

Children's Page

HALF A MINUTE.

craving after the briny; and, in spite of poor mother's remonstrances I went into the merchant service. A pretty hard time I had of it, I can tell you, Master Fred, and I kicked a voice said close to me:

"Balked of his victim, the shark made a dive, then jumped high out of the water. A cry pierced the air—a mist came before my eyes. Presently a voice said close to me:

"Balked of his victim, the shark made a dive, then jumped high out of the water. A cry pierced the air—a mist came before my eyes. Presently a voice said close to me: about for many a long year from ship to ship and port to port. I was sixteen or more before I found myself in yet."

""Cheer up, man—don't take on so; (80) acres in extent, in the vicinity the boy's hurt; but he ain't done for in land will not meet this requireteen or more before I found myself in my native village again, near Gloucester, my father dead long since, and my mother very ill. She was overjoyed to see me again, poor soul, and on her death-bed committed to my charge my little brother Robbie, as pretty a little fellow with curly hair and blue eyes, as you ever saw. Some months went by, but my coin ran short, and at last I had to go to sea again, leaving little Robbie in the charge of a respectable old body who had known my mother well. He was to go to school, for he was a smart to go to school to go to school, for he was a smart to go to school to go to go to go to school to go to g at last by something moving on my bed. At first I thought it was one of them impudent rats, of which there are shoals on board some wood
"Is that all?" said Marie, as Jack paused at last; while Freddy asked, "What became of Robbie afterwards)" eo vessels.

"I put out my hand, and was astonished to feel a little soft hand thrust into mine, while a voice whispered, "It's only me—Robbie," and the wards. When we got back to Massapered, "It's only me—Robbie," and the wards. When we got back to Massapered, "It's only me—Robbie," and the wards wards. When we got back to Massapered, "It's only me—Robbie," and the wards wards. sure enough so it was! Robbie, who it got into the newspapers somehow had run away from Mrs. Yarrow's, —and they made no end of the plucky and slipped on board and been hiding little lad, and sent him to school, for, away the whole of the day while we as I said before, he was a rare scholwere going down the bay!

"Here was a pretty 'kettle o' fish,' and though I scolded him well he only clung to me the more and cried, while I turned over in my mind how best to get him ashore again, and what the captain would say the next morning. But the captain was as soft-hearted a man as ever trod deck, and his wife who was aboard, when she Jack. "So is his wife; and they are saw Robbie, cried out, 'Why, he's the always wanting me to live with them very double of our Charlie! we must for good and all. I tried it once, but and Robbie stayed aboard.

him, and stopped their horse play and the briny," said Jack, sniffing the evil conversation when the little in- breeze, and casting a loving look out nocent lad was present.

West Indies Islands one evening, and slender streak of silver light along I was looking across the ocean, when the horizon. in the stillness I heard a sudden plunge in the waters, and the well known cry 'Man over-board!' Lean-Men who follow sedentary occupaing over the aide I saw a dark speck tions, which deprive them of fresh air struggling in the distance. Without much ado I kicked off my shoes, took a header, and made straight for the those who lead active, outdoor lives. object, which, to my horror, I found to be the captain's wife. She was crazy with fright, poor soul, and question the most efficacious on the clung to me with all the despair of a market. They are easily procurable, drowning creature. It was a com- easily taken, act expeditiously, and paratively easy matter to a good they are surprisingly cheap considerswimmer to keep afloat till help came ing their excellence. and I felt no alarm, more especially when a boat was shoved off from the

ship to meet us.
"But when about half way toward the boat, a cry arose which curdled reading, "what is a coincidence?" the very blood in my veins. 'A shark! a shark!' they called out, and the rowers redoubled their efforts. Sure enough one of these monsters of happen at the same time that have half the next week Marjorie strugthe very blood in my veins. 'A the West Indies was on our track.

I strained every nerve, my limbs felt all of a sudden as if weighted with Seeing that Marjorie still looked school Marjorie and Marjorie and Seeing that Marjorie still looked school Marjorie and Marjorie the deep which infest the shores of nothing to do with each other, but gled with the temptation. She seemlead. I knew instinctively the fiend puzzled, he started to explain further, longer. Summoning all her courage, I was, expected a horrible death every minute for both of us. Only a the hall, however, he paused long enand sobbed out her story to her teachfew strokes and we should be in safe ough to say, "I'll look out for a first er. ty; but how far off the boat seemed rate coincidence to show you, Mar- "So you thought I made a mistake, to my strained limbs. All this pass- jorie, and then you'll understand bet- did you?" asked the teacher. "I'm ed through my mind, and I saw as in ter. a vision little Robbie's white face at the bow urging me on, while the day, and because there was no one to has made a mistake. That day was voice of one of my mate's came dis- drive Marjorie to school and because a very cold one, you remember, and

seat, with arms upraised, took a tre- two shining gold pieces in Marjorie's and dismissed the others as soon a mendous 'header' into the sea, and be gan to make for us. He passed us, without an absence and of the third could not notify you. I'm sorry this but the monster, keen in pursuit, that was to have joined them so soon, has troubled you so much. crossed him unheeded. Robbie, who for Great Aunt Morton, who lived in should have told your mother or me swam like a duck, dived beneath the the big house on the hill, had laugh- sooner." shark, inflicting a great wound with ingly told Marjorie the very first Marjorie ran around to Great Aunt his knife on the fleshy-part of the huge body, and bobbed up like a cork should have a \$5 gold piece at the port card and then fairly flew home some distance off. The savage creating end of each year that she was neither to tell her story to mamma and the total her story to mamma and unclosed the total her story to mamma and the total her s leaving a red streak on the green waters, and Robbie, taking advantage of his start, struck out gal- Marjorie sobbed for a few minutes; Howard as he heard the \$5 gold piece lantly towards the ship.

on board, and all eyes were soon fixed her paint box and began coloring up "I call it a great victory," said the flaxen head in the distance.

