

LEADER ARTICLES FROM THE UNIVERSAL REGISTER OF SHIPPING

GENERAL AND TRADING NEWS

SHIPWRECK

A letter from Blesst Occs, in Radwich-Liessoise, dated 23rd of Autumn, reads: On Tuesday, at around midnight, or better, on Wednesday somewhat before the hour of one, the barge Old Winding, of Lemon's Hill, Under Captain Ellers Wingodling, a Reserve Officer of the Queen's war fleet, did break up over the reef at Dragorron Bar

- - - The Old Winding was engaged in the shore traffic between Tope Martin and Lemon's Hill, and carried a cargo of Rice, Indigo and Tobacco. It is known that the vessel did meet with the Westernmost rocks of the bar and was entirely broken up before lifeboats did arrive. The captain, thirteen hands, and most passengers, being one Mme. Dufuin, M. Pacolet, Mlle. Pacolet, and fourteen Westhithian labourers, did all perish. One Mtre. Ysoille was the only soul to survive, cast upon the rock known by the local appellation of Cribbe Wieden, whence he did survive for two days, feeding upon the profuse seals and waterbirds found in that place. His lonely sojourn ended upon the easement of the gale which had wrecked the Old Winding, at which he did hoist a signal made of broken spars which was perceived by the cottagers of Agnus Ilfand, a village some two miles walking from Blesst Occs proper. It was by the gallant action of the villagers' sole beadle, Offr. Toben Swaleg, that Mtre. Ysoille was conveyed from the rock, much bruised and battered, to the almshouse at Blesst Occs, where he is now invalided. Offr. Swaleg's deft handling of a small rowboat amid the treacherous reefs and shoals has been much remarked upon in the country and suggestions have been made towards the casting of a medal to commemorate his bravery.

- - - Some three thousands of silver shillings were among the cargo of the barge and these have been recovered, floating in their safechests from the lee drag of the reef. The

cargo kept in loose stuffing and simple chests appears at time of writing to have been all lost and carried out to sea or sunk.

- - - The Old Winding had left Tope Martin in convoy with The Chauncy Sweggs, The Branch of Alders, and the Trew Love's Folly, all bargeses occupied in the same trade, and it is to be wondered at that one alone of their number did perish upon the reef without the assistance of its fellows. It is the opinion of this writer that stiff questions will be put to the officers of these ships on their arrival Lemon's Hill in weeks to come.

- - - The thoughtful discussion of this sad event among the seafaring people of the country has been tending much to the point of some lighthouse or caller's beacon being established at the point of Gibbs Decking, the spit whose seaward extremity wholly encloses the treacherous bars and shoals which presently drive shallow water vessels towards Dragorron Bar, where The Old Winding did meet its end. It has been much wondered at that so raw and dangerous a section of coast, much visited by ships of rich trade, is lacking in even the most basic of nautical protections which are taken for granted along the coast nearer to the great cities of the Queen's Chain. It is much expected here that a joint motion on this topic, by the Blesst Occs chancel and the fellows of the foundation at Trinity House, will be put to the Interdivisional Court of Alterations upon its next circuit in the division of Radwich-Liessoise. This is the fifth wreck of a trading vessel in these waters since the present administration took office and much is made of their supposed callous attitude towards the shipping fleet.

- - - Radwich-Liessoise, 23rd AU, ER

FALSE TEA

By receipt of letter from Deeswich, I hear that the sloe plant is at present being shewn the highest esteem by Leswichtian smugglers, great numbers of these plants being raised on their behalf by some farmers near the Bray's Water, in the country of Runtreed, where secluded lees in the greenwood allow for careful agronomy out of sight of the Queen's

Officers. In these places, the sloe plant is so cultivated to make up a fraudulent mixture of purported green tea, for which purpose the younger leaves of the sloe are admirably calculated. Being astringent, vegetal and much of the size of a trew Hyfon tea leaf, these imposturing snips may be steeped with a smaller quantity of the trew article to give a fair approximation, in sight alone, of the genuine 'dry black'. When brazed over a copper pot and properly turnt, these leaves are freely imposed upon even discerning traders, such is their likeness to the Hyfon's own cuttings. The Court of Corrections for the Division of Tert-Nisoin has been much taken up by the concerns of honest traders, shippers and importers at this sad turn. The resulting increase in the number of beadles in the sloe groves of the country, and the heavy attentions paid by them to all known growers of the plant, have been the cause of much unrest among the agrarian classes, as well as gin boilers, who esteem the sloe in their own exacting pursuit of fine flavour.

