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# CHILDREN'S CORNER

THE MANLY BOY.

He has the courage of slinple truth, The trial that he must bear, The peril, the ghost that frightens him most,

He faces holdly, and like a ghost It vanishes in air.

As wild fowl take, by river and lake, The sunshine and the rain. With cheerful, constant hardshood He meets the bad luck and the good, The pleasure and the pain

Come friend in need! With heart and

He gives himself to them He has the grace that reverence lends-Reverence, the crowning flower that

benda The upright lily stem.

Though deep and strong his sense of Wrong,

His spirit is gentle, his heart is great. He is swift to pardon and slow to

hate. And master of his tongue.

Fiery his blood and young,

Fond of his sports? No merrier lad's Sweet laughter e'er rang. But he is so generous and so frank, His wildest wit or his maddest

prank Can never cause a pang.

His own sweet case, all things that please.

He loves, like any boy, But fosters a prudent fortitude, Nor will he squander a future good To buy a fleeting joy.

Face brown or fair? I little care Whatever the hue may be, Or whother his eyes be dark or light If his tongue be true and his honor bright.

He is still the boy for me. -John T. Trowbridge.

THE DEVIL FISH.

This is the story of the terrible adventure of a California woman, who was living with her husband and little son some years ago on a little coral island just below the equator. The island was small, not two miles in the longest line, and was nothing but a barren spot of sand on the broad bosom of the Pacific. Nothing | closed eyes, and grasped at the shell grew on the island but a stiff species | be,ow. beach grass, and that was ding brown instead of green like other grass. But if bare of vegetation, the island was still richly aurfaced, for the whole extent of the dot was covered deep with guano of the richest sort, and the only inhabitants were the two white people mentioned and fifty or sixty Hawaiians to work the guano fielda.

The superintendent and his wife and little child with him, and as news from the outer world could reach

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them but once in three months, It was rather dull for the moman. As there was so little amusement to be found, she made the most of the few sources she had. Chief among these were the gathering of shells, of which many and fine varieties were to be found on the reef at low tide.

This reet surrounded the island on all aides, with the exception of a twenty foot channel, through which access was had to the island from any ship which camo there. This reel was like a wide, flat shell covered deep by the water at high tide, but when the tide was out, a wide stretch of coral rock was left almost bare, varying from twents feet at the narrowest point to over 100 at the widest This shell of rock was cut through and through by fissures in which the water still stood many feet deep. Besides the fissures the rect was dotted with pools having no outlet at low tide, Some of the pools were only a few inches in depth, others were 10 or 15 feet. These pools and fissures made walking on the reef rather dangerous until one learned the position of the deep places.

But time familatizes one with anything, and it was but a few months before every day saw mother and child clad in bathing dresses, on the chance of a tumble into deep water, roaming over the surface of coral, gathering the many-hued shells which were to be found there. Harp cowries, strawberry cowries, leopard shells and hundreds of others were to be had, the rarer kinds even in great profusion, while of the common kinds a bucketful might be taken each day without apparently lessening the supply in the least.

One day mother and son had been out almost the whole tide and, fairly laden with spoils, were working back home, when, as she stepped across one of the smaller pools, the woman saw at the bottom what appeared to be a magnificent leopard cowry, the largest she had yet seen. The water was pretty deep in the pool, being almost up to her waist as she stepped down into it, but she was so near home that she did not care, though she got wet through. Stooping to pick up the shell, she found that the water was even deeper than she had supposed, for as her fingers reached to the bottom of the pool her face was almost wet by the waves which came rippling in with the rising tide. But the moment required to pick up the shell would not injure her, even though she had to put her face into the water, so she stooped lower, with

Her fingers closed on the richly spotted object, but instead of the hard, smooth surface she had expected to seize, her fingers sunk deep into some soft, slimy substances, and before she could drop it and rise from her atooying position a sudden aplash and flurry dashed the water, into foam, and two snake-like objects rose from the depths and twined themselves around, her arm, bare to the shoulder, with numbing force.

