

make you more comfortable and then we can talk together as much as you like."

"But you promise not to leave me," said Laura, clutching at her dress as Mary rose from her knees.

"Certainly, I promise," she said with her sweet smile; "you can trust me, dear."

"Yes, I can trust you, Mary; you were always true and good. Oh, that I had been like you!" and she burst out again into a wail of piteous weeping, which went to the heart of Bertrand's wife, deeply as the miserable woman had injured them both.

(To be Continued.)

A STORY OF THE TIDE.

On the coast of Normandy, near Granville, the rise and fall of the tide are very great, being about forty-four feet at spring tides. It comes in very rapidly, and in particular places may be seen making up in a great wave two or three feet high. In a book on Normandy the following adventure is narrated of two English gentlemen. They had been out on the sands watching the manner in which sand-eels were caught, and examining the structure of the rocks, which were like sponges, when of a sudden one of them, whose name was Cross, shouted, "I forgot the tide, and here it comes!"

His companion, whose name was Hope, turned towards the sea and saw a stream of water running at a rapid rate, and replied quickly, "I suppose we had better be off."

"If we can," replied Cross, "by crossing the rocks we may yet be in time."

They began to scramble up the rocks, and walked as fast as they could toward the nearest shore; but it was some time before they reached the highest point. On gaining it they looked round, and saw that the sand was not yet covered, though lines of blue water here and there showed how fast it was rising. They hastened on but had not gone far when they found that the sand was in narrow strips, with sheets of water between, but seeing a girl before them who was familiar with the beach, they cried:—"We shall do yet?" and ran forward.

The girl, however, instead of going toward the shore, was running to meet them, and almost out of breath, cried, "The wave! the wave! it is coming. Turn, turn!—run, or we are lost."

They did turn, and saw out at sea a large wave rolling toward the shore. Out of breath as they were, they yet increased their speed as they retraced their steps toward the rocks they had just left. The little girl passed them and led the way. The two friends strained every nerve to keep pace with her, for as they neared the rocks the wave still rolled toward them, the sand becoming gradually covered. Their last few steps were knee deep in water.

"Quick, quick!" said the girl; "there is the passage to cross, and if the second wave comes, we shall be too late."

She ran on for a hundred yards till she came to a crack in the rock six or seven feet wide, along which the water was rushing like a mill sluice.

"We are lost!" said the girl; "I cannot cross; it will carry me away."

"Is it deep?" said Cross.

"Not very," she said; "but it is too strong."

Cross lifted the girl in his arms, plunged into the stream, and, though the water was up to his waist, he was soon across. His companion followed, and all three now stood on the rock.

"Come on, come on!" cried the girl; "we are nearly there!" and she led the way to the highest point of the rocks, and

on reaching it cried, "We are safe now!"

All were thoughtful for a moment, as they saw the danger which God had delivered them from; looking round, the sand was one sheet of water.

"We are quite safe here," said the girl; "but we shall have to stay three or four hours before we can go to the shore."

"What made you forget the tide?" said Cross; "you must know the tide well."

"I didn't forget it," she replied; "but I feared, as you were strangers, you would be drowned, and I ran back to tell you what to do."

"And did you risk your life to save ours?" said Hope, the tears starting to his eyes.

"I thought, at any rate, I should get here," she replied; "but I was very nearly too late."

Hope took the little girl in his arms and kissed her, and said, "We owe you our lives, you brave little maid."

Meanwhile, the water was rising rapidly, till it almost touched their feet.

"There is no fear," said the girl; "the points of the rocks are always dry."

"Cold comfort," said Hope, looking at them; "but what shall we do for our young friend?" he said to Mr. Cross.

"If we put all the money in our pockets into a handkerchief and tie it round her neck, it will warm her, I warrant, for she looks cold enough."

One of them had twenty, and the other seventeen francs, and binding these in a knot Mr. Hope passed it round her neck. On receiving it she blushed with delight, kissed both their hands, and cried, "How jealous my sister Angela will be, and how happy my mother!"

