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# The Lookout

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**NEW BUILDING**

Now being erected

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**THE SEAMEN'S CHURCH INSTITUTE OF NEW YORK**  
**ONE STATE STREET**

## AN APPEAL

**W**E HAVE begun to build our new home—a twelve-story, fireproof structure that will be a model of its kind for all the world.

We have begun to build, although a portion of the money required has not yet been subscribed. The success of our work demands it. We believe it to be our duty to our subscribers.

To gather up the residue of a large fund like this would be an arduous task were the circumstances less favorable. Subscriptions to this fund have been accompanied almost invariably by a very genuine interest in the success of the undertaking and a pride in its future. A very pleasant and confidential relation seems to exist, and where the supporters of a society have its welfare so genuinely at heart, it is incredible that the work of gathering up the remnant should be unduly difficult.

We appeal, therefore, to the supporters of the Institute to continue their activities and generousities until the entire fund is completed. We appeal to those who have not contributed to join us in making this great work an unprecedented success.

Will you not aid us by bringing this work to the notice of your friends—personal contact is always helpful—in order that we may proceed with the building, assured that the money will be on hand to pay for it when it is finished?

Subscriptions, payable any time during 1912, should be sent to Edmund L. Baylies, Chairman Building Committee, 54 Wall Street, City.

# THE LOOKOUT

Published by the Seamen's Church Institute of New York

RT. REV. DAVID H. GREER, D.D., LL.D., President

FRANK T. WARBURTON, Secretary-Treasurer

OFFICE, ONE STATE STREET, NEW YORK

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No. 10

## The Wreck of the "Virginia"

Ted was his name and he was a sailor—not a seaman only but a real sailor—who had been taken from a shipwrecked schooner which came to grief between Spain and Newfoundland. One of the Institute staff brought him up to the office of the building department the other day that he might tell his story of the wreck. It went very much like this, with the Norwegian dialect omitted:

"Well, you see, we left Cadiz the first of November for St. John's, Newfoundland. There were six hands and the captain and cook. We had no proper provisions—just about a barrel and a half of flour, one barrel of salt meat and maybe a couple of cans of coffee. The captain should have seen the vessel was seaworthy, but he did not, and when about three days out the chain-plates broke and then the jib-boom broke and we were thirty-two hours lashing that fast. We were then near the Azores—what we call the Western Islands—and we could have turned in at St. Michael's to get repaired and get provisions; but the captain—he would not. Then a gale came up and the topsail yard broke in two pieces. We were then rigged like a brigantine instead of a fore-and-aft schooner. And we found she was leaking badly. We kept on pumping and pumping, the mate and me one watch and then three in the other watch. Then the captain he say to me, he say:

"Go down and get a cup of coffee."

I thought it strange but I went, and then he said:

"Come on and have a meal. You got to take the wheel after eight o'clock and I'll go below and see where she is leaking."

"So I have a couple of slices of bread and then I go back pumping. A north-west gale sprang up and the rigging was carried away. By and bye the captain found where the leak was while I took the wheel. Then he came and said we would put back to the Azores Island. I said:

"I guess it is pretty near time."

"The cook was ill. We were thirty-seven days on that voyage and the cook was sick thirty-six. He was an old man and had no cooking gear."

"Well, it blew and blew and I goes up in the ladder and we lowered the foresail. Then suddenly everything came down. The captain's face was white like a little moon! He took out an old tomahawk and cut the stays and laniers and the rigging. Then we were laying like a log about 240 miles from New Foundland, 400 miles to Western Islands. We had about eight or nine feet of mainsail and I got an old gallant yard and made a stern sail. Then we had two-hour watches looking out for steamer. We did not expect any liners. We were down to a biscuit a man and a half tumbler water a day. The captain had a cargo of figs and grapes but he would not let us have any. Oh, no! we could

starve to death. He was a hard man but me—he never called me out a name.

