

now hurled him up and on the opposite shore. Another great breaker would have borne him back had he remained senseless, but a chill attacked him and a violent retching, and between them they so racked him, tearing at his heart and lungs, that he was brought back to consciousness, the blood pouring from his nose and mouth.

He heard the hissing fall of another great green mountain, and, instinctively, rolled over and over until he no longer felt its stinging spray on his face. Then he lay like a log. He was too weak even to crawl,—he had set his teeth and squirmed out of the breakers' reach with the false strength of frenzied terror. Even now he clutched about wildly for some protection and, his fingers fastening upon the needles of a scrub-pine, he held to them tightly regardless of the pain of their pricking.

There was no need for this self-infliction, but so unreasoning was his terror after his encounter with that great monster, so conscious was he of his own helplessness, that the possibility of his safety seemed remote. He was tense, taut, rallying his forces for the blow that any instant he expected to fall, preparing to do battle again. His mind was a blank on which was scrawled over and over again: "Danger," "Danger," . . . scrawled vertically, horizontally, diagonally,—everywhere, so that there was room for nothing more. . . . If a mental shock leaves the majority of one's reasoning powers in abeyance, a physical shock of the same caliber suspends them altogether,—sometimes, in the cases of unfortunates such as Hans Chasserton, permanently.

But Arnold's was an exceptionally strong mind and, in his case, the suspension was brief. The second shock failing to materialize, he relaxed, and relaxing realized that he was beyond the breakers' reach. Still weak, however, he waited until his body should make the same recovery as his mind. Which was not for long, for the channel light by revealing his new surroundings, gave him a thrill that was worth more than the accumulated strength of an hour of resting—especially now