

place. There is, of course, a difference between the summer and the winter level of the water, or between a dry season and a rainy one, but that is all.

Not so with the sea-shore. We may leave our boat on the beach just clear of the water in the morning, and when we come back to it in the afternoon we may find that there is half a mile of sandy beach between us and the water. Twice a day the sea rises to its highest level, and then gradually



HIGH TIDE.

sinks again to its lowest. Nor does the hour of high and of low water remain the same; each day it is nearly an hour later than it was the day before.

This regular rise and fall of the water on the sea-shore is known as the tides, and there is a good deal about the behaviour of the tides which it is not easy to understand. Robert Louis Stevenson, in one of his charming stories of adventure, tells of a boy who found himself alone on a small island on the coast of Scotland. He was almost starved by hunger and cold, and people who passed by in a boat would not stop to