“One morning we saw a passenger steamer and we signalled her. There was a northwest gale springing up and, anyhow, maybe she could not get near us or maybe she did not see us. She passed. The gale blew two and a half days and then calmed. We made a kerosene torch. Then a boat came very near us. I could see the clock in her cabin. She could see plain that we were wrecked, but she passed us. I said:

“‘Isn’t she going to pick us up?’”

“‘No,’ says the captain; ‘she is going to let us face a hard death here, men.’”

“Two days later we sighted a vessel and one of the men used signal flags. She came up alongside and said did we want to be taken off. We said we did. The captain says to the man who signalled: ‘You going to leave the ship?’”

“‘Yes.’”

“Then the captain went into the fore-castle. The mate was patching a pair of pants. ‘You want to leave the *Virginia*?’ asked the captain.

“‘No,’ said the mate; ‘I will stick to her.’”

“Then the captain spoke a true word:

“‘I am going to leave, anyhow.’”

“So we got ready to leave. I went into the fore-castle for my bag and one of the men was there with the torch still in his hand. A big can of kerosene stood nearby and when the boat lurched I says to him to be careful with the torch; but suddenly he threw the torch down into the upset oil and in a minute the whole fore-castle was ablaze. When we got on the other ship we look back, and the *Virginia* was burning well.

“Then we landed at Kingston, Jamaica, and went to the sailors’ home, and the superintendent got clothes for us

from the British Consul. A Royal Mail steam packet brought us to New York.

“I have my case with the Legal Aid Society now to collect my pay, the money for the lost clothing and for not having food. Meantime I stay over at ‘Breakwater’ and they very nice to me.”

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### Sleeping on the Floor

At five o’clock on one of the coldest of those frigid January afternoons, nineteen men arrived at the British Consul’s office, which adjoins the State Street Station. They had been in a shipwreck just off Wilmington, Delaware, and had been sent up to the Consul in New York to be taken care of. The office was closed for the day and the men came into the Institute. There was but one thing we could do for them, so we sent them over to the “Breakwater,” our hotel at 19 Atlantic avenue, Brooklyn. It was already overcrowded, but not wishing to be inhospitable, they took the nineteen Brit-ishers in and made them as comfortable as possible. Fifteen were compelled to sleep on mattresses on the dining-room floor that night.

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### We Need Comfort Bags

There is a great demand for comfort bags, so great, in fact, that we are unable to supply all the men who ask for them. These are made of stout canvas and will last many years, as is shown by one which was brought in by a seaman last week. This man, who had his extra master’s certificate, had had the bag for nine years and some of the original materials were still in use. If there are any readers of THE LOOKOUT who do not know how to make and fill one of these bags, please write to the Editor and directions will be sent.

## Diverse Incidents

### AN ENGLISH BUTLER

There is seldom any occasion to complain of monotony in the work at One State street. If the old adage about variety be true, then surely is life well spiced down here.

For instance, in the Superintendent's office is waiting a man who wanted a position as a butler. He has been employed in the families of royalty, has satisfactory credentials, an unsurpassed English accent and unimpeachable "side whiskers." He came to America in the steerage and after passing the Ellis Island authorities was turned over to the City Mission chaplain, who is supposed to be responsible for him until he gets a job.

Now, the City Mission has no hotel or lodging house, so it would have had to send the man to a Mills Hotel, but the chaplain decided in favor of the "Breakwater"; and Mr. Mansfield was asked to help the man secure a position. He will report here every day until he finds work.

This is interesting because, of course, "butlering" has nothing in particular to do with work for seamen, but it shows how many different kinds of things come to us. Whenever the City Mission gets stowaways from Ellis Island, they come to us and, if they can prove they are sailors, we get them employment through our Shipping Bureau.

### A SICK BABY

Then the other morning a letter came from a woman in great distress about her three-months-old child, who was dying from the want of proper nourishment. Her husband is a captain whom the Institute has helped, and while he sends her two-thirds of his meagre wages, she is unable to procure the spe-

cial kind of attention her baby needs. She appealed desperately to the Chaplain to help her and a trained nurse was sent to inquire into the case. The mother is an intelligent woman, but has been unable to earn any money while caring for the child.

