

breadth was not more than four, and its length to the open ocean, not more than five miles.

The entrance to it from the sea was not a quarter of a mile wide, and was formed by two cliffs, of nearly equal height, on one of which,—that which made the western column of the opening,—stood the ruins of an old Beacon, which was a lofty landmark for many a mariner seeking the dangerous coast. From these two cliffs the shores of the bay swept inward in a pear-shape form, partly bounded by rocks with precipitous sides, partly belted with glittering sand, as spotless as snow in its whiteness. At the top of the bay, in a straight line, four miles from the surge-washed cliffs, at its entrance, opened the narrow inlet which led to the mouth of the little river, whose windings we have compared to a snake.

If the reader has clearly impressed upon his imagination these features of the scene in which we shall open and carry on the first parts of our tale, we will now take him up the inlet, and into the creek, the dark curves of which we shall follow, under the shadows of rocks and of trees, amid lawns and meadow-land as green as emerald, until we reach, unexpectedly, after a short turn in the river, a small pier, built solidly of hewn timber and stones, that projects thirty feet from the shore, and extends full one hundred along the land. Opposite this mole the creek expands a few yards into a natural basin—a feature of the place which doubtless suggested the construction of a landing at that point. Facing the wharf, on the same side of the creek with it, which is the west side, stood, at the time of our story, which is laid in the first year of our last war with England (1812), a long row of weather-worn, unpainted warehouses, curiously built, the under story of stone, the upper of wood, while immense roofs projected ten feet on all sides, affording large shelter beneath to protect merchandise outside from rain or sun. In the middle of this long hipped-roof edifice of trade rose a square tower, enclosed by open blinds; and upon its helmet-shaped

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