

"A mate and five sailors," said Captain Southport, after a pause; "Portuguese or Brazilians, most of them, I expect. Well, if I were but a little stronger, we might make a fight for it by and-by, and retake the ship. Ah! I see you are laughing at me, Tracy."

I certainly had smiled at the thought of the captain, ill and weak as he looked, making anything of a fight, and as he rolled up the sleeve of his shirt, and saw how thin his arm had become, he smiled too.

Our light-heartedness vanished the next moment, and indeed the wonder was that we could forget, even for the short time our perilous situation. There came a stern reminder of it just then in the shape of Antonio's voice calling down the companion-ladder. Having little doubt that the summons was meant for me, I went on deck, and was roughly motioned to go aloft and assist in making sail.

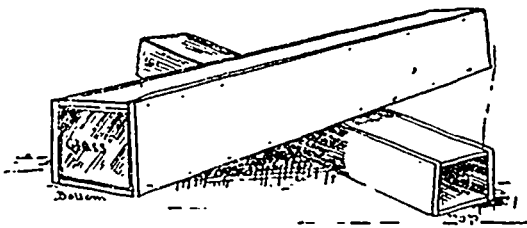
(To be Continued.)

HOW TO MAKE A WATER-TELESCOPE.

Nearly three-fourths of the whole world is covered by water. This water is "Nature's storehouse, in which she locks up all her wonders." This chapter will tell you how to make an instrument through which you can peep under the water and see the curiosities swimming about in their native haunts.

The water-telescope is a contrivance made of wood or metal, through which, when the end is partly submerged, objects beneath the water can be plainly seen that would otherwise be invisible.

It is astonishing how many fathoms of water become almost transparent as air when viewed through one of these simple contrivances. In Norway, the fishermen make practical use of the water telescope when searching for herring shoals or cod, often by its means discovering new and unlooked-for fish.



WOODEN WATER-TELESCOPES.

All that is necessary is a long wooden box, a piece of glass for one end, and some paint and putty for making the seams water-tight. Fix the glass in one end of the box, and leave the other end open to admit the eyes of the observer, as shown in the illustration.

A TIN WATER-TELESCOPE.

is a funnel-shaped tin horn, about three or four feet long, eight to ten inches in diameter at the bottom, and broad enough at the top to admit both eyes of the observer (Fig. 2). Sinkers should be soldered on near the bottom, as shown in the illustration (Fig. 2). This, in a measure, counteracts the buoyancy of the air contained in the water-tight funnel, and helps to submerge the big end.

The inside of the funnel should be painted black, to prevent the light from being reflected upon the bright surface of the tin.

If any difficulty is found in procuring a circular piece of glass, the bottom may be made square, and



A TIN WATER-TELESCOPE.

square glass used, and fitted into a leaden frame made for the purpose.

Any tinner can, at a moderate cost, make an instrument like the one just described.

A water telescope will add greatly to the entertainment of a boating party or picnic, furnishing a new and novel feature that will become popular wherever it is introduced; and as we are now living in memory of delightful outings, let us prepare for next summer by diligently utilizing our spare time and material. Week by week we shall have new things. Before the winter is over our stock shall be quite set up.

While collecting marine animals two naturalists had a boat built with a glass in the hull, arranged and worked upon the same principle as a water-telescope. It was of great service where the water was not too deep. While one rowed the other watched the bottom, which they described as having the appearance of a beautiful panorama passing beneath. Fish of all colours and forms filled the intervening space, and sometimes a "devil-fish" would cross the scene, flapping its great wing-like fins as it flew rather than swam through the clear water.

NED DARROW;

OR,

THE YOUNG CASTAWAYS.

CHAPTER XXXI.

THE NIGHT ROBBERY.

NED had extinguished the light in his room, and he now drew slightly back in the shadow of the curtain. The presence of John Markham in the vicinity of the hotel could mean no good for its inmates, and he determined to watch him as closely as was possible.

Ned remembered one fact that made him uneasy. That day Mr. James had closed negotiations with a capitalist, he had told him, for the working of the chrome deposits. Ned was aware that quite a large sum of money had passed in the transaction. Might it not be possible that Markham, baffled in his efforts to secure the land at Sandy Flat, had become aware of its partial transfer, and was plotting to rob Mr. James of the money?

The silent figure below did not move, but kept his eyes fixed on the row of windows where the school party slept. Ned retreated from the window, and began to don his clothing. "I will go to Mr. James' room and tell him about this man," he soliloquized. "I cannot be mistaken. It is certainly Markham."

But when he returned to the window the prowler had disappeared. Ned sat down, undecided how to act. He did not wish needlessly to alarm the nervous undermaster. Mr. James had probably retired to rest. He, however, went out into the corridor, and went to where Mr. James' room was. He heard no sign within, and decided that its occupant was asleep. Then he sat down in a chair at the end of the hall near an open window, and looked out to see if there was any sign visible of the cause of his perturbation.