### A PAWN TICKET

One intensely cold afternoon last week a man came into the office and asked to borrow \$1.80. He said he wanted to go to Quebec that night and he had all the money for his ticket but the amount asked for. His claim upon us lay in the fact that he was a seaman who had lived at the "Breakwater" from time to time and had on a previous occasion borrowed 75 cents from the Institute which he had paid back. Unable to secure work on a vessel, he had the promise of an indoor job at Quebec if he could get there immediately. And to prove his sincerity of purpose, he adduced as evidence a pawn ticket for his overcoat on which he had raised \$3.40. His only protection against the biting cold was a frayed sweater, and, influenced partly by his very real need and by a belief that he would return the loan as he promised, the Institute worker gave him \$1.80.

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## The Superintendent's House

This Society has been able to secure a house on Davis avenue, Castleton, S. I., occupying a plot about 100 by 220 feet for the use of the Superintendent. It was able to purchase this house at a very reasonable sum and it is distinctly an economic procedure, since it ultimately will be much cheaper than paying the rental of a house as has been the Society's custom in the past.

This matter was reported upon at the monthly meeting of the Board of Managers February 7.

## THE LOOKOUT

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NOTE—Address all communications to  
ARCHIBALD R. MANSFIELD, Superintendent

### Building Developments

#### THE CORNER-STONE

The design for the corner-stone in the new building has been submitted. It will be a very simple decoration, consisting of the seal of the Society, which is a cross with an anchor at its base and a tiny ship in the background. Encircling this is the inscription, "Anchored Within the Vail." The seal will be in the upper corner of the stone and in the lower will be the Roman numerals MDCDXII. The stone will be made of granite and be surrounded by terra cotta. The terra cotta to be used on the new building is to be a buff color.

#### STEEL WORK

Inclement weather delayed the work of the Foundation Company in January, but they have entirely finished now and have removed all their machinery. The Eastern Steel Company has installed its plant for the construction of the framework and already the grillage beams are set and twenty of the twenty-four columns in the sub-cellar are in place. As soon as the steel work comes to the street level it will shoot up rapidly.

#### BRICK TO BE USED.

The general color effect of the brick used in the new building will be a sort of maroon—a very deep, purplish red. The brick will have a rough rather than a smooth or polished surface and give a suggestion of uncut plush, according to the architects' latest report. This should

develop a most exquisite finish and add greatly to the beauty of the entire structure.

### Large Rooms Taken

Eight of the large rooms in the new building, in addition to the Chapel, have been reserved. They are:

SITTING ROOM—\$10,000.

(About 35 x 86 feet, with mezzanine floor)

Taken by Mr. Lisenard Stewart.

READING ROOM—\$5,000.

(About 54 x 60 feet)

Taken by Messrs. Wheaton B. Kunhardt, Henry R. Kunhardt and Mrs. E. Walpole Warren. *In Memoriam, Henry Rudolph Kunhardt.*

OFFICERS' READING AND GAME ROOM—\$2,000.

(About 25 x 50 feet)

Taken by members of the Produce and Maritime Exchanges as a memorial to the late Philip Ruprecht.

APPRENTICE ROOM—\$2,000.

(About 26 x 46 feet)

Taken by the Seamen's Benefit Society.

OFFICERS' DINING ROOM—\$1,000.

(18 feet long, 32 feet wide)

Taken by Hon. George Peabody Wetmore.

PUBLIC READING ROOM—\$2,000.

(104 x 20 feet)

Taken anonymously.

AUDITORIUM—\$5,000.

(About 50 x 70 feet)

Taken anonymously. Donor to be announced later.

SHIPPING BUREAU—\$2,000.

(About 35 feet square)

Taken by James N. Jarvie.

CHAPEL—\$15,000.

(About 47 x 55 feet; 18-foot ceiling)

Reserved for the churches.