- - -Deeswich, Tert-Nisoin, 24th AU

AN OUTRAGE BY RHENCHIST SCOUNDRELS

To the disgrace of the Rhenchist states who have lately aligned themselves in a confederacy against the wider interests of the Queen's Chain, a letter of the 13th of Autumn, from Duenstilig, relates an outrage perpetrated by the partisans of that town against the honour of Her Majesty and her Majesty's loyal subjects. It is to be well remembered that the habit of outrage and excess which was displayed on this occasion was full-formed in the lamented campaign of barbary which led to the violent excision of the heartlands of Doppe from our Commonwealth's wise counsel and good guidance. To whit, the letter reports an odious incident which occurred in a sort of procession carried on by the idlers and scroungers of the town of Duenstilig on the morning of the 11th, led by numerous uniformed and ill-remembered butchers made infamous in the late war. These persons carried with them a flag of Chanchierre Second Guards regiment, purportedly captured during the fighting at Fiehl's Water. This flag

was hoisted upon a cart and carried along with much capering and many crude japes by the low persons in attendance. Upon the procession's arrival at the town's market square, several of the crowd produced blunderbusses and fowling pieces, with which they volleyed at the flag while making merry and casting cruel reflections on the fate of the lamented soldiers who had originally borne it into battle. It is also related by our correspondent that several chancel seals, divisional rods and and beadles helmets were also carried on the cart and were pulverised upon a blacksmith's anvil to much exultation by the crowd. Such a display of folly, insolence and cowardice is scarcely to be credited in a country which is pleased to consider itself civilised, but it speaks much to the character of the odious Rhenches who populate that sad and false-made statelet.

- - - Duenstilig, 13th AU

A FOUL MURDER

This day in courts of contest at On-Ysoit, one Deckart Morsman, a gosherd of Chanchette, is to be tried for the wilful murder of a person unknown. The circumstances of this barbarity are so shocking to the civilised soul that we would forebear of relating them, but such is the impertinent selfishness and willingness to misrepresent truth in service of profit, on the part of some other papers in this city, that we the editors of the Universal Register of Shipping feel honour-bound to relate truthfully the details of this sad affair.

- - -This gosherd Morsman was commonly a patron at an inn of low sorts in the street of Tees Lane, near the lower Ghertlin market square and Pistors Dock. It is said by the proprietors of the inn that he would commonly fetch up at the public bar in the small hours of the evening, having delivered his geese to market, and spend his shillings upon hot gin and barley cakes. As is common among herders of geese, Morsman would spend much of his days agleaning, while his charges foraged among the rushes on the leeward side of the Monorgan banks, fishing out likely pieces of scrap and flotsam as had collected in the eddy current inshore of Portley's Bar. On

entering the inn, known locally as the Dead Angel, Morsman would usually tip a great heap of pickings against the street wall before going in to drink, running out again very quickly to make sure that no enterprising guttersnipe would away with a morsel or scrap as his back was turned. As is invariably the case with the dissolute labouring classes, however, his awareness of those prize goods would recede throughout the evening and into the night, whence he would more and more infrequently interrupt his carouse to rush from the bar shouting blue murder at any poor soul who stood too close to the pile of gleanings. Usually his cry would be one of theft, an accusation strenuously denied by any reputable person who he might accost. On the evening of the 5th of this season, however, Morsman ran from the public bar out into the brewer's yard not more than a quarter after the hour of eleven at night, bellowing at the top of his lungs that someone had been stealing his scrap. His monologue was soon arrested, however, by the obvious observation that the entirety of his pickings pile remained, including a large and new-made satchel, of good leather and fine manufacture, which sat in the shade of a large sheet of tin. Professing that it was not his, Morsman called to the idlers who congregated in the yard, issuing to ascertain whether it was the property of any of them. In his apparent desire to be rid of the satchel, as if it were not his own, he hastened about the yard and the bar, pushing it into the laps of any number of astonished persons, all of whom protested that they knew nothing of it, before pressing it back upon the distracted gosherd. Finally, in a strenuous tussle to be rid of Morsman's hectoring presence, one Dev Mecculf, a furrier of Vierre-y-Soud, caused the satchel to come open, whence spilled outward a horrifying panoply of distorted limbs and clotted blood. The disgust and fear of the inn's inhabitants at this fright can scarcely be described.

