



**Volume XXXVI**

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**SORROW ON THE SEA**—Little know we what sorrow may be upon the sea at this moment. We are safe in our quiet chamber, but far away on the salt sea the hurricane may be cruelly seeking for the lives of men. Hear how the death fiends howl among the cordage; how every timber starts as the waves beat like battering rams upon the vessel! God help you, poor drenched and wearied ones! My prayer goes up to the great Lord of sea and land, that He will make the storm a calm, and bring you to your desired haven! Nor ought I to offer prayer alone, I should try to benefit those hardy men who risk their lives so constantly. Have I ever done anything for them? What can I do? How often does the boisterous sea swallow up the mariner! Thousands of corpses lie where pearls lie deep. There is death-sorrow on the sea, which is echoed in the long wail of widows and orphans. The salt of the sea is in many eyes of mothers and wives. Remorseless billows, ye have devoured the love of women, and the stay of households. What a resurrection shall there be from the caverns of the deep when the sea gives up her dead! Till then there will be sorrow on the sea. As if in sympathy with the woes of earth, the sea is forever fretting along a thousand shores, wailing with a sorrowful cry like her own birds, booming with a hollow crash of unrest, raving with uproarious discontent, chafing with hoarse wrath, or jangling with the voices of ten thousand murmuring pebbles. The roar of the sea may be joyous to a rejoicing spirit, but to the son of sorrow the wide, wide ocean is even more forlorn than the wide, wide world. This is not our rest, and the restless billows tell us so. There is a land where there is no more sea—our faces are steadfastly set towards it; we are going to the place of which the Lord hath spoken. Till then, we cast our sorrows on the Lord who trod the sea of old, and who maketh a way for His people through the depths thereof. *"...there is sorrow on the sea; it cannot be quiet"* Jeremiah 49:23. *"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea"* Revelation 21:1. —C.H. Spurgeon

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**SHAKE A LEG**—"Shake a leg" supposedly derives from the Royal Navy, as this was the order given to sailors to put a foot on the floor from their hammock, and fast. I remember working on a shrimp trawler years ago and the captain would come on the back deck and observe our work in separating a couple of tons of seafood product (rather slowly to him), and he would say, "Boys, you had better 'shake a leg' and get this product off the deck." I didn't quite understand what shaking my leg would do to expedite my work, but I did read between the lines....JUST HURRY UP!

**"...a net...cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind." Matthew 13:47**

**Number 1**

From my early years I caught myself using the expression. Many times I yelled at my sister to "shake a leg" or we will miss the bus. Then to my wife to "shake a leg" with that meal (or I've got to go, or I'll miss my flight). I believe now you have got my drift, so how would this apply to us spiritually?

For the unsaved he had better "shake a leg" when it comes to the matter of salvation. 2 Corinthians 6:2, *"...now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation"*.

For the believer, he too better "shake a leg". 1 Samuel 21:8, *"...the king's business required haste."* Ephesians 5:14, *"...Awake thou that sleepest..."*. Facing 2020 requires of all of us that we "shake a leg".

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**CHECK THE BAROMETER**—There is an old publication from 1857 called *"The Barometer and Weather Guide"*. In the *"First Report of the Committee on Shipwrecks (1843)"* on pages 1-3, the following evidence was printed by order of the House of Commons:

*"I think that the neglect of the use of the barometer has led to the loss of many ships. From a want of attention to the barometer, they have either closed the land (if at sea), or have put to sea (being in harbour in safety) at improper times; and in consequence of such want of precaution, the ships have been lost, owing to bad weather coming on suddenly, which might have been avoided had proper attention been paid to that very simple instrument. While alluding to the use of barometers, I may remark that if such weather-glasses were put in charge of the Coast Guard, at the principal stations round the coast, so placed as to allow anyone passing by to look at them, they might be the means, not only of preventing ships from going to sea just before bad weather was coming in, but of preventing the great losses of life which take place every year on our coasts (particularly in the Orkney Islands and on the coasts of Scotland and Ireland), owing to fishing vessels and boats going to sea when bad weather is impending. No bad weather ever comes on our coasts without timely warning being given by the barometer. The oldest seamen are often deceived by the look of the weather, but there is no instance on record of very bad weather, such as would have involved loss of life to the extent we have heard of in several years, having come on without the barometer having given timely warning. By the very small expense of an establishment of barometers, so placed as to be accessible to any fisherman, boatman, or others on the coasts, much loss of life, as well as loss of boats, and even shipping, might be prevented..."*

The barometer is still used today, and you will find it in the pilot house of most large vessels, commercial or recreational. It is even found in the homes of many

who live close to the sea.

