

THE STRANGE STORY

Told By Miss Eva Jewell and Samuel Thornton.

SEQUEL TO THEIR DISAPPEARANCE.

Supposed to Have Been Drowned While Bathing at Coney Island,

THEY TURN UP IN FLORIDA

And are Fully Identified by Brooklyn Relatives.

ALLEGED THRILLING ADVENTURE.

They Claim That While Bathing They Were Swept Out to Sea and Picked Up by a Spanish Vessel and Landed on the Florida Coast, Hundreds of Miles Away, in Nothing But Their Bathing Suits--But Circumstances Come to Light That Point to an Elopement and Their Story is Disbelieved--A First Class Social Sensation May be the Result--One of the Strangest Stories on Record.

New York, Sept. 24.--Did Samuel W. Thornton, of No. 277 Cumberland street, Brooklyn, and his sister-in-law, Miss Eva Jewell, elope, or is it true, as they claim, that they were carried out to sea while bathing at Coney Island, picked up by a Spanish vessel and landed on the Florida coast? This is the question that is agitating the minds of their friends. If their own story is true they are the hero and heroine of one of the strangest adventures on record, and their experience would form the basis of a thrilling novel. But there are some circumstances which seem to point to the fact that they eloped and had left their clothing in the bath house at Coney Island to make it appear that they had been drowned. Winding up in Florida without money, they desired to return home, and Mr. Thornton being a married man, invented the story above referred to.

The case is certainly a mysterious one and is one of the most interesting social sensations that have come to light for a long while. It is the talk of Brooklyn. The story related by Mr. Thornton and Miss Jewell in Jacksonville, Fla., is substantially as follows:

THEIR THRILLING STORY.

In the afternoon of August 27, they went to Coney Island together, and about 2 o'clock secured bathing suits and went into the surf. Thornton could swim; Miss Jewell could not. Suddenly a big wave took them off their feet and drew them out into deep water. There was no other bathers within 200 feet of them, and their cries for help were not heard above the roar of the surf. Miss Jewell clutched frantically at Thornton's arms and shoulders, and he found it impossible to swim toward the shore with her. The current swept them rapidly out to sea. The girl had also swallowed salt water and was strangling badly. In this condition they drifted for twenty minutes or more, when a floating log attracted Thornton's attention. He made for it and to this the two clung for dear life until nearly dark when a Spanish bark, which had just worked through the Narrows, bound for South America, picked them up.

Miss Jewell fainted as soon as she reached the vessel's deck, and it was midnight before the captain and his wife, with the assistance of Thornton, brought her to her senses. Then she became delirious and lay in a high fever for five days between life and death. On the sixth day the fever turned and the young woman gradually recovered. Meanwhile the ship had gone rapidly on her course, and all chances of sending the castaways back to New York had been lost. Neither Thornton nor Miss Jewell can recall the name of the bark. It was a Spanish name and the captain and crew could not speak any English. They supplied their passengers with clothes, however, and treated them kindly. On September 9 they spoke a Spanish vessel bound for Yucatan. Her captain said that he was going to make the passage through the Straits of Florida, and he agreed to take the castaways aboard and land them on the Florida coast at the first opportunity. They were transferred to this vessel, the crew of the first vessel making up a purse of \$15 for them before they left it.

ARRIVED AT JACKSONVILLE.

On the new bark the captain and crew were also Spanish and unable to speak English. Thornton and his companion grew almost crazy with anxiety and fear, for they could think only of the grief of their friends at home and of their own wretched condition. The bark was often becalmed and at one time was in a gale of wind for forty-eight hours, which blew her 150 miles off her course. Finally her captain sighted the Florida coast early Saturday morning. At 7 o'clock a boat was lowered that took the man and woman ashore. This was on the beach about half way between the mouth of the St. John's river and Pablo. There was only one house there. Here they got breakfast and started to walk to Jacksonville, twenty miles distant. They got a ride in a "cracker's" wagon part of the way and reached Jacksonville about noon Saturday. Thornton went to the telegraph office and informed his brother in Brooklyn of his plight, asking for money to get home with, and then the pair went to the St. John's House.

