

yonder a portion of a massive tower still stands erect, with a tangled thicket of trees and shrubs on its upper walls, whilst the sides are overgrown with creepers and moss. Here and there in the crevices is the nest of buzzing and stinging flies, or a drowsy looking bat is shading itself; here comes a long line of huge ants, and gemlike butterflies and lizards almost as brilliant, are sunning themselves amid the blue convolvulus and green ivy; besides this there are many portions of old walls and loose masses of stone, hidden almost entirely by the broad, over-spreading leaves. The whole lies there in a solemn grandeur and imposing solitude, that is not easily forgotten.

We pic-nicked in our boats, after having added some fish which we had caught to our bill of fare; it was very romantic and picturesque, camping in the wilderness. The water was very transparent, and as we floated over it, on our return, we saw in the depths below another jungle, a jungle of water-weeds, amongst which countless fish were darting, and huge crabs lazily crawling; now and then a very large fish would stealthily appear and scatter the smaller fry in all directions, or a green turtle come floating lazily by, with its upper shell partly out of the water. Whilst we had been watching and admiring all this, huge black clouds had been climbing up the sky, and threatened a storm. We were quite a distance from shore, having been obliged to row around a coral reef, which stretched itself for more than a mile out into the sea, and now put on "all steam," so as to reach the shore before the storm would break over us. It commenced to blow pretty hard, and we were obliged to take down the awning; higher and higher the waves grew, till the smallest appeared large enough to crush our frail boat; we were in imminent danger of being swamped, but one of the officers, an experienced seaman taking the helm, got entire command of the boat again. The black clouds were now almost right overhead and looked from moment to moment more threatening and terrific; the tall trees on shore were swaying to and fro, as though they were reeds; louder and louder the wind howled, and higher grew the waves, occasionally sweep-

ing right over the boat, filling it partly with water, and drenching us. We took off our boots and some of our clothes, as the prospects of a swim for our lives became more apparent. The natives were peering into the water with the most terrified looks. "Those brutes are watching for sharks," said Jack with a shudder. "Oh," answered Alick, with a grim smile "they are not so much afraid of the sharks as they are that the water will wash them if they go overboard." The town was still a great way off, but there was another coral reef within a short distance. For this we steered; we were about 20 yards from it yet when a terrific wave lifted us up and then brought us down with such a thud that we thought the whole boat had gone to pieces. The same wave also broke over the boat, half-filling it with water. We were fast on a sunken rock—no effort could induce the boat to budge an inch—so we quickly got over the sides of the boat and made for the shore. The water was not very deep, and we were able to wade most of the way, and, after much trouble, clambered up on shore. Hardly had we got there before the sluices of heaven were opened, and down came the water. There were no such things as drops—it came down almost in one mass, with such force as to almost hurt one's head. We huddled together, at the end of the reef, drenched and miserable. The boat had by this time quite filled, and the baskets and boots were gaily floating about. It had grown almost dark, and nothing could be heard but the rushing of the water. At last it cleared up, and the sun shone brightly again. We were on a coral reef about a mile long, on which we started to walk after having fished our boots out of the water. It was something like walking over a new macadamized road, and, with the wet shoes on, was anything but fun. Crabs and water-spiders were crawling over it in great numbers, and pelicans, with their sober air, sunned themselves, not in the least disturbed by some stones we pitched amongst them.

We were told, when we got back to town, that the storm had been one of the severest experienced in that quarter for a long time. Innumerable trees had been snapped off like matches, the leaves had been torn off