The following churches have contributed the amounts set opposite their names:

St. George's .....	\$500.00
Trinity Church .....	500.00
St. Thomas' .....	500.00
Zion and St. Timothy's.....	500.00
Incarnation .....	500.00
Ascension .....	500.00
Heavenly Rest .....	500.00
Grace Church .....	500.00
St. Bartholomew's .....	500.00
Church of the Epiphany.....	500.00
St. James' .....	500.00
Trinity Chapel .....	500.00
St. Agnes' Chapel.....	400.00
Grace (Brooklyn).....	310.00
Holy Trinity (Brooklyn).....	300.00
Holy Trinity (Harlem).....	300.00
All Angels .....	300.00
St. Mary the Virgin.....	250.00
St. Matthew's .....	200.00
St. Andrew's (Harlem).....	160.00
Holy Apostles .....	150.00
Beloved Disciple .....	100.00
St. John's (Jersey City).....	100.00
St. Peter's .....	100.00
St. Michael's .....	100.00
Cathedral of the Incarnation.....	100.00
St. Ignatius' .....	100.00
Calvary Church .....	100.00
St. Luke's .....	100.00
St. Paul's Chapel.....	100.00
St. Andrew's (Richmond, S. I).....	50.00
St. Augustine's Chapel (Trinity Parish) .....	50.00
Christ Church, Suffern, N. Y.....	100.00
Grace Church, Rutherford, N. J.....	25.00
All Souls' Church.....	15.00

Total .....\$9,510.00

**Large Rooms Not Reserved**

Four rooms besides the dormitories have not been taken as yet. It is a splendid opportunity for those wishing to contribute large sums to the new building to have their gifts permanently memorialized. Others may wish to memorialize friends or relatives by taking these rooms in their names. The remaining rooms are as follows:

SAVINGS DEPARTMENT—\$1,500.

The seamen deposit their savings with us to the extent of \$135,000 annually.

GAME ROOM—\$5,000.

(About 54 x 60 feet)

Away from home, the men of the sea are dependent upon such recreation as they can find; if not here, in some less elevating place.

DINING ROOM—\$3,000.

(About 30 x 46 feet in size)

Where good meals will be served at reasonable prices to the seamen lodging in the Institute.

MAIN STAIRCASE—\$3,500.

(Running from basement to 4th floor)

It introduces the seaman to the Institute and to the hospitality of the port.

THREE DORMITORIES AT \$1,000 EACH.

(On fifth floor)

Where men may secure a night's lodging, under sanitary conditions, for ten or fifteen cents.

**\$100 Will Furnish a Bedroom**

In the revised plans it is found that there will be exactly 390 of the small bedrooms. Of these, 185 have been taken, leaving a balance of 205 to be reserved. \$100 will build and furnish a bedroom. And past experience has proved that during a year one hundred men may each occupy one of these rooms. For *one hundred dollars* one hundred men may come under the Institute's influence and receive, in some measure surely, that cheerful sense of welcome and comfort which the word "home" implies.

**Dormitories at \$1,000 Each**

The open dormitories, with beds at fifteen or twenty cents a night, on the fifth floor, were referred to in the December LOOKOUT. It is found that there will be room for twenty-five men in each dormitory. They will be furnished some-

what better than the average lodging-house and will be kept scrupulously clean. So many forlorn derelicts have applied to the Institute for a bed on a night of penetrating cold and we have been forced simply to send them down to the Salvation Army Hotel. As was stated last month, stairways have been arranged in the rear so that the men may go to the dormitories without entering the part of the fifth floor devoted to the regular guests.

Would any of the LOOKOUT readers like to take one of the Dormitories? \$1,000 will build and furnish one of these.

### Two Sitting Rooms at \$500 Each

On the top floor there will also be the study for the Assistant Superintendent. The cost of building and furnishing this is estimated at \$500. This room will be a most important feature of the entire scheme, for it will be here that the men will come to talk about their personal problems, to seek assistance which is not physical; and it is believed that much of the vitally important work will be planned in this small study.

