After I had given my evidence Provost Marshal Hartrantt, afterward Governor of Pennsylvania, lokingly said to me: Young man, we ought not to allow you any witness fees, you gave us too much trouble vesterday. I told him I was not particular about getting witness fees. 'Well,' he ans wered, there is one thing you will have to get and that is an order for your horses.' They had not found me, but they found my horses and put them under guard. I got both an order for the release of my horses and for witness fees also I was a young English naval on young then, but I do not think I have, himself by a mistake denote since heep late at any time in attend- the royal lancers, late walling a court where my presence was had wandered heed saily so ing a court where my presence was required."—Baltimore Sun.

Some Precoclous Young Ladies Washington seems to be producing mediately realised that in some curious specimens of precocious onds she would actually have to young girls of late. A fifteen-year-old his hand in the grands chain young girls of late. A fifteen-year-old girl of Spokane stole the contents of hand of a novody a mere her grandfather's purse to buy a cer! trousseau for her coming marriage Quick as thought on the save the mark! A girl of thirteen at approaching her instead of Whatcom threatened to kill herself lingers she held out to h because her parents objected to her of her see handkerchist with engagement to a boy of sixteen. Then, of infinite dieds in. He say, she went out into the woods and fixed derstood both the least find two shots in the air to make her pare tion, and calmy and smallings. ents believe that she had carried out wiped the tip of his most with her threat while she walked to a of lace, and gracefully reserve neighboring town and secured work, the autounded princess. K. We shall hear of children in the kind- Independent ergarten elopny before long. In fact. as truent officer who went after a fourteen year old girl found her mar. Sents Fe is rick a ried and busy in the kitchen.—Seattle the road on to Las V Post-Intelligencer.

Radium's Heat.
Prof. Rutherford publishes a note in Nature describing recent experi- village of Ran Jose ments to test the question as to ly changed is a contary whether the heat emission of radium the heart of this is connected with its radioactivity, when we want He states that it is closely connected began to understan with it; that deemanated radium gives and in a new way him off but 30 per cent of its normal nest ventures of a Consecutive upon questioning some of the social output; that the emanation contains The whole of King (200) leaders was informed that it was the the remaining 70 per cent, and that bicycles could no as the latter loses this, the original stir to created to its their partners with these belts as radium mass regains its heating pow-bite. We went throughout trophies. Now the company has made er. He holds that these results aux the wind; the made the tribal chiefs responsible for the port the disintegration hypothesis to the tooling, while the telegraph lines in their territory, and garding the source of radium's energy, huddled late by the young chiefs have to buy the belts and weaken the theory of an outside source of energy.

knows lawyer, beings to my mind a of the river thate number of after events in connection the sity is built

the famous Lincoln conspiracy trial dies on to a lake ten all

pust one year and ing it I count for delate on the shell Mose 1 while packing eggs to be cago," she said, "that It is would be fun to write

one of them and see it is well

hear from where it was

wankee Wisconsin The Queen's Lace Hand In the time of Queen E Segunda there was a beautiful royal infanta at however, entirely spolled? by her overbearing pride those beneath her. At the cacles of the dance. The promptly espied him, and he know to bounds, separ

the true of the line of