loesn't believe in boys smoking, and has

doem't behove in boys smoking, and has forbidden me to learn.

"Your father's a sensible man, my boy," said Ben; then addied, "Well, you'd best stay about the hut to-day, since on feel so stiff. I've got to go off, but 14 is black by mid-day." He put on his hat and went away, leaving Brie and Prince in possession of the establishment.

Eric did not by any means like the idea of being left alone, but he naturally shrank from saying so. He went to the door and regretfully looked after the tall figure strid-ing swiftly over the sand until it disappeared behind a hillock, beyond which he thought must be the ocean.

Now that he was left entirely to his own resources. Eric's curiosity began to assert itself. Had he but known in what direction to go, and he felt equal to the task, his first business would certainly have been to set forth in search of the wreck; if haply he might find traces of other survivors besides himself

But neither could be tell where to go, nor was he fit to walk any great distance. For aught he knew, he might be miles from the beach where the Francis finally struck. Anyway, Evil-Eye was certain to be there, hunting for more prizes, and he had no wish

that give him an electric thrill, and sent the blood bounding wildly through his veins. What it that port-hole were the repulsive countenance of Evil-Eye, and they were alone together? Would he be able to reset the pulse to give with his forefinger the slight ure upon the finely-balanced trigger that pressure upon the unery-containing the the ruffix a brain? So intense was his excitement that he almost staggered under its influence. For the trist time in his life an overmastering passion for revenge, for retribution, took possession of hum, and carried him out of hum. possession of him, and carried him out of him-self. Smooth, clear, and bright as the lovely stream that watered the Oakdene meadows, had been the current of his life hitherto. To few boys had the lines failen in pleasanter

et this happy fortune had not rendered him unmanly or irresolute. He was caualde and annuary or tresolute. He was espable of conceiving and carrying out any purpose that lay within the range of a boy's lowers. The Copeland courage and the Copeland determination were his inheritance.

Now never before had be been brought

into contact with anyone who had so ro because of his hideous appearance and tened violence, but because of Ben's dark hints and his own auspicions as to Evil-

don't leave that boy alone, I'll break every bone in your body."

every bone in your body."
At first him no was so completely taken aback by this unexpected interference, that he seemed dazed for a moment. Then his hand went again to his belt, as though he would turn his badley fary upon lieu. But evidently turn his collectory upon hen. But evidently a water second thought prevailed, and choking down his wrath, he growled out, contemp-

down me very trough; i "Don't be in such a stew. I'm not going to instruction to the trought I was only teaching him manures, and not to meddle with other people's belongings without first asking their leave."

This speech drew Ben's attention to the pistol Kric still held in his hand.

"Ah," said he: "you've got one of Evil-Eyes pets there, have you! Well, put it back in its place, and don't touch it again." Well, put it

back in its place, and don't touch it again.
Feeling very confused, fire replaced the
pastols carefully, their owner watching him
with a malign glare which boded him no
good. Its meaning was not lost upon observant Ben.

my lad," said he; "a bit of an airing will do you good. Put on your cap, and come out with me."

Only too glad to obey, Eric picked up his cap, and calling to Prince, followed Ben out

seat himself near Ren, who continued to puff away at his pipe, as though he had nothles more to say. Thus left to himself, Krie let his eyes wander over the strange and striking

some apread out before him.

He was upon the crest of a mand-hill. rie was upon the cress of a manu-nil, a hundred feet or more in helph, which aloped to the beach, upon whose glistening sands the great hillows were breaking, atthough the day was clear and calm. Far out beyond the serried lines of white-maned seascoursers,

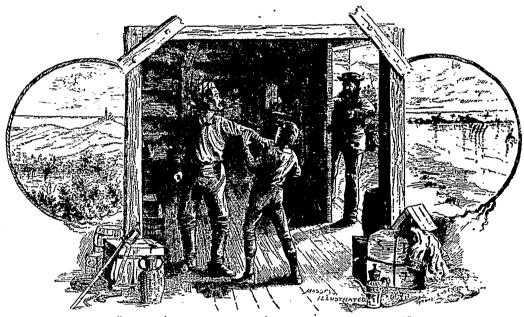
the bosen could be seen steeping peacefully.

Here and there, upon the sandbars, the hulls of vessels in varying stages of destrucnull of vessels in varying mages of destruc-tion, told plainly how common was the fate which had hefallen the Francis, and how rich a field the wreckers had chosen for their

rion a near this weekers had closed to the dreadful business.

I urning to his right, Eric asw a long narrow lake in the middle of the island, its hanks densely grown with rushes and lilies.

Upon its placid surface flocks of ducks were Upon its placid surface flocks of ducks were paddling, while stipe and ann-lyine hopped along the margin. The valley of the lake presented a curious contrast to those portions of the island that faced seaward, for it was thickly carpeted with coarse grass and wild vines, which were atill green enough to be grateful to the eye weary of the monotony of and and sea.



"IF YOU DON'T LEAVE THAT BOY ALONE, I'LL BREAK EVERY BONE IN YOUR BODY!"

to encounter him. So he proceeded to ex-

amine his strange surroundings.