Thornton is twenty-nine years old and is a native of Canada. He is about five feet eight inches tall and weighs 200 pounds. He is of the firm of Thornton Brothers, bakers and confectioners, of No. 277 Cumberland street, Brooklyn. Miss Jewell is Mrs. Thornton's sister. She is twenty-six years old, slight in figure, with dark hair and eyes.

THEIR IDENTITY PROVEN.

On Monday night Mr. Thornton's brother, speaking to a reporter, at his residence, No. 277 Cumberland street, Brooklyn, alluded to the story as a sensational newspaper yarn. Yesterday morning the same man sent \$50 to Jacksonville. His brother-in-law, Claude Styles, employed in the New York Life Insurance Company, submitted the safe-combination test to Samuel, in Jacksonville, on Monday night. Samuel telegraphed the figures. This convinced Brother William. Besides this test, there was another. Mrs. Steekum, of No. 104 Vanderbilt avenue, is a friend of the Thorntons. She is a fast friend of Miss Eva Jewell, who, on August 27 went in bathing at Coney Island with Samuel, and, after the manner of ladies the world over, they

were accustomed to lend articles of jewelry to each other. Mrs. Steekum had loaned Eva a ruby ring set with diamond brilliants, which ring was naturally enough wadded out to sea with Miss Jewell. This was fortunate, as the description of it sent by telegraph dispelled the doubts entertained by William Thornton as to the identity of his storm-tossed relatives.

ANOTHER SIDE TO THE ROMANCE.

But there is another side to the romance, which, if it turns out to be true, will likely result in some sensational developments. It appears in the following dispatch from Jacksonville, Fla., in the Herald:

It looks very much as though the story told by Samuel W. Thornton and Miss Eva Jewell, of Brooklyn, N. Y., about being carried out to sea while bathing at Coney Island, of being picked up by a Spanish bark, of being transferred to another Spanish bark, and then being put ashore on the Florida coast, twenty miles from Jacksonville, was nothing more nor less than a cunning scheme to save their reputations now that they desire to go home.

This forenoon Thornton received the \$50 telegraphed by his brother and at once made arrangements to go north this evening. Conductor Barr, of the Pullman car Rincon, which left New Orleans last Friday night and arrived in this city about half-past eight o'clock Saturday evening, told me that both Thornton and Miss Jewell were passengers on his car throughout the entire journey. Editor Carter, of the Jacksonville Evening Metropolis, was also on the train. When they read the descriptions of Thornton and Miss Jewell they immediately recognized them as the couple that had been passengers aboard the Rincon.

IT STARTLED MISS JEWELL.

To make sure of the identification we went to the St. Johns House this morning at eleven o'clock. Miss Jewell came into the parlor to meet us. The moment she entered and met the conductor face to face a peculiar, startled exclamation escaped her. She sank nervously on a seat and became deathly pale.

"I have come to ask for some particulars about this thrilling tale of the sea," said Mr. Carter.

"Oh, I don't know what to say," Miss Jewell replied, clasping her hands nervously.

Then, apparently collecting her thoughts as she saw she was recognized, she continued: "I won't talk to you. See Mr. Thornton and he will tell you all."

With this remark she fled to her room across the corridor. We could not see Thornton and decided to come back in half an hour or so. We were absent less than half an hour, but as we were nearing the St. John's House we saw Thornton and Miss Jewell coming down the steps. They had their bundles under their arms and seemed to be very much in a hurry. The moment they saw us their faces flushed. They were much disconcerted and plainly endeavored to avoid us.

"This is Mr. Barr, who knows you," I said to Thornton.

"I never say you before in my life," exclaimed Thornton, looking at Barr.

"You are entirely mistaken, sir."

"Nor I either," Miss Jewell added.

"And I," returned the conductor, "am just as positive that you were both on my car from New Orleans to this city, and I can prove it by two passengers in the same car, one lady here in Jacksonville, the other W. R. Carter, editor of the Metropolis."

SURE OF THE IDENTIFICATION.

