

HISTORIC CRIMES and MYSTERIES



THE BLOOD OF THE BOATSWAIN.

The story of John Thomas has been a favorite in the forecastles of British ships for a hundred and fifty years, so it naturally has developed numerous versions, and no man can say which is the correct one. A few facts touching the strange adventures of John are of official record, showing that the story has a foundation of truth; but most of the details are tradition. One weak point is common to all the versions. The hero of the story was hanged for murdering the boatswain, although the body of the boatswain was not found, which is in conflict with British law; yet this weak point is the one part of the story that has the strongest backing of official record.

It was the day before Christmas, in one of the latter years of the eighteenth century, when John Thomas, a sailmaker, set forth to visit his mother, who lived near Deal. Reaching that town in the evening, he was too tired to finish his journey that night, so he put up at an inn presided over by a businesslike landlady, who informed him that the house was crowded by reason of the Yuletide festivities, and he couldn't be accommodated unless he was willing to share room and bed with her uncle, who was the



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boatswain of a large ship just arrived from India. John agreed to this arrangement without hesitation, and after stowing away a good supper and quaffing a few flagons of brown October ale, he was shown to the room, where he found the elderly boatswain already in bed. The sailmaker disrobed, blew out the candle, and climbed into the downy couch. He found the boatswain was a bearded fellow. The old man groaned and ground his teeth as though troubled with an ingrowing conscience, and the way he kicked with his feet and claved with his hands was a sin and a shame.

After standing it for a while, the sailmaker concluded to take a walk, thinking that the old man might be quieted down by the time he returned. It was late at night, and the inmates of the tavern were in bed, so John tipped quietly to the back door, only to find that he couldn't open it with his fingers. He remembered that he had seen the boatswain's knife on the window ledge in the room, so he stole back and secured it. With this he was able to lift the latch of the door. He stepped forth into the cool, refreshing night and enjoyed a good walk.

Returning quietly to his room, he found to his astonishment that the boatswain was not there. But the bed clothing was stained with his blood, and there was blood on the floor, on the door, almost everywhere. He was scared stiff, and followed his first impulse, which was to fly. Securing his bundle, he left the inn, and walked to his mother's home.

There he was arrested the day after Christmas. The boatswain's knife was in his pocket, and his story sounded improbable. Save for the absence of the victim's body, there never was a stronger case of circumstantial evidence against a man. It was so strong that John was promptly tried and convicted of murder. It was shown that the bloodstains had been traced from

the bedroom down to the beach, and it seemed certain that the murderer had carried or dragged the body of his victim there, and thrown it into the water. In those days men were hanged for stealing spoons, and the only thing to do was to hang John Thomas, even if his victim could not be found.

It happened that a new executioner had just been inaugurated in that district, and John was his first patient. He probably was overcome by stage fright, for he bungled the job. He gave John too much rope, so that his toes rested on the ground, and when he was cut down it was found that he still lived. Friends and sympathizers smuggled the body away and revived him. Kept in close confinement, he soon recovered from the shock, and was as good a man as ever.

Then, under an assumed name, he went down to Portsmouth, where he secured a job on a warship that was about to sail for the West Indies. There he remained for three years, and distinguished himself for diligence, valor and sundry other admirable qualities, so that he was promoted to the position of master's mate, and was generally liked and respected aboard ship as well as on land.

At the end of the three years he returned home and drew his pay. Then, after visiting his aged mother, and leaving her a little roll of real money, he at once embarked upon another ship that was about to sail for foreign parts. As he lounged about the deck, waiting for the vessel to get a move on, he saw an old mariner whose face was strangely familiar. He knew he had seen that ancient, wind-blown countenance somewhere, but where?

He puzzled over it a long time, and suddenly illumination came. Laying an agitated hand on the ancient mariner's shoulder, he cried:

"Didn't you sleep at the Boar's Head inn at Deal on the night before Christmas four years ago?"

"Ay, marry," quoth the ancient mariner. "Shiver my timbers and bust my binnacle topknots, or words to that effect, if I ever forgot that night!"

The ancient mariner was glad to tell his story. He had been trying to tell it for years, and nobody would listen to him, and here was a young man who really seemed impatient to hear the story of a businesslike landlady, who informed him that the house was crowded by reason of the Yuletide festivities, and he couldn't be accommodated unless he was willing to share room and bed with her uncle, who was the

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INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. SELLERS, Acting Director of Sunday Schools, of the Moody Bible Institute, Chicago.)
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LESSON FOR JUNE 4.

