War Department

Life of S. P. Chase.

Case of Victor Smith.

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Private Life & Public Services of Salmon P. Chase.

Victor Smith. p. 525. 529.

— Warden —

Case of Victor Smith

New York Tribune –

Disaster at Sea. June 26th '65

Loss of the "Golden Rule. July 26th 65

New York Herald.

Wrecking of Golden Rule – June 25th '65
no mention of Victor Smith.
Catastrophe at Sea – June 26th 65
No mention of V. S. –
Harpers Weekly – p. 426. July 8th 65

San Francisco Evening Bulletin
June 26th '65.
Loss of the Golden Rule.

San Francisco Evening Bulletin July 1st,

Arrival of Steamship "America".

New York Heralds account of Golden Rule
June '65. About the same as Tribune.

Memo for Envelope of Victor Smith; and the Wreck of the Golden Rule

V S was in charge of U S money. The article might be called, "What became of the Money?" The envelope contains V S's report from the wreck to Secretary Chase. Also interesting letter from Frank Vanderlip in 1900. Apparently nobody knows what became of the money which was around a million dollars, I believe. See story

Loss of $1,000,000.

In 1865 there was much excitement over the loss of $1,000,000 in paper money, which had been shipped from Washington to the assistant treasurer in San Francisco. The shipment was made by a sailing vessel called the Golden Rule, and consisted of 1,000 $1,000 notes. Unfortunately the ship was wrecked on Roneador Reef, and the safe that contained the cash was lost with it. Nevertheless a conspiracy was suggested, and a theory was formed to the effect that the vessel had been deliberately cast away for the sake of stealing the money. If this had been true some of the notes would certainly have turned up later, but as a matter of fact none of them has ever been seen since, and it may therefore be taken for granted that the missing wealth still lies at the bottom of the sea. Of course, being only paper money, it was no loss to Uncle Sam.

Immense quantities of gold are shipped nowadays across the ocean, and the danger of loss is so small that the precious stuff may be insured at so low a rate as one-tenth of one per cent. It is insured just like so much grain, and the documents, written in old-style legal phrases, guarantee its safety against all perils of the seas, including "men-of-war, fires, enemies, pirates, rovers, thieves, jettisons, letters of marque, reprisals, takings at sea, arrests and detainments of all kings, princes," &c. Every large trans-Atlantic steamship has on board a treasure-room, which is a great steel box built much like a vault on land.

Shipments of gold coin from this country to Europe have been extraordinarily large recently. The banker in New York buys it from the sub-treasury there, receiving it in sacks of $10,000 each. It is carefully weighed, because Europe will accept our gold only by weight, though the quality of the coin—its purity and degree of fineness—is guaranteed by Uncle Sam's stamp. Usually it is packed in casks that are much like herring casks, ten sacks to each cask, which weigh 180 pounds when thus filled. Thefts on the voyage are practically unknown, but in 1894 a cask of gold coin was lost on its way to Paris, being finally located on the platform of a railroad station between Havre and Paris. The station agent had thought it contained white lead.

Vilas Lunicht

A few months ago the author of this article ~~was~~ in examining the papers of the late S. P. C. & recently deposited in the "Mass Hist-Socy" for the "use of hist-students in good & regular standing" (?) came upon the following letter.

Quote —

Naturally the first thing to follow a reading of this letter was a search through the rest (?) of the papers for a sequel. The next painstaking — failed to reveal the end of the story & furthermore the identity of V. S. was not to ~~be~~ reveal that