This is the story Paul D. Barr, the Pullman car conductor, tells me:

"I came in from Montgomery early this morning and had gone to my room when I thought I would read the newspapers before I went to sleep. I read the story of Thornton and his companion and when I came to the description of them it struck me that this was the couple I had seen. I said to myself that story of theirs is a fake. They were both in my sleeper from New Orleans Friday night. The description tallied exactly with the two passengers. That man and woman were in my car without a shadow of a doubt. I should have recognized them in darkest Africa. They got into the car at the station in New Orleans. They had no sleeper tickets and I asked them to get these before they took seats. The man went back to the Pullman office and bought one berth, lower 7. They were in the car from Friday night until Saturday night--about twenty-four hours.

THORNTON DENIES IT ALL.

It had been Thornton's intention to leave here on the train to-night. The fact that we called on him in the morning was probably the cause of the couple rushing away from the hotel to catch the noon train. Thornton apparently had no desire to be questioned at length, but in hope of getting some further information from him I went to the depot and asked him if he did not desire to explain himself before he left the city. He thought for a moment and then said: "This is a cruel lie they tell about us. We reached Jacksonville just exactly as I have narrated before. I admit that the story is a strange one and that it makes some people suspicious of us. Why, even my own brother could not believe me at first. But he sent the money just the same. He wouldn't have said that if I had run away with my wife's sister, would he? Besides, we are going right back to Brooklyn to meet them all. I tell you, it's cruel. If you could see the dear wife and child whom I have been separated from for nearly a month you would never believe the story of those two men, the conductor and editor. No, I'm not so contemptible a sneak as to break my wife's heart and ruin my home and all my prospects in life. We will be cleared of this cowardly charge as soon as we get among our friends again."

There is another queer thing about Thornton and Miss Jewell. Nobody seems to know where the pair spent Saturday night. They arrived here at

8:30 in the evening. They did not register at the St. John's House until Sunday forenoon. If they stopped at any of the other hotels the first night they must have registered under fictitious names.

They will take the steamship City of Birmingham, of the Ocean Steamship Company's line, at Savannah, and land in New York Friday noon.

WHEELING DAILY INTELLIGENCER, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1891.

HERB MEDICINE CO., - Weston, W. Va.

No Money Required of Responsible Parties to Commence Treatment. DR. FRANCE & OTTMAN, Formerly of New York, now of the FRANCE MEDICAL AND SURGICAL INSTITUTE, Columbus, Ohio, by request of many friends and patients, have decided to visit BRIDGEPORT, SHERMAN HOUSE, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14. BELLAIRE WINDSOR HOTEL, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15. Consultation and Examination Free and Strictly Confidential. From 8 a. m. to 9 p. m., one day only.

The Doctors describe the different diseases better than the sick can themselves. It is a wonderful gift for any one to possess. Their diagnostic powers have created wonders throughout the country. The France Medical and Surgical Institute, Columbus, Ohio, is the only Medical Institute in the State incorporated with a capital of \$33,000.

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Admitted Free. WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 24.--The collector of customs at New York has been authorized by the Treasury Department to admit to free entry six cases of marble statuary and marble bas reliefs intended for the museum of the Leland Stanford, Jr., University at Palo Alto, California, if, upon examination the articles in question are found to be works of art.

Herget Gets It. SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 24.--The fight to-night between Johnny Herget, better known as Hugh Mitchell, California's representative middleweight pugilist, and "Reddy" Gallagher, attracted great interest, and the rooms of the new Occidental Club were crowded at an early hour in the evening. The fight was for a \$5,000 purse, of which \$750 was to the loser. It took thirteen rounds to decide it, when Herget was declared the victor.

Catarah Can't be Cured with local applications, as they cannot reach the seat of the disease. Catarah is a blood or constitutional disease, and in order to cure it, you have to take internal remedies. Hall's Catarah Cure is taken internally, and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces. Hall's Catarah Cure is no quack medicine. It was proscribed by one of the best physicians in this country for years, and is of the Leland Stanford, Jr., University at Palo Alto, California, if, upon examination the articles in question are found to be works of art.