- - -Such was the general concern at this development that fully half of the patrons quit the establishment before beadles could be called. Morsman seemed dumbfounded by the contents of the satchel and cried out stuporously that they were 'not his arms, nor

his legs nor his satchel nor any of it his doing', much to the derision of the clientele and the beadles who soon arrived.

- - -The general consensus was that Morsman had committed a terrible crime under the influence of hot gin at some earlier time and hoped to be rid of the evidence in a particular secluded place but had panicked and abandoned this course when his mind was twisted by drink, hoping to be rid of the evidence through the baffling stratagem of handing off the satchel to another person as if it were their own property.

- - - Such, then, are the twisting and repugnant paths trodden by diseased minds, and such also is the deleterious impact of the gin trade upon the lower orders of our society, whose lack of moral fibre is now amplified by the availability of profuse and powerful spiritous liquors. It is the hope of the editors of this paper that action be taken by the present administration to arrest the spread of gin shops and sly stills in this city and throughout the Queen's Chain, before further outrages of this sort are perpetrated.

- - - The arms and organs contained in the satchel have not been identified as of this edition's going to press, but enquiries of a most vigorous nature are being made by the entirety of the Beadlerie and the Corps of Deacons, as to any persons whose recent disappearance might be explained by this ghastly escapade. As of this morning, our correspondence at the Tombs relate that Morsman remains a state of great disorder and distraction in his cell, saying nothing but that he knows not where the satchel came from and that he knows nothing of any crime. It is confidently expected by the editors of this paper that the energetic enquiries of Her Majesty's investigative forces, and the keen legal mind of Magistrate Ca Cha Rin, who is trying the case, will quickly put a lie to this assertion and lead to the rapid identification of the poor soul who has been the subject of this horrible crime. Proctor Precept Toxse of the Chanchette Beadlerie has expressly conveyed a desire for any information which might relate to this outrage, and may be met with

before ten in the morning on working days at the Clerk's Hall in Little Nibello Street.
- - - Lemon's Hill, Chanchette, This morning.

SMUGGLERS

The smugglers who have lately so vexed the public purse and Her Majesty's servants in the Board of Excise and Beadlerie have innovated succeeded in their immoral course through a willingness to innovate their practices so as to remain forever one hair's breadth ahead of the laws of this state. A correspondent highly placed in a Customs House in this division reports that the latest contrivance of these blackguards has been to follow their law abiding counterparts in the maritime trade by taking up the proliferating instruments of insurance presently being made available to ship owners and investors in trade throughout The Queen's Chain, La Rhenc and Tertsweigl. It is to the great shame of the counting houses of this state, so injured as it is by the smugglers' rich trade in unexcied goods and counterfeited luxuries, that they freely issue all manner of writs and understandings of commerce to ships' owners and captains of the blackest reputation, even those who are held in inquiry by our Courts of contest. It was only on the 12th of this season that Mlle. Dina Hutchkiste, a hellion of the lowest reputation, twice before sent up for smuggling and false commerce, was issued a writ of full indemnity by the firm of Grozen, Lew and Dickery, Notaries and Trustees of Bow Lane, over a cargo of tobacco for which it is understood that no papers of entry or seals and stamps of duties could be offered. This case is the subject of a strenuous suit by Mtre. Liovan Enwyld of the Beadlerie deputation for interencine crimes, at the Court of Injunctions in Beaux-Terre.

- - - Despicable and traitorous though such instruments may be, when issued by the great financial houses of the land, their perfidy is nothing to the widespread practice of Rhencher and Tertine banks and notaries in issuing insurances to the vessels of known Chanchierre smugglers, despite their never having called port along those institutions' own borders. Given the troubling aggressions

which have lately been perpetrated along the River Doe by forces of the so-called Rhenish League, it is much to be wondered at whether these bodies' assistance of a criminal trade so injurious to the public purse and morality of the Queen's Chain might constitute some act of war or a preparatory thereof. A correspondent highly placed within the Chancery Division for Strangers' Affairs at Lemon's Hill suggests that there is much speculation on the art of that division's Deacons on the possibility of smugglers ships being involved in some widespread movement of armaments to groups of criminals aiming to expand the influence of the so-called Rhenish League within the Rhenish speaking areas of the Queen's Chain, which abut the contested delta and banks of the Doe.

