

# MUTINIOUS MONGOLS.

## Rising of the Chinese on the "Altonower."

### THEIR FEARS AROUSED BY AN ACCIDENT.

#### A Boatload of Smallpox Patients Upset and One Drowned—Order on Shipboard Restored.

A startling and what might have proven a distressing outcome of the quarantining of the British steamer *Altonower*, occurred yesterday morning at 10:45 o'clock. At that hour one of the ship's boats used for conveying smallpox patients from the vessel to the posthouse, by way of Mission creek, capsized with its load of human beings, and one Chinaman was drowned. A few moments before the accident occurred the quarantine launch, having on board Quarantine Officer Lawler and his crew of three men, came alongside the steamer to take in tow the boat containing the forty-two cases of smallpox verified by Dr. Lawler and the ship's doctor, and who had been lowered in boats previous to Dr. Lawler's arrival to facilitate matters and save time. These forty-two victims of the smallpox were in two boats, twenty-six in the first or the one nearest to the launch, and sixteen in the last. To the second boat had been attached a third, which contained seven of the ship's crew, who were to row the cargo of smallpox patients up the creek after having been cast loose from the launch. Being assured that all was in readiness for immediate departure, the Quarantine Officer gave the word to go ahead, and the signal was given by the man at the wheel. The tow was in such a position as to necessitate a complete turn, at the same time the wind being very strong and a heavy sea rolling. In making this turn a swell came upon the second or middle boat in such a manner as to frighten its occupants on the weather side, who, in a moment of fear at getting drenched, sprang to the other side, which action had the effect of completely capsizing the craft so quickly that all sixteen of the stricken coolies were submerged in a moment.

#### AN ATTACK ON THE DOCTOR.

This sight was as a spark to a keg of gunpowder to the mass of infected and filthy coolies on deck. Without exaggeration it may be stated that at least 500 were electrified in an instant, and more than fifty in a frenzied moment rushed upon the ship's doctor, who was sitting in a chair on the deck, with the intention of throwing him overboard. The doctor realized his dreadful situation, and rushed aft and into the vessel's cabin, in his desperation slamming the cabin door so fiercely that the portable articles inside in close proximity fell from their lodgment on to the floor. Balled, the Chinese threw the chair on which he had been sitting over into the bay, and a mark. With great presence of mind, one of the crew of the launch, the instant the luckless boat turned over, let go the line and sent the tow adrift. The work of rescuing the helpless and potential boat's cargo then began. Dr. Lawler came out upon the deck, loaded down with six life-preservers, and to all that he saw struggling in the water, threw one, and they were clutched with avidity by as many heathens. The next thing done was the casting loose and lowering of the lifeboat of the launch.

#### RESCUE OF THE CAPSIZED.

She was manned and pushed off to the rescue of those in the water, and to one terrified Mongolian who was desperately clinging to the keel of the capsized barge. During the minutes of this intense excitement, the first boat load of infection eyed stolidly upon the scene, never once reaching out a helping hand to their drowning countrymen. In the course of at least twelve minutes the steam launch's boat, assisted by the seven of the steamer's crew in the last boat, managed to set the six men out of the water, and the one off the boat's keel. The righting the overturned barge was then begun and soon the laborers were rewarded. When she came right side up, to the complete surprise of all there were found no less than eight of the unfortunates clinging for their lives to the seats and all apparently none the worse for their apparent submersion of at least twelve minutes. Their escape is accounted for by the fact that the boat capsized so quickly as to cause a current of air to sweep into her as she dipped her side into the water sufficient to keep her above water a distance of at least six inches.

#### AN ATTACK ON THE CREW.

During the interval between the capsizing and the rescue of the Chinese the hundreds of coolies who had witnessed the scene, believing that the vessel's officers, doctor and crew were responsible, and had put their countrymen in the boat with the sole intention of drowning them, set up a most frantic and deafening yell, which, augmented as it probably was by the escape of the doctor from their merciless clutches, grew louder and louder as they began their demonstrations, which, in another moment, amounted to an outbreak and successful attack upon the crew of the steamer. To save themselves the officers rushed into the cabin and there barricaded themselves as best they could to prevent the pagans from taking their lives. Some of the crew went in great haste into the rigging and forward. A mob of Chinese procured axes, marlinspikes and battering rams of every description, and with these again renewed their attack. During this demoralizing scene one of the crew, at the Captain's orders, managed to run up the signal of distress. Eventually the maddened mob, becoming convinced that their coolie brethren had been rescued, ceased in their efforts to kill the whites and retired within themselves. The signal of distress was sighted by Henry Hoyt, the marine reporter of the Merchants' Exchange, almost immediately. He telephoned the news to Chief Crowley's office, who in turn sent instant tidings to Captain Gwin of the North Harbor police station, and in a short while Officers Sebute and Tassett were dispatched to the vessel. Captain Gwin then telephoned to the Meiggs' wharf station and received the news that Officers Bonner and Baxter were just shoving off for the scene of mutiny.

#### A MISSING MONGOL.

When the capsized smallpox patients were put in the third boat again they were counted by Dr. Lawler, who found but forty-one, while forty-two were reported to him as being in the two boats when he came alongside to tow them away. This discrepancy of one patient leads to the belief that one of them must have been drowned although he was not seen to go down, nor was his body at any time observed after the accident occurred. Without further delay the boats were towed to Mission creek and the potential cargo deposited at the Posthouse. On the arrival of the four police officers at the steamer Dr. Lawler informed them that the mutineers had subsided, and their assistance was not necessary. In view of the fact that if they set foot on the steamer they would be retained there until she was released from quarantine, which time is now indefinite, and may last from thirty to one hundred days, the officers veered off and returned to the city.

#### MORE SMALLPOX.

The ship's doctor, up to a late hour yesterday afternoon, was still strongly entrenched in the cabin, not daring to make his appearance on deck, much less to pay his regular visit to his ship's hold in quest of new cases, but he averred that besides the seven cases developed since Monday afternoon, on which day thirty-six were discovered, as already noted in the *CHRONICLE*, there are more in the hold, and prospects are favorable to the development of additional cases every day. Macdonald & Co. have telegraphed to Adjutant-General Backus at Sacramento for thirty Springfield rifles, which, if procured, will be placed in the hands of the *Altonower's* officers and crew as a safeguard against any further outbreak of the mutinous and pest-ridden passengers of the ill-fated steamer.