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HIS REASON IS GONE FROM LIFELONG BROODING OVER A TREASURE SHIP

Old "Captain" Henderson's Pathetic Vigil Over Hell Gate's Waters Where Lie the Hussar's Chests of British Gold.

(New York Herald.)

Gold! For 123 years a fortune of almost \$5,000,000 has been lying—and still lies—beneath the turbid waters of Hell Gate. Company after company formed to bring the sunken gold to the surface failed, and the poor people in the little boat subscribed to the stock lost their little all. There was much sorrow born of these lost guineas which would not be reclaimed.

Today a poor old man, who has lived his long life out on the bosom of Hell Gate sits brooding, with an unbalanced mind, of gold! gold! gold!

The frigate Hussar and the warship Mercury conveyed a fleet of merchant-vessels into the port of New York on November 23, 1780. They carried also money sent by the British government to pay off the troops then in rendezvous at New London, Conn. The Mercury had \$380,000 sterling, mostly in British guineas, and the Hussar \$900,000. After the fleet anchored in the harbor the gold on the Mercury was transferred to the Hussar, and while the former remained to protect His Majesty's property the latter set sail for New London to deliver the money.

The captain was in a hurry. Instead of taking the longer but safer route around Long Island he ventured through the narrow passageway of Hell Gate. Hell Gate was a different place then from what it has been since a child pressed an electric button and blew up the rocks which obstructed the channel. At first it was an ugly place, but the British navigator imagined that if a negro pilot could take a frigate through he, an educated, experienced mariner of the greatest sea country of earth, could also do it. He took some poor American prisoners from the prison ships in the harbor and headed for Hell Gate, with the prisoners chained to the deck.

The Hussar ran the gauntlet of rocks successfully, and only a few feet of danger separated her from open water. Then she ran heavily upon a sunken reef, which was not down on the chart drawn by captains who sailed boats of lighter draught. The compact on account of the current was hard, opening a great seam, and the recoil sent her back into deep water. She was sinking fast, and the only chance for salvation was to run her ashore on a shelving beach a quarter of a mile further along. But the "jaws" of Hell Gate were closing about the doomed vessel. Running for her life she again struck.

Hussars were sent ashore and made fast to the trees to keep her from slipping off the rocks, but the ship filled and disappeared beneath the water, dragging the trees out by the roots. The prisoners, like galley slaves chained to their seats, died, but the captain, the officers and some of the crew escaped.

In 1836 the "Worcester Hussar Company" was formed and made the most formidable attack upon the frigate. Capt. Chas. B. Pratt, who was afterward mayor of Worcester, originated the company. He used dynamite and blew away the upper structure.

The guns long before had crushed through the deck and lay over the powder magazines and treasure vaults, cemented down by barnacles and sand until picks in the diver's hands could make the impression on the mass.

GOLD AND SILVER COIN

were found in the officers' quarters; human bones and skulls—those of the hapless prisoners; a jewel casket filled with necklaces, crosses, rings, pearls and other jewels of great value; pots and jars of antiquated shape, stamped with the royal monogram "Georgius Rex;" slender beer mugs, leather buckets with "Hussar" in broad letters still legible, thousands of cannon balls and bushels of gun flints, whole cannon and many other things were brought up by the divers.

The jewels and the casket were stolen the same night; one cannon was sold to the British government for \$1,500, while others found a resting place in Central Park; but the gold was not found.

The last expedition was headed by Captain Thos. Simonds, from Leominster, Mass. He brought a searchlight into play and used a hydraulic dredger. Another company was formed, the "State Hussar Wrecking Company" in 1892, under the Massachusetts laws. The captain had a fleet of five vessels, a dredger, a floating hotel, a scow to carry the gold away, a water tank and a tug. They fitted

ed out at Portsmouth, N. H., but failed to realize anything on their investment.

All the time Charlie Henderson, the poor old watcher over the wreck today was plying his trade as a calker in Webb's shipbuilding yards in New York and going to and from his home near the Ninety-second street ferry, Long Island City. He married and reared a family—and kept his eye on the workers at Port Morris. Whenever his work was slack he would go out in his rowboat, which he called "Captain Kidd," and row around the Hussar looking down into the dark waters.

The place where the Hussar went down is about two miles from the old man's home. But every day during last summer that he could get out on the Gate he rowed up with the tide and down later with the turn. All he does is sit and look sadly down into the water. Sometimes he goes to the sandy shore and digs in the spot where some gold was found years ago—money which a sea captain bid and never came for. Once after looking into the water above the wreck for a long time he suddenly jumped overboard and tried to dive down for it. Although he is seventy-eight years old he is still a good strong swimmer and was able to get back into the boat.

"I'm Captain Kidd," he says, "and Uncle Sam, this is my boat. There's over four million dollars in gold down there at Port Morris, and some one will get it some day. Maybe I'll get it. The steamboat people all know me. I get out of my way of no one. Let them get out of my way. I'm Captain Kidd, and they are afraid to run down Captain Kidd—afraid I'd 'yard 'em 'em all. Come see the place where the gold is concealed where the Hussar went down! I can take you to the spot in the dark. The water shines up there; it's yellow, and sparkles like gold."

HALF A CENTURY.

A Prominent Politician is Convinced.

At a recent club dinner given by newspaper men at Washington, the conversation turned upon the subject of testimonials and their value in newspaper advertising. "I do not believe," said a prominent politician who was present, "that one newspaper testimonial in a hundred, is genuine."

The owner of one of the largest newspapers in the country was present and took up the subject vigorously, finally agreeing to let his opponent select any testimonial in his paper and wagering to establish its genuineness to the politician's satisfaction.

Quite by accident the case of Mr. Newton K. Young of Pennington, N. J., was selected. He had been completely cured of a case of hemorrhoids, or piles, by the use of Pyramid Pile Cure. The politician was especially skeptical regarding this case, as it was alleged that Mr. Young was a man over eighty years of age and had been cured of piles after fifty years of awful suffering and when all other remedies had failed. It was agreed that the politician should write to Mr. Geo. W. Scarborough, Ph. G., a prominent resident of Pennington and that the result of the controversy should rest upon his reply. The following was Mr. Scarborough's answer:

"Dear Sir:—Mr. Newton K. Young of this town, a man nearly eighty years of age, and who has been a sufferer with piles for, perhaps half a century has been completely cured by the use of Pyramid Pile Cure. I felt especially interested in the case as it was upon my recommendation that Mr. Young began the use of the remedy after having used so many others. Yours respectfully, Geo. W. Scarborough, Ph. G."

The Pyramid Drug Company of Marshall, Mich., have this letter in their possession and are willing to guarantee with a backing of one thousand dollars, the genuineness of Mr. Scarborough's testimony.

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