THE CALL OF THE WEST.

LESSON TEXT—Acts 15:36-41; 16:1-12.
GOLDEN TEXT—Come over into Macedonia and help us.—Acts 16:9.

Following the commission's report at Antioch of the decision of the Jerusalem church, Paul and Barnabas and others continued their evangelism in that city (ch. 15:36). These leaders soon felt the need of reviving the spirit of their former labors (v. 36), but when it came to the organization of their party, Paul refused to accede to the decision of Barnabas that John Mark should accompany them (vs. 37, 38, 40). So sharp a contention arose that two parties were organized. That Paul later forgave Mark is evidenced by his tender reproofs to him.

I. A Closed Door. Ch. 16:1-5. Paul's companions for this second mission, four were Silas (vs. 40), Luke (see use of word "we," v. 13), and Timothy (v. 13). The latter came of good ancestry, had good training and was a fervent, still to say the least, he submitted to the rite of circumcision. Paul's work was to promulgate the Jerusalem decree, to establish or to confirm the churches and to add to these churches new converts. But that did not entirely fulfill Paul's commission (9:15). The word "Asia" (v. 6) means the Roman province of Asia, and wisely obeying the Spirit's direction, Paul passed on until he came to the seaport town of Troas. At a later time Paul spoke the "word of the Lord Jesus" in Asia with wonderful effect (19: 1, 8, 19, 26, 27). It must have been during the hours of Paul's thus to be restrained, but it did not serve as an excuse for him to take a vacation, but rather to seek new fields wherein to preach. This he came to Troas.

II. The Discipleship. Ch. 16: 6-13. Paul had several speaking engagements; on the Damascus road (9:3, 4 and 23-19); in Jerusalem (22:11); at the time of his shipwreck (27:23); and the one we are now considering. A vision is a knowledge of the need and of the resources at one's command. Grecian beauty, philosophy, art and culture needed Christ. Christ as a resource was adequate and available to supply that need. This vision Paul saw; through it God called him to Macedonia. "We" (the first use of that pronoun in the book of Acts), Paul and Luke, immediately essayed to obey.

III. The Open Door. v. 14, 15. On what seeming trifles does history turn! An outcast wandering Jew coming to help a proud, cultured, influential foreign city; he hears the Gospel which alone can be of help to them. Paul did not wait to "investigate the field" nor to establish a working organization. He knew a better point of contact, and he went into those in that city who knew God even though ignorant of Christ. He began by preaching Jesus, not comparative religions, nor did he seek to build a community "center" with soup kitchens and social uplift. Paul knew that to elevate the individual by establishing him in the faith of Christ would soon result in community uplift. On the other hand, a faith which evaporates in words and does not give tangible, concrete evidence in works may well be challenged as to its being genuine. There was no superficial direction as to what part of Macedonia Paul was to visit, and exercising his common sense, Paul went at once to the principal city, where he heard the Gospel proclaimed. He did not begin at the end of the Gospel (v. 12, R. V. 13:18, 19).

The "man of Macedonia" seems to have been a woman unless we consider the Philippian jailer. This open-air meeting was one of the most notable in history. The Lord opened the heart of pious Lydia and it was the turning point of the evangelization of Europe and America and the world. God must open the hearts of men (2 Th. 1:4-5; Eph. 1:17, 18; Luke 24:45). He did so here, and glad to do. The steps of this woman's conversion are clearly marked and present a good type. (1) She went out to pray (v. 12). (2) She heard the word (v. 13). (3) She had her heart opened by the Lord (v. 14). (4) She gave heed to the things which were spoken" (v. 13 and Mark 16:16). (5) The man of Macedonia confessed of his newly-found faith by baptism.

(6) She carried with her the whole household, perhaps children, workers in her business and servants (v. 31; 1 Cor. 1:16).

The use of the word "constrained" in verse 15 indicates a heart hunger to be helped by being allowed to serve. The Philippian church often yielded Paul subsequently and doubtless Lydia was a leading spirit in this service.

The history of the Christian church relates many illustrations of the leadership and prominence of women of wealth and culture.