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Where did you get this picture, Jack, and whose portrait is it?" inquired little Marie of her coast-guard friend.

"I picked that up in a book store many years ago," leturned the honest tar, "for I thought it had a strong look of Robbie, my little brother."

"What had you a brother too?" inquired Marie. "I never knew that before. Tell us about him—do!" While Freddy chimed in with a "Yes, spin us a yarn, Jack."

They held me back by main force from jumping into the water. "It's of no good, mate," they said; 'they are too far off.' I was then obliged in spite of myself to become a witness of the awful race for life. Robbie strained every limb, and I fancied the enemy showed signs of weakness from loss of blood. But Robbie's strength also began to give way, and the monster seemed to find it out, and to redouble his efforts, lashing the sea with his powerful tail. I felt as if I could not stand the cruel suspense another minute, when about a cable's ever, be made at an Agency on cer-They held me back by main force from

himself upon his chest, and holding the print in his hand, ransacked from his memory the following incident:

"When I was young" (Jack's stories generally opened in this manner), "I had, like many another lan, a crowing after the hing," and in soits

"Balked of his victim the managed to grasp one of the ropes that were fiung out for his rescue. They immediately began to haul up, and I breathed afresh as I saw him suspended in mid-air, while a burst of cheering rang across the water!

(1) At least six months' residence upon and cultivation of the land in crowing after the hings and in soits.

head. But the wrench of parting was very hard. I was glad enough to get off at last, and turning in dead beat into my hammock the first night aboard, glad it was all over and the little lad in safe hands. I was awoke the lattle lad in safe hands. I was awoke on him more as her own boy than ever."

"Robbie never went no more to

ar. He's a grown man now, and mas-

So that clinched matters somehow after a bit that living inland seems to choke me like, and "Robbie took to sea life very kind- was obliged to come back to the old He becam a great favorite with place again. Don't seem as if I the roughest had a soft word for could live out of sight and sound of across the broad waters, from which We were sailing round one of the the mist was rising, and leaving a

MARJORIE'S VICTORY.

But the gold piece was as nothing I and my burden were soon lugged she was, she dried her tears, got out you know the meaning of the word.

children. When she went to school on Mon- both. day morning everybody was talking about the fire that had occurred the day before, and, to her relief, nobody vertising. Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil said anything to her about her abence. She said to herself that she

ust could not have stood it if anybody had. cards were given out. Marjorie re- its fame with it wherever it has gone, ceived hers with a sad heart as she

thought of the broken record. But as she glanced over the card sure. something within her gave a great leap. Could she believe her own There were no marks in the absence column! The teacher must

have made a mistake. Mamma and Uncle Howard looked ful home in Roanoke, Va., known as the card over and said they were "Greenway Court," to be used as a glad Marjorie had gone from "G" to home for aged priests. It is one of of them thought of the amission. city.

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Thus beset, and smiling down upon the two eager faces, Jack established himself upon his chest and holding another minute, when about a cable's ever, be made at an Agency on certain conditions by the father, mother, son, daughter, brother or a ster of an smiling down upon his chest and holding another minute, when about a cable's ever, be made at an Agency on certain conditions by the father, mother, son, daughter, brother or a ster of an experience of the company of

to go to school, for he was a smart him in the heel, and fever set in; and meaning not more than nine miles in little lad, with more learning in his it was not till we were in mid-ocean a direct line, exclusive of the width little finger than I had in my great again that the sea breezes seemed to of road allowances crossed in the measurement.

(5) A homesteader intending to perform his residence duties in cordance with the above while living with parents or on farming land owned by himself must notify the Agent for the district of such intention.

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Then came a great temptation to Marjorie. If she should say nothing about the mistake the record would "Uncle Howard," asked Marjorie, remain as it was, and the teacher and looking up from the book she was pupils would forget by next year and Great Aunt Morton need never

Seeing that Marjorie still looked school. Marjorie could stand it no was gaining on us, and, burdened as when a telephone message called him she came look into the schoolroom at

so glad you told me, because I can The next day happened to be Fri- assure you that you are the one who tinctly across the water, sealing our she was not able to walk so far she something broke about the ignace was obliged to remain at home. "The words were hardly out of his mouth when Robbie rose from his very sorry, and they all thought of to all whom we could reach easily

"That's what I call the happiest compared with the broken record, and kind of a coincidence," said Uncle then, like the brave little girl that rattle down with its mates. "Now some sunbonnet babies for the other mamma, thinking of something quite But Marjorie understood

different.

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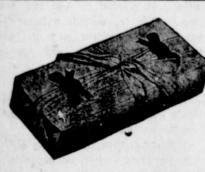
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