The sitting room for the staff is to be on the top floor also. This room will probably serve as a committee room and reception room; it will be useful for private interviews and for all the unforeseen contingencies which constantly arise in a work of this character. \$500 will build and furnish this room.

### Large Bedrooms at \$250

As the plans for the interior of the new building take final shape it is found that there will be 51 large outside rooms for the use of the officers who come to the Institute; the better class of seamen, the stewards, expert engineers and boat-

swains; and the members of the Institute staff.

The furniture design will not have quite the same Spartan simplicity as that in the seamen's rooms, and there will probably be the addition of a chiffonier or a chest of drawers. The cost of building and furnishing one of these rooms is estimated at \$250. Any person wishing to contribute this amount may take an officer's or other room as a memorial to a friend or relative. A brass plate bearing the name of the donor, or an inscription containing the name of the person memorialized, will be placed over the door, if desired.

### "Coals of Fire"

A great many seamen are coming to No. 1 State street to ask for clothing in order that they may accept berths which they have obtained from union delegates and shipping masters in this neighborhood. The Superintendent has told them that if they will bring written orders from the union halls or shipping masters, we will do what we can to help them. Here is a letter which was presented by one applicant. It is on the letterhead of the Atlantic Coast Seamen's Union.

"This is to certify that Charles Swanson is an able seaman, that he has a chance to ship as such on the schooner *Sunlight*, but that he has no clothes nor the necessary outfit of a seaman to go to sea on this coast in this weather."

From the same society comes this:

"This is to guarantee that bearer is personal known to this Organization, and a seaman for many Years, we would have been able to send him to Sea many a time, as we have many a chances, but he stated that it was impossible to ship on account that he had no outfit, to protect himself. Whenever he has the



necessary outfit we will see to it that he will get a Vessel immediately."

And from another source:

"The bearer, Waldemer Olsen, whom I have now shipped as Cook, is destitute and has got no clothes. I would be rather oblige if you would help him out so as he can go on board."

Much animosity toward the work of the Institute's Free Shipping Bureau has been displayed by shipping masters; many of our competitors have been strongly inimical, seeking to injure us at every possible chance. But they are learning gradually that it is to the Institute they must appeal when they desire aid for many of the men they wish to employ. One is reminded a little of the Biblical injunction, quotation from which heads this narrative.

### Not Afraid of Pirates

We recently received a letter from an old New Yorker who desired to take one of the Memorial Bedrooms. He writes that he is the only great-grandson of one of the sea captains of Southampton, Long Island, well known in the eighteenth century, and mentions an interesting incident in his life, as follows:

"He was one of the finest swearers and finest sea captains who ever trod a deck; and one who, when overhauled by pirates, boarded alone the pirate ship from his own gig, went alone to their captain's cabin, drank the captain's wine, and then proceeded to tell this same pirate captain what he thought of him in such forceful language that he departed not only from the deck unmolested, but, on boarding his own ship, hoisted his sails and sailed away. A man who, though he stood over six feet tall, was as quick as a cat, with a voice like thunder (he never used a trumpet), and

a presence that made all tremble;—yet who, in his home, was a model for anyone. All this is absolutely true, for it was told me by my grandmother, his daughter, who naturally remembers him well."

### The Albatross' Foot

Tristan de Cuna is an island just on the edge of the world. At least, that is what one of the apprentice boys told us the other day. He had been on a sailing ship which was marooned there and he brought back a little tobacco pouch made by the natives. It was made of the skin of the foot of an albatross and the top edged with a narrow band of red plaid. There are no shops at Tristan de Cuna and the people save little bits of cloth and odd scraps of yarn which they obtain whenever vessels land there. These odd bits they painstakingly fashion into little bags and cases. The string which drew together the top of the tobacco pouch was made of yarn—four colors carefully braided together.

### Our Contemporary Comments

The editor of the *Great Commission*, Rev. Melville K. Bailey, has written the following letter to THE LOOKOUT:

"If you could supply me with a set of diocesan stories as diverting as the sailor's yarn about 'Nature's Sun-Dial' in the January number of THE LOOKOUT, the mails would be choked! What's the matter with building twelve churches around the Cathedral?