THE KITCHEN CABINET

DAINTY CUSTARD.

Never go to meet a sugar
That will wait until tomorrow.
Never worry over troubles that are
past;
When you fill your mouth with must-
ard.
Having thought of this was custard.
Do not let yourself be flustered
But be happy in the knowledge
That the smarting cannot last.
—D. E. Kiser.

Custards of various kinds are always favorite desserts and may be shared with children. An egg to a cupful of milk and a tablespoonful of sugar will make two small custards and the custard will be good unless the custard is wanted for molding. In that case more egg will be necessary to make it stand up. Custards are more festive in appearance if decorated with a spoonful of bright-colored jelly, a candied cherry or cranberry, or a spoonful of whipped cream, and a sprinkling of nuts. Baked custards are a great favor than the boiled and is particularly good with fruit or fresh berries.

Care should be taken about the cooking. If baked, place the custards in the oven at 150° F. so that they will separate and be tough and coarse. Custard should be smooth and velvety when cooked. Test it with a clean finger; if it comes out clean the custard is cooked.

Nutmeg is a good flavor for simple custards, or orange rind, grated maple sugar or caramel, all are favorites. Chocolate or cocoa sprinkled over the top just before serving is liked by chocolate lovers, or it may be put on as it goes into the oven. A pinch of salt is a necessary adjunct to a well-flavored custard and without it is flat and tasteless.

An orange-flavored custard is served with a teaspoonful of orange marmalade on top.

Caramel Custard.—Put a half cupful of sugar in a small pan, stir occasionally until melted and a light brown color. Add a quart of milk and gradually stirring carefully; then add the milk to five eggs beaten slightly, add a pinch of salt, a teaspoonful of vanilla and strain into a buttered mold. Chill and serve with a caramel sauce. This custard is rich enough to mold; four eggs will make it sufficiently rich, although the more eggs the more nutritious.

For the sauce, brown a cupful of the sugar and add a half cupful of water. Cool before serving.

CONDIMENTS IN FOOD.

In spite of Plutarch's animosity that hunger and salt should be man's only sauce, "we are so accustomed to condiments of various kinds that the appetite falls if denied them."

Condiments and spices are used as adjuncts to foods, and in themselves supply little nourishment, their effect being mainly a stimulating character to the nerves of taste or secretion. They serve a purpose in adding flavor to insipid food and relieve monotony in diet.

In some dyspeptic conditions of the stomach the use of strong condiments like red pepper or tabasco sauce affords relief by exciting the activity of the stomach, but as to their value in prolonging health they are much overestimated.

The use of some of condiments is likely to be abused, such as pepper, curry and vinegar. When used in excess, they seriously disorder the digestion. Curry powders of various sorts are popular for mixing strong condiments, such as red pepper, ginger and turmeric and starch. People leading indolent lives and indulging too freely in the good things of the table are prone to find their stomachs by the use of exciting stimulants. In warm climates this is especially noted. The advice given to those not used to hot climates is to confine the food to fruit and vegetables, largely, shunning nitrogenous food and condiments and alcoholic beverages.

Next to salt, which is the symbol of hospitality in the Orient and is a necessity in nearly all our foods, comes pepper, mustard, ginger and vinegar. Much difference of taste as to the use of condiments exists. The Persians like saffron, which most of us remember with no pleasant recollection as a distastefulness.

Certain condiments are best served with certain foods; thus mustard and ham, pepper with eggs, red pepper with raw oysters, vinegar with spinach.

Neenie Max well

How It's Done.
Political Boss—I can land you a job payin' \$3,000 a year—two to you and one to me.

Worker—And do I have an assistant?

Boss—Sure, and we split half of his salary between us.

The Point of View.
Mrs. Smith—Have you a good cook?
Mrs. Brown—Yes, she's a good one. I suppose—after cooking three times a week—but her cooking isn't anything to brag of.

A Brooklyn Druggist Praises the Great Kidney Remedy

I have handled Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, kidney liver and bladder remedy for many years and have heard plenty of favorable reports concerning it from my customers. They are satisfied with the results obtained from its use. I know of many cases where Swamp-Root has cured Stone in the Bladder, Gall Stones, Gravel, Catarrh, Inflammation of Bladder, Liver trouble and Rheumatism. I have used it in my own family with good results; and I heartily endorse Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root and believe it has good curative value.

