

Mystery Derelict Found at Sea

Vigilant Arrives with Helpless Armed New Zealand Yacht in Tow.

ONE SURVIVOR AND DEAD MAN FOUND ABOARD.

Tale of Desperate Battle and Deaths at Sea.

Rescued Seaman Refuses Particulars of Strange Experience.

ODD IDOL FOUND IN HIS POSSESSION.

Inquiry to Follow.

SYDNEY, April 18.—The Morrison Co.'s freighter *Vigilant*, bound from Valparaiso, arrived this morning at its wharf in Darling Harbour, having in tow the battled and disabled but heavily armed steam yacht *Alert* of Dunedin, N. Z., which was sighted April 12th in S. latitude 34 21', W. longitude 152 17', with one living and one dead man aboard.

The *Vigilant* left Valparaiso March 25th, and on April 2d was driven considerably south of her course by exceptionally heavy storms and monster waves. On April 12th the derelict was sighted; and though apparently deserted, was found upon boarding to contain one survivor in a half-delirious condition and one man who had evidently been dead for more than a week.

The living man was clutching a horrible stone idol of unknown origin, about a foot in height, regarding whose nature authorities at Sydney University, the Royal Society, and the Museum in College Street all profess complete bafflement, and which the survivor says he found in the cabin of the yacht, in a small carved shrine of common pattern.

This man, after recovering his senses, told an exceedingly strange story of piracy and slaughter. He is Gustaf Johansen, a Norwegian of some intelligence, and had been second mate of the two-masted schooner *Emma* of Auckland, which sailed for Callao February 20th, with a complement of eleven men.

The *Emma*, he says, was delayed and thrown widely south of her course by the great storm of March 1st, and on March 22d, in S. latitude 49 51', W longitude 128 34', encountered the *Alert*, manned by a queer and evil-looking crew of Kanakas and half-castes. Being ordered peremptorily to turn back, Capt. Collins refused; whereupon the strange crew began to fire savagely and without warning upon the schooner with a peculiarly heavy battery of brass cannon forming part of the yacht's equipment.

The *Emma's* men showed fight, says the survivor, and though the schooner began to sink from shots beneath the waterline they managed to heave alongside their enemy and board her, grappling with the savage crew on the yacht's deck, and being forced to kill them all, the number being slightly superior, because of their particularly abhorrent and desperate though rather clumsy mode of fighting.

Three of the *Emma's* men, including Capt. Collins and First Mate Green, were killed; and the remaining eight under Second Mate Johansen proceeded to navigate the captured yacht, going ahead in their original direction



This strange idol found in the possession of the sailor rescued from the Alert, is now in the hands of scientists at the museum in Hyde Park.

to see if any reason for their ordering back had existed.

The next day, it appears, they raised and landed on a small island, although none is known to exist in that part of the ocean; and six of the men somehow died ashore, though Johansen is queerly reticent about this part of his story and speaks only of their falling into a rock chasm.

Later, it seems, he and one companion boarded the yacht and tried to manage her, but were beaten about by the storm of April 2d.

From that time till his rescue on the 12th, the man remembers little, and he does not even recall when William Briden, his companion, died. Briden's death reveals no apparent cause, and was probably due to excitement or exposure.

Cable advices from Dunedin report that the *Alert* was well known there as an island trader, and bore an evil reputation along the waterfront. It was owned by a curious group of half-castes whose frequent meetings and night trips to the woods attracted no little curiosity; and it had set sail in great haste just after the storm and earth tremors of March 1st.

Our Auckland correspondent gives the *Emma* and her crew an excellent reputation, and Johansen is described as a sober and worthy man.

The admiralty will institute an inquiry on the whole matter beginning tomorrow, at which every effort will be made to induce Johansen to speak more freely than he has done hitherto.

The Menace of Color

Prof. J. W. Gregory, in his latest work, *The Menace of Color* (Seeley, Service and Co.), has atoned for the libel he placed upon the core of this continent in titled a former book "The Dead Heart of Australia." "The Menace of Color" is a clear and temperate examination of the whole racial position, with a special reference to Australia.

Democratic countries cannot permanently keep in subjection other races unless they are on the lowest scale of civilisation. Every imperialism is making concessions to colored subjects. U. S. A. has practically abandoned the Philippines to its inhabitants except in the matter of defence and foreign policy. India has got a measure of home rule. The Dutch Indies have their local councils. The days of the dominant white in Asia are plainly numbered. In Africa the negro is rapidly increasing. The growth of populations there has passed almost unnoticed, but it is enormous. South Africa stands now as a white oasis in a black desert. Its case appears to be deperate, and nothing but heroic measures — and democracies seldom take heroic measures until it is too late — can prevent either a frightful collision or the voluntary abdication of the white. The heroic measure would be the creation of white reserves in which European standards might be preserved by tariff walls and the exclusion of the black. The rest of the continent is doomed to revert to the negro, who is learning under Mussulman imams his strength. South America is a half-caste continent. Here and there are little islands of pure-blooded Spaniards, and there are English and German colonies in the Argentine; but nine-tenths

of the rest of the population is colored, the proportion is on the increase, and there is a tendency to look towards China and Japan for immigration rather than to Europe. Asia, South America and Africa can therefore be ruled out as possible homes for a pure white race.

The case of North America is somewhat similar. Its twelve million negroes are on the increase. For many years the Southern white men were able to maintain their racial supremacy by force; but latterly a new and curious development has taken place. The scheme of transferring the entire negro nation to Africa having proved impossible, the Southern negro has taken his salvation into his own hands. He has started a movement north, where he can obtain better wages and a higher status. So rapid has been this movement and so disastrous to the South that many States have tried forcibly to prevent it, and in the North race riots, lynchings and Jim Crow legislation have met the exodus. Nevertheless assimilation is the only alternative to an upheaval which many observers consider imminent; but in the process North America will be turned, like South America, into a half-caste continent, with what effect nobody can foresee.

Europe remains the only country that seems reasonably secure against the menace of color; but even there mongrelisation has gone far around the shores of the Mediterranean, and France's disposition to raise black armies for service in Europe will help the process. Europe in any case is full. Australia is left as the only continent where the white race can expand its holding in the world; and it can only do so by mastering the problem of the

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