Just then a wave rolled past, and the water began to run along the little platform they were sitting upon; they rose and mounted on the rocky points, and had scarcely reached them when the water was a foot deep where they had just been seated. Another wave came—the water was within six inches of their feet.

"It is a terrible high tide," said the girl, "but if we hold together we shall not be washed away."

On looking to the shore they saw a great many people clustering together on the nearest point; a faint sound of cheers was heard, and they could see hats and handkerchiefs waved to them.

"The tide has turned," said the girl, "and they are shouting to cheer us."

She was right; in five minutes the place was dry.

They had some hours to wait before they could venture on the sand, it was quite dark before they reached the beach; but at length, guided by the lights on shore, they gained their own home in safety, not unmindful of Him who said to the proud waves, "Hitherto shalt thou come, and no further, and here shall thy proud waves be stayed." The friends handsomely rewarded the little fishergirl for her bravery.

THE following statistical details about the educational condition of Japan are taken from a French contemporary:—The whole country is, for educational purposes, divided into seven districts; these again are subdivided into 246 districts for secondary, and 46,000 districts for elementary instruction. During the year 1874 the number of entirely or part supported schools has been increased from 8,002 to 18,712, whereas the number of private schools had decreased by 94 per cent., (from 4,580 to 3,856). The number of schools was one to every 1,100 inhabitants, and the entire or average school attendance was 5.13 per cent. of the Japanese population.

SENSE IN SHOES.

Everybody has heard the old story of how Canova chose five hundred beautiful women from whom to model his Venus, and among them all could not find a decent set of toes. If he lived now-a-days, what luck would he have under the dainty little laced boots, with their high heels? As for these adult women, however, if they chose to both torture and disfigure themselves, we have neither advice nor sympathy to offer, but the condition of the feet of the children is really too serious a matter to be passed by in silence. As soon as the helpless baby can put its foot to the ground, and before it can complain in words, shoes are put on it, by which the width of the toes is contracted fully half an inch, and usually a stiff counter is ordered in the heel with some vague idea of "strengthening the ankle." From that time, no matter how watchful or sensible its parents may be in other regards, this instrument of torture always constitutes a part of its dress; the toes are forced into a narrower space year by year, "to give good shape to the foot," until they overlap and knot, and knob themselves over with incipient corns and bunions; then the heel is lifted from the ground by artificial means—thus the action of the calf-muscle is hindered and the elastic cartilage of the whole foot stiffened at their earliest tender period of growth. The results are a total lack of elasticity in the step and carriage (American women are noted for their mincing, cramped walk, and a foot inevitably distorted and diseased). We need not go to the statues of ancient Greece to find of what beauty the foot is susceptible when left to its natural development; our own Indian can show us. We have seen the foot of an old chief, who had tramped over the mountains for sixty years, which for delicacy of outline and elasticity could shame that of the fairest belle. Southern children are more fortunate in this matter than those in the North, as it is customary even in the wealthiest classes to allow their feet to remain bare until the age of six. Mothers in the North are not wholly to blame, however, as the climate requires that the feet shall be covered, and it is well nigh impossible, even in New York, to find shoes properly made for children unless a last is especially ordered for the foot. As a new last would be required every month or two, very few parents are able to give the watchfulness and money required. If shoes of the proper shape were insisted upon by the customers, the dealers would speedily furnish them. Nothing is more prompt than the reply of trade to any hint of a new want of fashion. A shoemaker in one of the inland cities made a fortune by advertising shoes of the shape of a child's foot. He counted on the intelligence and good sense of the mothers, and was not disappointed. If the mothers who read this would insist upon such work from their shoemakers, their children would arise upon well-shaped, healthy feet, to call them blessed.—*Scribner's Monthly.*

THE Chinese have an Encyclopædia of 160,000 volumes called "*See-koo-tseu-choo*." This colossal work was first conceived by the Emperor Kien Long, who, in 1773 formed a committee of learned men who were entrusted with its compilation. At the present moment 78,740 volumes of the work have already been printed. Of these 7,853 tomes are devoted to theology; 2,128 treat of the four classical books, *seehoo*, and of music. The historical part absorbs 21,626, while the remainder, 47,004, comprise philosophical and scientific matter.