The water, but a moment before clear as a crystal, was in an instant clouded with ink, and another makelike form rose and twined around her arm, increasing the force and pressure until she suffered agony from the hold upon her arm, as well as from the fright.caused by the sudden attack of the unseen foe.

Her face was scarcely three inches above the surface, of the pool, and to her horror she found that the strength of the creature was sufficient to keep her from rising any higher, and she know that a few moments more of the pain would weaken her so that she must be drawn down into the pool instead of being able to escape from the horrible creature which beld her in its grasd.

In the first shock a shrick of fear had startled the boy, who was some distance from her, and he came running back to see what had caused the cry. Ho was only three years old, so could be of no assistance; indeed, the mother feared that the child might also be grasped and dragged into the pool. She called to him to run to the house, some little distance away, around a point of land which hid it from sight, and call for help. She had but little hope that aid would reach her before she would be drawn into the water, for the numbing hold upon ber arm was making her so faint that she feared she would lose herself and fall an easy prey to the monster. She had seen many little squids and knew that large ones were often taken here, but liad not supposed there were any large enough to be dangerous.

The boy ran orying around the low

To The ....

## Readers

Register

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Enterprise of the territory of the property of und to a woman to all her strongth to the large drawn into the post terror nelp diould come.

The tide was river rapidly Water after wave came rapher of a switch ing against ber form, tach or extraleing a little higher dasher a lettly more of its spray in the bonded face Beath seemed very goar, but her only fear was of the horrible teak, which ... she know weald be burnd in her quivering fleels so soon a she should lose her strength and fall into the pool to where 'the desit ich could grasp her with all its arms

She could not raise her head to son-If help was coming but she strained her ears, hoping to a ar nothtens or tottes Not a sound not her train ed he ring. The war r rose higher and higher Each wave low broke in her face-almost over her head. One or two moments' more and she must fall A frency of fear gave ber momentary strength, and she strove to tear herself tope, but in vain. Each effort but exhausted her little remaining strength, leaving her weaker than before, a more unresisting prey for; ber foi.

A wave bigger and higher tham. usual came, solling in and broker above her bead. She must die.

But as sho, gave a last strangled? cry, a sudden rush of feet, a dash through the water and her arm was grasped by steong hands, and also was raised above the surface a little Other hands reached down beside her and grasped the unseen form of the monster, and with a mighty pull from the two strong pairs of arms it was torn from its anchoring hold. upon the rocks and thrown up into the open air.

The choking, strangling woman wan carried above tide mark, the octopusstill attached to her by its slimpe arms. As the attempt to pull its away caused her excruciating pain, the arms were one by one cut off... and even then the horny disks still clung with considerable force' to the bruised and erushed arm. The creeture had used three of its eight arms; to crush its prey, and held itselfe & firmly anchored to the rock at thebottom of the pool with the potherme It took all the strength of two heaves men to tear the hold of those five arms from the rock

Had belp been delayed five minutes. longer it would have been in value. The woman would have been dragged. into the depths of the pool and the strong, beak-like mouth of the devilfish would have been tearing het tiesh

while she still lived When the creature was dead spread out on the sand it measured? only 7 feet from the body to the end of the longest ray. The body was about the size and shape of a bim wash-bowl, turned bottom up, The booked, horny book, shaped almost like that of a parrot, but shorter inproportion to its width, was placed, between two wicked little eyes soll larger than one's thumb pail.

When alive the body was motion. with brilliant dots of color, red, yeblow, orange, on a white background; but after death the whole creature. was a dirly diegy gray, the arms losing half their size as life left the creature. For many weeks the bruises and cuts upon the arm which had been held by the octopus remained: painful reminders of the terrible. death she had so narrowly escaped.

Whetever the disks had been lessed into the flesh deep indektations remained. The sharp bone edge of the disk had almost cut into the flesh. But time bealed the bruises, though it could never remove the nervous fear which kept the woman from even caring to huat the reel for shells unless she had a companion with home strong enough to rescue her from: any demon of the deep which should might encounter,

This was a yeary small specimen of? the octopus of "deril-fish." Had the creature been of the regular ectoputs size and attempth, one grip of Mag. mighty "arms": would have chebed ber to death.

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