

THE GYMNAST OF THE SEA.

BY F. P. CHAPLIN.

Octopus vulgaris is his name, and in and out among the sheltered bays of islands dotting the great Northern Pacific, he moves with solemn purpose, mercilessly entrapping "myriads of lesser voyagers," that in shoals glide with sinuous sweep on toward the highways of the mighty deep.

With the greatest diligence the monster travels over lovely sea forests wavering in calm beauty beneath the swell of the Indian ocean, or the blue waters of the Mediterranean. In these dim-lighted thoroughfares he delights; inlets and rounded curves afford the hiding-places that he loves; in them, resting quietly on beds of sea-weed, he finds countless companies of scaly beauties utterly powerless to resist his electric touch!

Very curiously endowed is our mammoth traveller; no shell, no skeleton has he, but in the back are two conical pieces of horn-like substance, well embedded. His body resembles a jelly-bag, round and sometimes as large as a barrel; over this, the creature has a sort of leather sac, thick and strong. But wonder of wonders, now appear eight huge arms! and upon them are ranged in order nearly two thousand sucking-cups! One hundred and twenty pairs to each arm. How can he ever get tired with so many busy servants! And think, if you can, how terribly he would hold on to anything he caught! Sometimes, when sailors have been attacked by this horrible sea-pirate, they have willingly cut off a hand or a foot to free themselves from the fearful embrace. If it so happens that Octopus himself has fallen into hands stronger than his own he will gladly lose some of his powerful pincers in the tussle rather than give up and be beaten; and really it does not matter much, since in a little time they

grow again, and the sea-giant girded with new strength sets forth more determined than ever to conquer his enemies.

Can you guess where the mouth is? within the space surrounded by these eight lively arms, there you find it, with a thick round lip, and just under the lip a sort of parrot-like beak, with the short mandible uppermost. There is no bone under these mandibles, but their interior is filled with a fibrous substance of marvellous strength and solid-

fashion of accomplishing the labor. While four are playing oarsmen, the resting four may be getting something ready for supper—and it's "supper-time" about all the time with them, so report saith.

Sometimes the wily Captain finds a foe not agreeable to his mind—what then—what happens when the grampus or the cachalot offer fight? Well it is droll enough, for in this dire emergency the old sea-pirate resorts to a dark and most confusing bit of strategy; he always carries about him, in a

surprise. This dark-hued substance is helpful in other ways; it is the *sepia* used by painters, and is much valued by artists for the delicate brown tints it affords.

When this mammoth dweller of the seas changes his mood, and decides to take a trip on land,—though on land beneath the waves,—he at once issues orders to his sturdy oarsmen, and, instantlier, they become the most nimble of legs! bearing about with swiftiness and ease the now plump body. In a trice the independent traveller strides up and down the sandy highway, tramping on like an enormous spider and passing over slippery ledges as easily as a fly dances over a window-pane. Now see extended the countless suckers, holding firmly to rocks or sea-wrack, and, as if tossed gently in a hammock, the portly body is presently lulled to softest slumbers.

On awakening, the alert trapezist exercises the long arms in other ways, twisting and twirling them here and there, furtively grasping at hidden tit-bits, or stretching forth in search of larger game, until marching orders are again issued.

Octopus we have introduced to you with his eight arms and big ink-bag. No wonder, if the out spread arms, with all those ugly sucking-cups, were in duty, that it was called "a hundred limbed creature!"

Octopus, ugly as he is in appearance and character, is, by sailors of East Indian seas, regarded as a most delicious morsel, and if a sudden stroke of good fortune should secure the huge body for a grand roast, great is the rejoicing! But the courageous mariner often loses his own life, and is hopelessly sucked in, piece-meal, within the horrid lips.—*Wide Awake.*

GOD LOVETH a cheerful giver. 2 COR. 9:7.



in the dream of had received a similar to that

friends exemplification in Amos 3: 7 far, they went to a large supply at in Num. 13: he last in 1 Sam. 25: 11—though material. In one other articles fond, and also ty heavily laden,

ery, they found ecimen of a class ings 4: 33 (first ad been brought the latter part of n, who bore the y from a sleeping of water. The ke up their pur- of in Gen. 42: 35, nt colored pieces in 2 John, 12th n their neighbor- ne articles spoken g them to their his moment, there to that we read children, though t least, as she did imitate her ex- r parents entered, d girls, in number sons. They were ho, it is said, will land. They were e woman in Prov. e little guests had : places spoken of ces now were filled h. 8: 17. I have their pleasure dur- air gifts, though it four little friends, remaining an hour, sed to their homes, were anxious to go the morning might y expected to re- n that time came, th of the statement

JDY.

ne of an event in it occurred many he truth of which is ition of all nations, ns and monuments

history altogether sted by this same l and precious, and ry. In my thought lid and fluid; man ; a valuable tree ; an old, old man ; erable little children happiness.

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he sorrow and what

ences concerning my associations.

UESTIONS IN NO. 22.

rom his victory over amon whatever came meet him he would e to the Lord. Judges

1 Kings xvi. 24.

11. 9, 10.

gs xviii. 9.

Moses' father-in-law.

1, 13, 15.

eighty years. 1 Kings

Chron. xxxvi.

vii. 1.

if the tribe of Manasseh.

CRUSTIC.

3, Cherith. 4, Reph-

c. 7, Shalum. 8, Ehad.

11, Benum. 12, Felix.

15, Troas. 16, Hel. In-

7:5.

TERS RECEIVED.

or George Barr, 12 ac;

Jessie Kerr, 12

see, 12.

ity. The muscles of the jaws are very powerful, and the tongue is delicate and capable of performing various offices in the disposition of food.

When this big traveller sallies forth in quest of adventure by sea, the huge disc of a body becomes a boat; and for merry rowers, Captain Cephalopod calls for the lively exercise of the eight strong arms, and a right jolly time they have, never getting weary, since they follow the "ride and tie"

big inside pocket, a great supply of ink, and now, to baffle his antagonist, out comes this ink-bag to the rescue, and so much is thrown out that, all about, the water is so blackened that nobody can see straight, and Octopus is safe, for every other creature roaming round is utterly mystified and confounded. It is then that the owner of the ink-bag slips off with a stealthy movement to a covert he has aforetime made nete of against a season of sudden