



# THE CRUTCH.

VOL. II. U. S. A. GENERAL HOSPITAL, DIV. NO. 1, ANNAPOLIS, MD., SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1865. NO. 64.

For the Crutch.

## Flogged through the Fleet.

BY SARAH H. POWELL.

Formerly, in the British Navy, it was the custom to flog seamen for any flagrant crime or misdemeanor. If this occurred while lying in harbor with other vessels belonging to Her Britannic Majesty, the seaman was often adjudged to receive a certain portion of the number of lashes to which he was sentenced, on board each vessel, in order that each crew might be duly impressed by witnessing the punishment; this was styled being 'flogged through the fleet.' The practice of flogging, has, however, been abolished many years, as it was invariably found that a man who had undergone this punishment became sullen and morose, the disgrace sinking deep in the heart of the poor victim.

Flogged through the fleet! ay! lay bare his back!  
As he steps from the gangway, let blood mark his track!  
The boatswain stands clearing his blood-dripping lash,  
And cuts with precision each blue livid gash.  
The victim scarce utters a sigh or a groan,  
Though the quivering flesh has been cut to the bone;  
But his glances down-cast not a comrade may meet—  
Manhood has died in him! flogged through the fleet!

Flogged through the fleet! If some hearts were laid bare,  
Think ye no marks of the 'lash' would be there?  
No festering wounds that are livid and sore,  
Because they are hidden deep, deep in its core?  
Ah! yes, when to wound open enmity falls,  
She employs secret calumny's 'cat o' nine tails.'  
And her lash is a soft purring whisper discreet,  
By which some hearts are ever being flogged through the fleet!

Flogged through the fleet! Oh! ye lone ones of earth!  
Ye wanderers afar from the land of your birth,  
At whom, because poor, and unfriended, unknown,  
Petty spite feels enabled to throw its small stone;  
Oh! wherever ye are, upon land or on sea,  
Down-trodden and crushed, ye are kindred to me!  
Reach your hands, Brothers—Sisters—each other we'll greet,  
For I, like yourselves, have been flogged through the fleet!

## Superstitions.

SIGNS, WONDERS AND TOKENS.

### Sneezing:—

If you sneeze on Monday, it indicates danger;  
Sneeze on Tuesday, you will meet a stranger;  
Sneeze on Wednesday, you will receive a letter;  
Sneeze on Thursday, you will get something better;  
Sneezing on Friday, indicates sorrow;  
Sneeze on Saturday, you will have a bean to-morrow.  
Sneeze before you eat, you will have company before you sleep;  
If you sneeze before you are dressed, you will see your bean before you go to rest.

**Fish and the Cat.**—If a cat washes her face, you will have company before night. If you dream you catch fish, it is a sign you will make a good bargain, according to the size of the fish.

**The Broom.**—If the broom is moved with the remainder of the household furniture, you will not be successful; but the broom must be burned while standing in the corner, being watched, to prevent the house taking fire.

**Knife and Fork.**—If you drop a fork, and it sticks in the floor and remains in a standing position, it is a sign a gentleman will call; but if a knife, a lady will call.

**Disappointment.**—When putting on your shoes and stockings, if you complete dressing one foot before commencing the other, it is a sign that you will be disappointed.

**Death in the Family.**—The breaking of a mirror by

any member signifies death in the family before the year closes.

**An Itching Foot.**—If the right foot itches on the bottom, you are going where you are wanted; if the left foot, where you will not be welcome.

**Marriage.**—If a young lady finds a four-leaved clover and puts it in her hair, the first young man she meets she will marry. If a lady dons a gentleman's hat, it is a sign she wants a kiss. If you swallow a chicken's heart whole, the first young man who kisses you, you will marry. If one sits on the table, it is a sign they wish to be married.

**Finger Nails.**—If you cut your finger nails on Monday without either speaking or thinking of a red fox's tail, you will have a present during the week.

**Another.**—If the nails be cut on Monday morning before eating, a present may be expected; but if while cutting you think of a white calf's tail, it will spoil the charm.