Half Rates to Firemen's Tournament at Atlantic City via B. & O. R. R. For the firemen's tournament at Atlantic City, September 29th--October 2d inclusive, the Baltimore & Ohio railroad will sell round trip tickets from all stations on its lines East of the Ohio river at rate of one fare for the round trip. Tickets will be sold from September 25th, to October 2nd, inclusive, and will be valid for return passage until October 6th inclusive. This low rate is not restricted to firemen, but is open to the public, and presents the last opportunity of the season to enjoy a cheap trip to the seashore. The Baltimore & Ohio railroad provides fast limited express trains via Washington with Pullman service, and offers the only double track route to the sea. The tournament will consist of parades, torch-light processions, and all kinds of firemen's contests by representatives of prominent companies of all the leading cities of the East, and will be one of the many attractions which Atlantic City affords at all seasons. For more detailed information as to rates, time of trains and Pullman accommodations, apply to nearest Baltimore & Ohio ticket agent.

An Old Adage. There is an old adage: "What everybody says must be true." Henry Cook, of New Knoxville, Ohio, in a recent letter says: "Chamberlain's Cough Remedy has taken well here. Everybody likes it on account of the immediate relief it gives." There is nothing like it to loosen and relieve a severe cold. For sale by C. R. Goetze, W. W. Irwin, Jno. Klari, C. Schnepf, C. Menckemiller, W. S. McCullough, M. W. Heinrich, W. E. Williams, S. L. Brice, Jno. Coleman and W. H. Williams, Wheeling, W. Va. Bowie & Co., Bridgeport, Ohio. B. F. Penabody, Benwood, W. Va.

"Charge it to the State sinking fund," said the canal captain, as his old boat went to the bottom.--Binghampton Republican.

Merit Wins. We desire to say to our citizens that for years we have been selling Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Dr. King's New Life Pills, Bucklen's Arnica Salve and Electric Bitters, and have never had a remedy that sell as well or that have given such universal satisfaction. We do not hesitate to guarantee them every time, and we stand ready to refund the purchase price if satisfactory results do not follow their use. These remedies have won their great popularity purely on their merits. Logan Drug Co., Druggists.

LEMON ELIXIR. Pleasant, Elegant, Reliable. For biliousness and constipation, take Lemon Elixir. For fevers, chills and malaria, take Lemon Elixir. For sleeplessness, nervousness and palpitation of the heart, take Lemon Elixir. For indigestion and foul stomach, take Lemon Elixir. For all sick and nervous headaches, take Lemon Elixir. Ladies, for natural and thorough organic regulation, take Lemon Elixir. Dr. Mozley's Lemon Elixir will not fail you in any of the above named diseases, all of which arise from a torpid or diseased liver, stomach, kidneys or bowels. Prepared only by Dr. H. Mozley, Atlanta, Ga. 50c and \$1 per bottle at druggists.

Lemon Hot Drops. Cures all coughs, colds, hoarseness, sore throat, bronchitis, hemorrhage and all throat and lung diseases. Elegant, reliable. 25 cents at druggists. Prepared only by Dr. H. Mozley, Atlanta, Ga. MATH

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

Good Morning! You Are Hoarse!

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PROMOTION!

I. C. W. Seabright, Mayor of the city of Wheeling, do hereby certify that the following is an act of the Legislature of West Virginia, in such case made and provided, announced and published, that the following ordinance was duly passed according to law at a regular meeting of the Council of the city of Wheeling, said ordinance provides for the issue and sale of the Bonds of the City of Wheeling in the amount of \$100,000, said sum to be used and expended for the following purpose, viz: For the purpose of providing means for the construction and building of a sewer and water works on Main street over Wheeling creek. At a special election to be held on the

20TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, A. D. 1891, the qualified voters of the city of Wheeling shall vote upon the question of the ratification of the ordinance and the bonds of the city of Wheeling, said ordinance is in the words and figures following, to-wit: AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUE AND SALE OF BONDS OF THE CITY OF WHEELING, TO BE KNOWN AS THE "MAIN STREET BRIDGE BONDS--SEWER SYSTEM," AND FOR THE REDEMPTION AND PAYMENT THEREOF.

WHEREAS, Under the ordinance adopted by the Council of the city on March 11, 1890, and ratified by the qualified voters at an election held on April 15, 1890, bonds of the city of Wheeling, known as "Main Street Bridge Bonds," amounting, according to their face value, to one hundred thousand dollars, bearing interest at the rate of four and one-half per cent per annum, were made and executed, and by