

of water in its beak, as before, so that on this day also the children fared well.

24. But on the third day there was a heavy storm.. The wind was so strong that no bird could face it; so the little prisoners had to be content with the leavings of the day before.

25. All day long they sat and listened to the roaring of the wind and the booming of the waves, as they dashed against the cavern.

26. Towards the end of that day, one by one they fell asleep; and when they next awoke, all was still and silent around them. "Hurrah! the storm is over," exclaimed the girl who first awakened.

27. "Is it?" yawned a second, sitting up and rubbing the sleepiness out of her eyes. Then suddenly she cried, "See, the cave has opened. We are free!"

28. With one accord they ran to the edge of the rock; and then they saw that, though the storm had burst the rocks asunder again, they were prisoners still. For below, instead of the sandy shore on which they had so often played, now heaved the water of the sea, which had spread inland and was nearly on a level with the ledge of rock forming the floor of their cavern.

29. By now the sea was fairly calm; but great blocks of ice were floating and bobbing up and down on the surface, as far as eye could see.

30. "There is no escape for us," said one of the