



AT SEA.

The mighty sea is full of interest to all young folks. Those who live on its shores learn to love it as a friend and share in all its moods till it seems to become a part of their very natures. They love to watch it in its calm moods as the waves come rolling in on the beach, washing the white sand, or beating gently against the rocks, and find a wild delight in listening to its angry roar as it lashes the shore and unites with wind and rain in a furious uproar. Even the boys and girls who have never seen the sea, love to imagine what it is like, and picture it to themselves as they have seen it described in books. But the fortunate youth who lives on the sea is the envy of all young people. Day by day surrounded by the great stretch of blue water, only once in a while catching a glimpse of land and experiencing hair-breadth escapes from shipwreck and drowning in its treacherous waves, is a life after the danger-loving boy's own heart. To be able to see a live whale sporting in the water, great floating icebergs, and to stop at far-away shores where strange people are to be seen—what a privilege! Nowadays, when the great ships cross the ocean in a few days and when a journey round the world is accomplished in a comparatively short time, our young folks think with regret of the good old days, when the slow little sail-boats took eight or nine weeks to cross from

England to America. In those days a voyage across the ocean was a thing you might be excused for talking about all the rest of your life. But the great ships now built seem themselves indifferent to the merciless waves, as if they were conscious that with their wonderful size and strength they were masters of the sea. How gracefully the boats shown in our cut are sailing over the calm sea, their sails unfurled, hurried along by the fresh sea breeze.

#### NATIVES OF HAWAII.

When Lady Brassey, the noted traveller, reached the Sandwich Islands, she and her party visited the volcano of Kilauea, where they spent Christmas day. The crater is a lake of fire a mile across, boiling like Acheron. "Dashing against the cliffs with a noise like the roar of a stormy ocean, waves of blood-red fiery lava tossed their spray high in the air." Returning over the lava bed, she continues: "Once I slipped, and my foot sank through the thin crust. Sparks issued from the ground, and the stick on which I leaned caught fire before I could fairly recover myself." Soon after a river of lava overflowed the ground on which they had just walked. The natives of Hawaii seem almost amphibious. On a narrow board mere boys will ride upon the wildest surf or rapids; and, for the amusement of the tourists, two natives leaped from a cliff, a hundred feet high, into the sea at its base, as shown in the picture.

#### OSTRICH EGGS.

The ostrich is generally found in groups of four or five, though sometimes as many as fifty will be found associated. One of this group of five is a male and the remainder females. All the latter lay their eggs in one and the same nest, a shallow pit scraped out by their feet, with the earth heaped around to form a sort of wall, against which the outermost circle of eggs rests. As soon as ten or a dozen eggs are laid, the male bird begins to brood, taking his place upon them at nightfall, surrounded by his wives, while by day they relieve one another, more, it would seem, to guard their common treasure from jackals and small beasts of prey, than directly to forward the process of hatching, for that is often left wholly to the sun. Some thirty eggs are laid in the nest, and around it are scattered some thirty more. The latter are said to be broken by the old birds to serve as nourishment for the newly-hatched chicks, whose stomachs can-

not bear the hard food on which their parents thrive. They are very careful to hide their nests. On the ostrich farms eggs are artificially hatched that are worth twenty-five dollars apiece.

#### WHERE BABIES ARE NEVER WASHED.

A traveller from Russia says that Russian babies in Siberia are not very attractive. And when he tells us one of the reasons, we do not wonder at his thinking so.

He says that one day he noticed in one of the houses a curious bundle on a shelf; another hung from a peg in the wall, and a third hung by a rope from the rafters; this one the mother was swinging. The traveller discovered that each curious bundle was a child; the one in the swinging bundle was the youngest.

The traveller looked at the baby, and found it so dirty that he exclaimed in disgust, "Why, do you not wash it?"

The mother looked horror-stricken, and ejaculated, "Wash it! Wash the baby! Why, it would kill it!"

What a happy country Russia would be for some boys! They would never hear, "Wash your face and hands," nor "Have you brushed your hair?" But, oh, how they would look!

#### MY DAISY LESSON.

I walked at morn in the meadow,  
Each daisy stood in its place,  
And turned to the eastern sunshine  
It's dear little white-frilled face.

I was there again at noontide,  
Each face was looking straight up,  
Catching the golden glory  
In its golden-hearted cup.

And I walked that way in the evening,  
When the sun was sinking low;  
Each flower was gazing westward,  
And smiled in the sunset glow.

Then I thought—If our hearts, as the  
daisies,  
Would always follow the sun,  
What lives of sweetness and beauty  
Would be in us begun;

Lives that would surely please Jesus,  
Jesus our Sun and Light;  
If we lift up our hearts to his shining  
They will ever be pure and bright.

#### HOW TO BREAK OFF BAD HABITS.

Understand the reason, and that the habit is injurious. Study the subject till there is no doubt in your mind. Avoid the places, the persons, and the thoughts that lead to temptation. Frequent the places, associate with the persons, indulge thoughts that lead away from temptation. Keep busy; idleness is the strength of bad habits.