- - - As regards the implication of our native counting houses in the despicable trade of smuggling, it is to remembered that the arm of the Chancery and Speakers' Courts remains strong and it is entirely within the power of their agents to exert a stronger presence on the docks and waterways of the chain until such a time as the smuggling trade is eradicated. The party of the Second Part in the Speaker's Court, and the party of Monclere in the Court of Checkers have both moved strong motions calling for the deployment of Queen's Navy and Marine regiments along the Do river and on the coast between Tope Martin and the ancillary ports of Lemon's Hill, so as to support the Deaconry and Bealderie in their present well-intentioned but unsuccessful attempts to quell this noxious trade. The editorial board of this paper wholeheartedly endorses such action as a necessary preparation to a restoration of order along this state's troubled borders and a stabilisation of the Queen's Budget and our currency, all so odiously affected by this illegal traffic.
- - - The Editors

A DARING ROBBERY IN PAESIDE

It has been the cause of much bustle in lower Paeside this morning that a daring robbery was carried out on the premises of Teilher & Trenchers, dealers in fine manuscript, of

Seidhel

Street.

- - - It is understood by correspondence with a source highly placed in the Beadlerie that the premises of Teilher & Trenchers were entered by means of hatch in the roof, accessible only by roping down from the rear wall of the Foundation house which abuts the rear of the script dealers' house. M. Teilher, on arriving at his place of business, is understood to have found little disturbed in the showroom, where their most celebrated and popular works are held, but a great mess of disordered stock and smashed cabinetry in their closed stack, whence the theft is understood to have taken place. On inspecting the house, Teilher found the broken hatch and a rope hanging down from an iron ring drilled-fresh into the parapet high above. The dealers are understood to be working in company with the Beadlerie to ascertain which items are missing from their inventory and to ensure that none so taken are proffered on the legal market for antiquities.

- - - It must be remembered as an open secret, however, that a thriving market in improperly obtained rarities exists in this city, with tentacles of influence reaching into all the libraria and foundations of the land. Thus, too, it is to be wondered at what prize might have been taken, when six first-edition prints of Mlle. Deligiori's Empty City series were left framed in the showroom, and a sketch of the Black Horse aqueduct by Gorozin the Younger is thought to remain upon the wall in M. Trenchers' study.

- - - The great bustle of onlookers which has attended to this outrage against so established and romantic a firm as Teilher & Trenchers has entirely stopped up the roads of Paeside, between Makepeace Lane and Yippe's Lumber works, with the crowds only beginning to thin after enthusiastic and vigorous exhortations on the part of the Beadlerie, as this paper was committed to press.

- - - It is also whispered us by a contact in the Deaonry that many in the crowd may have been sympathetic to the cause of the Deanites, whose holy works, consisting largely in the writings and illustrations of Tannist monks

such as the celebrated illuminators Dorrec, Moffre, and Perront, are much trafficked in by manuscript dealers. It has long been a cause of sore feeling among the sect that their most precious texts are so scarcely available to their conclaves, being primarily held as artistic treasures by the great foundation houses and high families of the land. It was openly wondered-at by many of the loungers about the scene whether the crime might have been carried out by extreme adherents of the Deanite creed, rather than artrobbers. Investigations by the Beadlerie continue at the time of going to press and any information upon this case would be greatly received by the Investigating Officer Tuillen Au Frees, who may be reached through enquiry at any local station.

- - - Lemon's Hill, Chanchette, This Morning.

PERSONAL NOTICES

M. Friessel, of Rutledge Court, informs the paper that a band of unknown and disreputable persons has taken up residence in the disused almshouse at Haymaker's Lane, Lower Teeside, which they are now pleased to call the Sun Resplendent Meeting House and Singing Hall. Having set themselves up as some sort of charitable foundation, these persons have been the cause of much disgust on the part of the neighbourhood's respectable persons.

The concerned friends and relations of M. Willem Despuis, Forty-Fourth Viscount Marmerais, of Lemons Hill, write to communicate their distress at his recent and unexpected disappearance from the usual course of his life. They inform the paper that M. Despuis, a registrar in the Chanchierre Divisional Chancel at Lemons Hill, has not been seen at his office or met with by any of his associates for the entirety of this week now passed. Such an absence is without precedent in the young man's life, and though it may appear common in the course of things that a young man of twenty-nine might disappear for a few days of less-than-reputable enjoyment, such pursuit fall entirely outside the compass of M. Despuis' sober and reforming moral character. Any persons who have seen M.

Depuis since the 19th of Autumn, or who have information which may relate to his whereabouts, are asked to enquire at the Offices of the Divisional Chancel of Chanchette, Department for Strangers Affairs, asking particularly after M. Chief Registrar Tolliver Guylions.