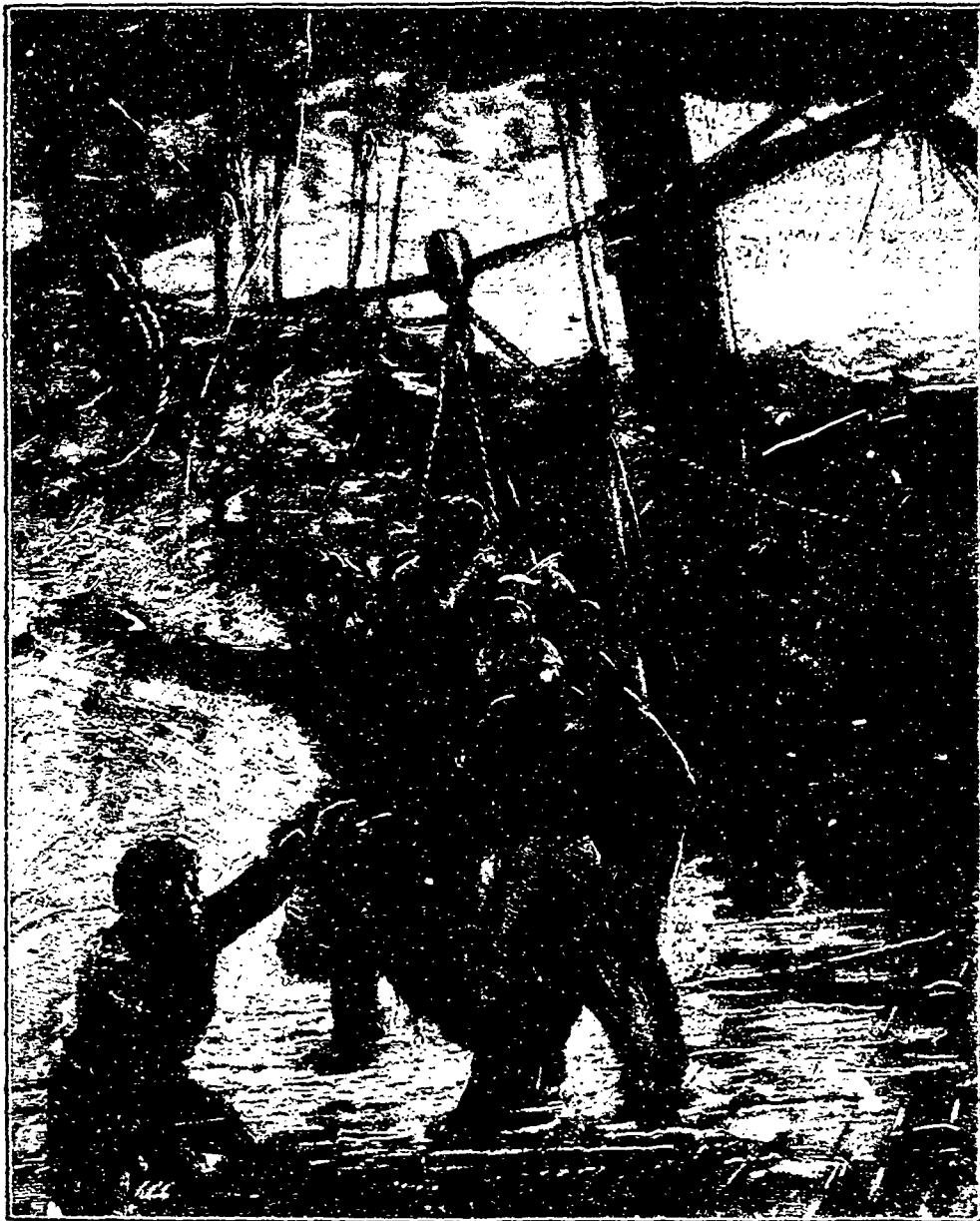


AND SO IT CAME TO PASS, AND OTHER SKETCHES.



Saved by the breeches-buoy.

“AND so it came to pass that they escaped all safe to land.” That word “so” is our text. If you turn to your Bibles (Acts xxvii. 44) you will there see what the “so” means. In fact, the verse tells us: “Some on boards, some on broken pieces of the ship, and so”—clinging hold of spars, hanging on to boards, gripping bits of the vessel, so they came all safe to land.

Some few years since, I was on the east coast, and I had an opportunity of seeing the life-saving appa-

tus in full swing; not that there was an actual wreck, but my good friend, Captain Clarke, said, “We will have a sort of review; it will be good practice for the men, and it may interest you.” So I am going to use the life-saving apparatus of the Board of Trade as illustrating this word “so.”

Now the very first thing necessary is that the alarm should be given. The coastguardsman is walking along his solitary beat, listening and looking. I think I can see him as he stands and listens; he is