The Bible stands as our spiritual barometer. A failure to read its forecasts have spelled destruction for many a person. Why would someone risk traveling the dangerous waters of life without God? The adversary, Satan, is out to bring the most wicked weather to sink the souls of men. The Bible clearly informs on the enemy and his tactics and always provides a way of safe navigation. Look at THE BOOK often; you can depend upon its readings. Psalm 119:105, *“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”*

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**HE BRINGETH THEM**—I remember the first time I came down the St. Lawrence. As the Long Sault Rapids hove in sight, all the passengers were intently looking at the rushing foaming waters in the distance. Soon the boat was brought to a stand and a man taken on board. He was an Indian, a man about fifty-five, stalwart and strong, and, I believe, the only pilot that had ever attempted to steer a vessel through those raging waters. I watched him with peculiar interest, as he put his hands upon the wheel and pointed the boat toward the rapids. With hands busily plying the wheel at times, and his eyes riveted upon some object before him, he held the great vessel steady to its course; and as we were flying, with almost the rapidity of thought, I beheld little more than an arm’s length from the vessel, huge rocks protruding out of the water. I thought, *“He bringeth them”*. Jesus, the great Pilot desires to come on board. You may be nearing agitated waters and dangerous rapids, which will wreck you forever without His guidance. Psalm 107:28, *“Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses.”*—T.Kelly

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**GRAND THEFT SHRIMP**—On Wednesday, December 4, 2019, at approximately 12:30 pm, Riverside Police officers (California) responded to the Vans Grocery Store located at 3520 Riverside Plaza Drive, regarding a theft. When officers arrived they learned a male suspect had entered the business three times within a time span of fifteen minutes. Each time the suspect entered, he proceeded to the frozen seafood section and then concealed numerous bags of frozen SHRIMP in his pants. A total of 30 bags of frozen shrimp were stolen with a combined retail value of over \$500. The man was an adult white male, about 50-60 years old, grey hair, approximately 5’10” tall and between 160-180 pounds. He was last seen wearing blue jeans, navy sweater, and a tan jacket. I thought you might get a kick out this one. Wonder if his wife was happy to see him? I would strongly not recommend eating his gumbo or shrimp scampi!

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**ROPED FRIENDS**—A story is told of a missionary physician in one of China’s hospitals who had successfully removed a man’s cataracts. A few weeks later 48 blind men came to the doctor from one of China’s provinces, all holding onto a rope guided by the man who could now see. He had led them in this way, walking in a chain for over 250 miles to the hospital.

This reminds me of many who are fumbling through the night when the gospel rope (so to speak) is available to them if they would only believe in the heavenly doctor who could cure them.

2 Corinthians 4:4 *“In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”*

Acts 26:17, 18 *“Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee. To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.”*

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**THE LOOSE ENDS**—On old sailing ships, hundreds of ropes went everywhere. One job was to always not allow any of these ropes to unravel. In doing so they would become a tangled, unorganized mess and be dangerous. The mark of a good captain was seen in always neatly tying ends. You could tell an inefficient and disorganized ship by its number of loose ends.

That is good advice for us landlubbers also. An old expression *“tie up the loose ends”* shows a bit of wisdom. Isaiah 33:23, *“Thy tacklings are loosed; they could not well strengthen their mast, they could not spread the sail: then is the prey of a great spoil divided; the lame take the prey.”*

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**TURN A BLIND EYE**—Meaning: To ignore something. Captain Horatio Nelson of the British Navy was blind in one eye. In 1801, he was part of a force attacking French troops in Copenhagen, Denmark. As the tide of battle turned, the command ship signaled for Nelson to withdraw, but Nelson wanted to continue fighting. When he was told that his commander was signaling, Nelson held his telescope up to his sightless eye and declared that he could not see any signal. He continued his attack and won.

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### FISHY SAYINGS

- There are two types of fishermen; those who fish for sport and those who fish for fish.
- Most fishermen only disturb the water.
- Fish and you will receive.
- Spare the rod; spoil the day.
- Fishing definition—trying to outwit an organism with a brain no bigger than a breadcrumb and losing.
- If you want to catch more fish, use more hooks.
- To taste right, fish must swim in water, then batter, then grease.
- It’s “fish o’clock” somewhere.
- Gotta hook ‘em and cook ‘em.
- Guests and fish smell after three days.
- There’s always a new place to go fishing.
- Don’t tell fish stories where people know you.
- It’s not caught until it is in the boat.
- Where did Jesus find his followers? Not college, but an old fishing boat.

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Please tell all your friends that they can read THE CAST NET online at fomm.org. Still enjoy putting it together; let us hear!