

purified condition. He collected them together, and stepped up the companion-way to carry them to the busy dirt-destroying hands of some honest dame of the tub. He had just placed one foot on the steps that reach to the top of the vessel's rail to leap ashore, the distance of a few feet only, when some one asked whither he was bound? "To the washerwife," he replied, as he raised his other foot. But ere it had gained the resting-place, or the words had well reached the ears of the interrogator, the rotten and false-hearted timber refused to support longer the superincumbent pressure, and the luckless wight, with all the fluttering array of his uncleansed apparel, was on his travels down the inside of the dock and the outside of the vessel—the *cherry* of his bonnet looking in the direction of the earth's centre of gravity, the soles of his feet pointing to the skies, and his legs stretched out in the exact form of a huge V. In this unstudied attitude he made a descent at least six feet below the surface of the gurgling water, to the evident discomfiture of thousands of tiny fishes that were sporting in shoals round the sides of the vessel. Quick as thought a sailor was at the water's edge with a rope's end, ready to afford our hasty friend every needful assistance when he should ascend to his native element from the depths. He lingered but an instant; and when the impetus of his fall was expended by the resistance of the water, he slowly turned round and majestically rose to the surface, and after a few tugs and pulls at the friendly rope, succeeded in planting his feet firmly on the top

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