Very truly yours,
ALEX. LITSCHEITZ, Druggist,
64 North 4th Street,
Brooklyn, N. Y.

November 22nd, 1915.
Prove What Swamp-Root Will Do For You.
Send ten cents to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., for a sample size bottle. It will relieve anyone. You will also receive a booklet of valuable information, telling about the kidneys and bladder. When writing, be sure and mention this paper. Regular fifty-cent and one-dollar size bottles for sale at all drug stores.

Largest Car Ferry.
The largest car ferry in the world transports both freight and passenger cars across Carquehus straits, between Port Costa and Benicia, Cal. It recently has been put into operation as a part of the Southern Pacific Railroad. The ferry boat is 43 feet long. The hull and superstructure are of wood and required over 2,000,000 feet of lumber. The lumber is held in place by 70 tons of spikes and many tons of smaller nails. The ferry has a capacity of 35 freight cars and two engines, or 24 passenger cars with two engines. It is operated by electric power.

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Quickly Cleared by Cuticura Soap and Ointment. Trial, Free.

You may rely on these fragrant, superexquisite ointments to cure for your skin, scalp, hair and hands. Nothing better to clear the skin of pimples, blotches, redness and roughness, the scalp of dandruff and itching and the hands of chapping and sores.

Free sample each by mail with Book. Address postcard, Cuticura, Dept. L, Boston. Send everywhere.—Adv.

Lazy Officer.
Sergeant (at drill)—Gempson! two paces forward, march!

Old Countryman (looking on)—That's just like them officers! Couldn't he take two paces farther! In fact, instead of moving the whole regiment?

Important to Mothers.
Examine carefully every bottle of CASTORIA, a safe and sure remedy for infants and children, and see that it bears the Signature of *Dr. J. C. Watson*.

In Use for Over 30 Years.
Children Cry for Fletcher's Castoria

Every woman thinks she is a prima donna when it comes to putting a baby to sleep.

Makes Hard Work Harder
A bad back makes a day's work twice as hard. Backache usually comes from stiffened ligaments, and if headaches, dizziness or urinary disorders are added, don't wait—get help before the kidney disease takes a grip—before dropsy, gravel or Bright's disease sets in. Doan's Kidney Pills have brought new life to many a man, to thousands of working men and women. Used and recommended the world over.

A Michigan Case.
James Greenman,
"Two Years Ago I Was Sick," 10 E. Adams St.,
"I was laid up for three months with my back, I had headaches and lost forty pounds in weight. Instead of an operation, as was proposed, I used Doan's Kidney Pills and they permanently cured me."

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WIFE TOO ILL TO WORK

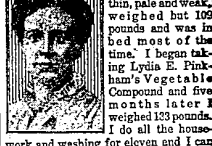
IN BED MOST OF TIME

Her Health Restored by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

Indianapolis, Indiana.—"My health was so poor and my constitution so run down that I could not work. I was thin, pale and weak, weighed but 100 pounds and was in bed most of the time. I began taking Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and five months later I weighed 123 pounds. I do all the housework and washing for eleven and I can't tell you how good Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has been a godsend to me for I would have been in my grave today but for it. I would tell all women suffering as I was to try this good, reliable remedy."—Mrs. Wm. GREEN, 332 S. Addison Street, Indianapolis, Indiana.

There is hardly a neighborhood in this country, wherein some woman has not found health by using this good old-fashioned root and herb remedy.

If there is anything about which you would like special advice, write to the Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co., Lynn, Mass.



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Can quickly be overcome by CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS.

Act surely and gently on the liver. Cure Bilelessness, Headache, Indigestion. They do their duty. SMALL PILL, SMALL DOSE, SMALL PRICE. Genuine must bear Signature

James T. Fields, one of the notable publishers and also a man of letters, relates that when he went to Stratford he met a native of that country. He told the native that he had come to see the home of Shakespeare.

"That's all right," said the man of Warwickshire, "but for my part I don't believe Shakespeare would be heard of now if he hadn't wrote them plays."

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"But your fiancé has a small salary; how are you going to live?"
"Oh, we're going to economize. We're going to do without such a lot of things that Jack needs."

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Stopped Quickly. First years of unimpaired health. Dr. J. C. Watson's Kidney Pills. Sold everywhere. In boxes, 10c. 25c.

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