The hut—for despite its size, it was really The hut—107 despite its size, it was really unthing more than a hut—was a very curious building. It had evidently been put together by many hands, out of the wreckage of many ships, the builders apparently being more proteient in slip-carpentry than nonse-join-cry. Their labors had resulted, through an activation advertising of hones whether. Gery. Their labors had resulted, through an amazing adaptation of knees, planking, stanchions, and builkheads, in a long, low-lealinged, but roomy building, something safer the shape of a large vessels poop. For lighting and ventilation it depended upon a familier of port-holes irregularly put in. Slunning around two sides of the room was a row of bunks, very much like those in a fore-leastle, the tier being two high. Eric counted them. There were just thirty, and he wonderthem. There were just thirty, and he wondered if each had an occupant. If so, he must have slept in Ben's last night, and where then had here himself. had Ben himself slept?
Upon the walls of the other two sides of

Upon the walls of the other two sides of various kinds - cutlasses, swords, muskets, dirks, daggers, and pitals - a perfect armoury, all carefully burnished and ready for use. They strongly excited Eric's curiosity, and he occupied hinself examining them, one by one. One pair of pitales especially attracted his attention. They were of the very latest make, and the handles were beautifully inlaid with silver. He took one from the wall, and aimed at one of the portholes with it. As he did no a thought flashed into his mind

Eye being no better than a murderer, the very depths of his nature were stirred, and he felt as though it would be but right to inflict summary veegvance at the first opportunity. Trembling with these strange, wild thoughts, he held the pixel still pointed at the port-hole, and unconsciously pressing very the treatment of the port-hole.

upon the trigger, there was a sharp report, which caused Prince, dozing confortably by the fire, to sprin, to his feet with a startled growl, following the crash of troken glass, as the bullet pierced the port-lid.

Almost at the same moment the door was thrown roughly open, and Evil-Eye entered

"What are you doing with my pistols?" he cried, his face aslame with rage, as he

stroic toward Eric. Scarce knowing what he was doing Eric snatched up the other pistol, and darted around the big table so that it would form a barrier between himself and Exil-Tye. His hand was jeffextly steady now, and leveling the pistol at his assailant, he said, in a firm tone

tone.

"Let me alone, or I'll shoot yeu"

With a fearful eath the ruffiun drew a pistel from his belt, and in another mounent blood would undoubtedly have been shed, had not Ben Harden rushed in through the open door, and suatching Evil-Eye's uistel out of his hand, thrown it to the other end of the room, where it went off without harm to

'You scoundrel I" he reared. " If you

into the open air, leaving Evil-Eye alone in the hut.

the nut.

The sun was high in the heavens, the sky almost cloudless, and the wind blew as softly and innocently from the south as though it had not raged with fail fury but a tew hours before. Fines spirits, which had been woeldere. fully depressed by the events of the past two about am with much interest, as he trudged

along through the deep sand.

Ben appeared to be in no mood for talking, But appeared to be in no mond for talking, and stalked on ahead in moodly silence, puffing hard at the short black pipe which was hardly ever away from his mouth, except at meal time and when he was steeping. Erric, therefore, did not boster him with questions, and found companionship in Prince, who showed it he ja satisfaction in their gott-of-doors, firsking about, and barking loudly in the exostrance of his glee. One good night a rest and plenty to eat his deem afficient decemberles, seature his attent to the local. completely restore his strength. He looked ann feet quite equal to anything that might be required of him, and was an inexpressible conduct to kine, to whom he seemed much more dann ancre dog — a protector and friend, who could be trusted to the uttermost.

who could be trusted to the intermost. Half an loon a walking brought Ben to the highest point of a send ridge, where he threw himself, waiting for Eric, who had lagged behind a little, to come up.
"Sit yo down, lad," said he, when the boy reached him. "You're feeling tired."
Etic was tired, and very glad indexiste

Upon the left the island rose and fell, a succession of sand bills. Far in the distance, a faint line of white showed where it once more fant line of white aboved where it once more touched the ocean, and gave cause for other lines of rearing surges. All this and more had fire time to take in before Ben broke allence. He had been regarding him very thoughtfully for a few moments, and at launth beauche. length he spoke :

length he spoke:
"Well, lad," said he, "I've been thinking
much about ye. I've saved your life, but
I'm not so clear in my mind but what it 'ud have been best to have let you go with the others.

Eric gave a start of surprise, and there was

Eric gave a start of surprise, and there was an atomot (one in his yole, as he scalaimed: "Why, Mr. Ben, what makes you say that?" "Well, you se, ir's just this way," answered Ben, slow ly, as though he were puzzling out the best way to state the case. "You're in a mighty had box, and no mistake. Evil. in a mighty had box, and no mistake. Evil-Evodoes not fancy you, and will take the first chance to do for you, if he can keep his own skin whole. Dead men tell no tales, is what he goes by, and if the folks over there," jerking his thomb in the direction of the main-land, "only knew what goes on bere, they'd be prestly sure to want to put a stop to it, and make us all smart for it finely. Now, it's not likely you want to join us, and I'm no less sure that Evil-Eye will take precious good care not to let you go, for fear you should get his neck, into the noses. That's the only thing he's afraid of." the only thing he's afraid of."