

think I could in my clothes. I had a notion she was trying to get somebody else to do it, and so prevent the captain. But it was not so. Her plan was to insist on at least a couple of men accompanying him. "You know," she said to us all, "he's not well, and he might get cramp or anything." We reassured her by saying he was a wonderful swimmer and it would be nothing to him, but all the same Young Bill and Joe the carpenter of

...ing to him, but all the same young Bill and Joe the carpenter offered to go round with him. They immediately got ready. Joe kept on only his trousers, which he tucked up to his knees, and Bill slipped his jersey down to his middle and tied the arms round him. He kept nothing on at all, then the cap was placed on, and fresh from the cap it appeared, and, however, in case Mrs. Briggs would have one of him. Mrs. Briggs, however, insisted, and, after first threatening to slap anyone in irons who came over with him, he finally gave a grudging consent. Baby was very happy, and wanted him to hurry up so that she might see the sport.

Just then she was seized with one of those fits of coughing I have alluded to. Mrs. Briggs, however, came down to the cabin to give her something to quiet it. They returned, and as she passed me Mrs. Briggs said, "I wish you would give the doctor some of Baby's medicine. I wish you'd look for it when you go down." I said, "I will."

As I knotted rope was now fastened on to Baby's quarter-deck for the captain to go down by, but before going down I had to get my gun, and I went down and got my watch, Bill, I never thought at the moment that the captain's watch in his pocket was the same watch I had just come back. I remembered it and ran off to tell him. However, I met him just coming up the ladder, and he said, "What's the matter, hand, and he ran along with it."

Again there was trouble. What did I do? I went down to the cabin and before Bill could explain Mrs. Briggs had taken it down, and said, "Ah, right, dear. I'll hold it myself. I'll be safe."

Grumbling somewhat, but I did not catch what he said, he went over the side.

And before he actually started I should like to describe as carefully as

stand near the wheel, or, rather, standing near it. We had taken in a little sail and heaved to. About halfway up the ship on the starboard side was Ginger, lighting a pipe. In the mainmast was the figure of the captain. Dinky and Robin were below. I did not at that moment know why, but soon saw that they had been taking off some of their clothes. The quartermaster, Mr. Briggs sat on the barrel on the quarter-deck, looking the picture of misery, and Baby was leaning over the rail of the same. The mate stood on the fore-deck, leaning over the fore-rail, hand holding the rigging, whilst his right foot was on the rail by Baby's arm. He was leaning with his elbow on his knee, and his right, spare, leg was hanging down. The mate, I myself know, was a Bill and a deafy fellow, not, on Baby's quarter-deck.

[illegible]

out the slightest shadow of warning, found ourselves in the water!

And now there must have been two terrible minutes which I can never describe because I did not see them, though I can form some idea of about what took place. Someone, I know not

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(Continued on page 2)

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