**Crossing Hands.**—If four persons accidentally cross hands when shaking, some one of the company will soon be married.

**An Itching Ear.**—If the left ear itch and burn, it is an indication that some one is speaking ill of you. If the right ear, that they are speaking well of you.

**The Dish-Cloth.**—If a dish-cloth be dropped when in use, it is a sign you will have company to dinner.

**Salt.**—If you spill salt, it is a sign there will be a quarrel in the family. But if a small portion of the salt thus spilled be cast into a fire, it is said to counteract the influence.

**The Moon.**—If you see the moon for the first time through glass, or through the tree-tops, it indicates that you will be unfortunate; but if you see it over the right shoulder, or directly in front, that you will be lucky.

**An Itching Hand.**—If the right hand itches, you will receive money; if the left, you will spend money. The letter R stands for receive: the letter L, for let go. If the right eye itches, it is a sign you will cry; if the left, you will laugh. R stands for roar, and L for laugh.

**An Itching Nose.**—So important is this sign that it has been poetized as follows:

'If the nose itches,  
The mouth's in danger;  
You will shake hands with a fool,  
Or kiss a stranger.'

**Sharp, Pointed, or Cutting.**—Present a friend with a knife, scissors, or needles, and they will cut your love or friendship.

**A Funeral.**—Should you, when on a pleasure excursion, meet a funeral procession, you will have no enjoyment that day.

**The Bridal Dress.**—Anything but white garments to be married in indicates bad luck for the bride, white being emblematic of innocence:

'They say that white  
Is a heavenly hue.'

Another has added:—

'It may be so,  
But the sky is blue.'

**Bad Luck.**—If you meet, when walking, a cross-eyed person, it indicates bad luck.

**The Chair.**—Whirling an empty chair indicates that a whipping is in store for the transgressor.

**The Cradle.**—To rock an empty cradle will give the baby the belly-ache.

**The Cat.**—If you are moving from one house to another, never take a cat with you, for she will surely bring bad luck to your new home, whereas she will add luck to the old house and those who move into it.

**Shoes and Dish-Water.**—Save the old shoes to throw after the carriage, when any of the family start on a journey; it will insure a safe return. Never let your dish-water come to a boil, as every bubble brings bad luck to the family.

**The Last Look.**—Never look after a friend who is leaving you until he is quite out of sight, or you may never see him or her again; but turn your eyes away while he or she is still visible, in order that he or she may return.

## Notes on Phrases.

I will end with a note or two on phrases very common down here, and what I thought an uncommon use of them. I said to an old negro whom I met in Alabama:—'Well, uncle, the rebels do not seem to like us Yankees very much.'

His whole face grinned.

'No, sah,' he said, 'they'se got no use for you.'

An Irish girl who married a rebel last winter, received a letter from him full of Southern boastings.

'If he writes another letter like that,' she quietly remarked, 'I'll have no use for him!'

'That's what's the matter,' is an astonishingly common phrase among our troops. It is brought into every sort of conversation—conscripted, sense or nonsense permitting. But the most comic use of it I ever heard was by an old Christian negro with whom I had a talk at Huntsville. He wished me to explain to him the different parties at the North, and I did so, as the different style of treatment of colored men by our troops rather confused his notions about our people. When I spoke of the old school abolitionists—how they struggled for years against great discouragements, but yet were never discouraged, he said:

'I knows one of them soon as I see him. He's jist like one of us! Dey wasn't put out 'case God was with them—that's what's the matter!'—*Army Letter.*

**His First Prize.**—Some time since a superannuated old commodore was placed in charge of one of our navy yards. One day a poor little fellow had just filled his basket with chips, as the gouty old commodore 'hove in sight,' and growled out:

'Drop that wood, you young rascal! Drop it I say!'

A chase ensued. The boy was small, and his load heavy, and presently the old commodore, puffing and blowing, seized the boy by the collar. Jumping away, and dumping the chips at his feet, the boy exclaimed:—

'Take it, you darned old skinflint; it's the first prize you ever took in your life.'

'My boy, might I inquire where Crossman & Co.'s drug store is?' Urchin (very respectfully) 'Certainly, sir.' Old gent, (after waiting awhile) 'Well, sir, where is it?' Urchin, 'Havn't the slightest idea, yer honor.'