"Yours delightedly."

The *Great Commission* under Mr. Bailey's editorship has become a very live diocesan magazine. In its March or April issue it will publish a cut of the Institute's new building with a full description.

### North River Station Notes

#### ENTERTAINING THE SEAMEN.

The concert party of the *Adriatic* entertained us when that ship was last at her pier. It was, most unfortunately, one of the coldest nights we have had this winter, but the auditorium was well filled, many of the men having walked twenty or thirty blocks in order to hear the music and recitations. This very wholesome desire for amusement is being encouraged along the right direction, instrumental and vocal music being provided whenever there is the opportunity.

On the *Laurentic* is an orchestra of nine pieces, and they gave a concert at the North River Station the last of January. A short service preceded the musicale.

Whenever the *Laurentic* is in port the purser, Mr. C. B. Rogers, comes to read the lesson at the Church of the Holy Comforter. He has a clear diction combined with a splendid presence, and his reading always gives much pleasure. The men cannot fail to be influenced by this example of a fellow seaman who so willingly gives his services during his stay ashore.

#### COMFORT BAGS, CLOTHING AND SHOES.

Many requests for comfort bags have been declined this month because the stock was so low. Elsewhere in THE LOOKOUT is a reference to these very practical and important articles. Old or second-hand clothing is needed greatly, but especially do we require shoes. So many men come into the station with their feet absolutely exposed to the freezing cold, and often we have no shoes to give them. We shall be grateful for them.

### Boys and Their Problems

How to help the vacillating youth who cannot decide to remain at sea and who is not contented on shore is one of the Institute's large problems. A letter from the Borstal Association in London, an organization similar to our New York Prison Association, states an interesting case.

A lad, who had just served a twelve-months' term for burglary, was discharged from H. M. Borstal Institution near Rochester over a year ago. His father could not receive him, and as he expressed a desire to go to sea, he was sent to the Shipping Home at Cardiff and sailed for Australia as cook's mate on a freighter. Eight months later he deserted in Sydney because (he wrote the Borstal people) his wages were too low, and secured work in a brass foundry. He now writes them from Valparaiso that he is on board the S. S. *Lodorer* as O. S., bound for New York, where he will be paid off. He is most anxious to get work ashore in England and urges them to find him a place. Their letter to us continues:

"Trade generally here is in a very depressed condition and we are advising the boy to keep to the sea. We should be very grateful if you could look him up for us when his ship reaches port and endeavor to persuade him to take our advice, and if you can do anything to help him get another ship we shall be happy to defray any expenses you may incur."

When the ship arrives the Institute worker will see the lad and try to use just the kind of argument that shall convince him of the wise course to pursue.

## REPORT FOR DECEMBER

### DEPARTMENT REPORTS FOR DECEMBER

The following synopsis of the work done in the various departments during the month of December gives a fair idea of the workings of the Institute:

DECEMBER, 1911

#### *Savings Department*

December 1, cash on hand.....	\$14,279.57
Deposits.....	10,331.01

\$24,610.58

Payments, (\$3,326.21 transmitted) ..	9,303.31
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January 1, balance.....	\$15,307.27
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#### *Shipping Department*

Number of vessels shipped entire by Seamen's Church Institute.....	18
Number of men provided with employment in port.....	63
Number of men shipped.....	191
Total (number of men).....	254

#### *Reading Room*

Total attendance.....	19,051
Letters written and received.....	3,164
Packages reading given.....	983

#### *Relief Department*

Assisted.....	172
Sent to Legal Aid Society.....	38
Hospital visits.....	17
Visits to ships in port.....	113

#### *Religious and Social Departments*

Number of services.....	15
Attendance total.....	732
Communion services.....	4

#### *Institute Boat "Sentinel"*

Trips made.....	38
Visits to vessels.....	77
Men transported.....	162
Pieces baggage transported.....	257

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