

SUNBEAM

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A BRAVE BOY.

Some years ago a ship with many passengers on board was going down the English Channel, when, owing to fog, she was run into by another vessel. All the passengers were much afraid, for the ship was sinking. All the sailors seized life-belts, and the boats were lowered and filled.

But one lady had not been able to get on deck so quickly as the others. A sailor lad saw her looking wildly and helplessly around, and he went quickly up to her and said:

"Ma'am, I can swim and you can't; take my life-belt."

He put it around her as he spoke, and they both jumped into the sea. It was a rough sea, and several of the boats were swamped. But among those who were picked up by the other vessel and saved were the brave sailor boy and the lady to whom he had given his cork belt.

The boy was unconscious, and they thought at first that he was dead. But he was

brought back to life, and to the knowledge that his brave deed was not in vain.

That boy had once been a waif in the London streets. He was not brought up among good and brave



TRYING THE ICE.

people, but in the places where sin and wickedness and misery were always before him. Then one day he was taken to a training-ship and taught to be a sailor.

But what taught him to stand still

and calm in the hour of great danger while others rushed to save their lives? What made him, when he saw one weak and helpless and afraid, give up his chance of life that she might be saved? What took away all terror of the rough and angry waves?

Just this—the thought and the knowledge that he was God's child, and that if he did God's will all would be well with him. Nothing else could have made a boy, brought up as he had been, do such a self-sacrificing and heroic deed, and nothing else would have kept him calm in the hour of danger.

If our lives and hearts and wills are given to God, we need never be afraid. All you who read this want to be brave, do you not? You like to hear of brave deeds of brave children, and you sometimes wonder what you would have done if you had been in their places. Remember this—that if we are not brave and self-sacrificing in little things we shall not be so in great ones.

Let us trust God with all our daily life, and then we shall be able to trust Him when danger threatens.

Be God's child, and then when the need comes you too will be ready to do a brave deed.