

the water, and while there they were so remote that they were entirely beyond the control of their owners. Lobsters clawed them, sharks snapped them, and whales took offensive liberties with them. On land the result was an inextricable entanglement. At times the whole community would be tied up in one indistinguishable knot, like the worms in a man's bait-box. It was proposed to cut off the tails with sharp flints or clam-shells; and this was tried; but the tail was so very large and the gorilla so very small in proportion, that it was the gorilla that died, while the tail lived, wriggled down to the shore, and swam off to sea. After two or three experiments



this plan was abandoned, as it must needs have been, or our race would have become extinct. Next, it was decided that each individual should gradually reduce the length of his tail by cutting it off joint by joint. But the confusion produced by the intertwinning was so great that no one was quite sure of his own tail, and while he was sleeping, or eating, or disporting