

"Lisbeth," replied Perran, in the same tone, "you remember our compact?"

"Yes, yes," she sighed; "oh, and I will keep it."

The compact was this. 'Lisbeth was, like the rest, in all respects to obey the commands and wishes of "the captain" from the first moment of leaving Somerset.

"Or I should have to leave you behind," said Perran.

"Oh, I will give no trouble indeed. I will be brave, and patient, and obedient," his wife promised.

Yet 'Lisbeth did not like to think that, even for a few hours, Perran might be ordered out of her sight. She conjured up a thousand accidents that might befall him then, but all the same *she had promised*, and she would abide by her promise.

Perhaps she was thinking of one of those possible dangers now, for she uttered a cry, and clung to her husband's arm, as a loud scream and the firing of a gun roused all the council.

Had the natives stolen upon them already in this retired spot.

No, it was another danger which had caused that shriek.

Little Johnny, and Peter, the Sandwich Islander, had, unobserved, paddled off in one of the *Dart's* small boats to a cove hard by, where they might indulge in the luxury of a bath. An order had been issued that no one was to land for fear of surprises; the low muddy shore, too, was uninviting; but Master Johnny, and the light-hearted and somewhat light-headed Peter, had decided that a bath in shallow water was no breach of the command. Peter was a very fish in the sea, but Johnny stated plainly, "Much water, and me drown." So, for the sake of company in his bath, Peter had rowed Johnny into shallow water. Here they had quietly enjoyed themselves for a few minutes when Johnny suddenly cried out, "See there, Peter! tree move! Oh, he come in water—he catch me!"

Then that fearful shriek from the lad arose which alarmed all the party. An alligator, disturbed in his quiet repose on the muddy beach, had slowly slipped into the sea, and was making for Johnny. Peter, with a few lightning strokes, had gained the boat, but the alligator was between him and the boy, and he could do nothing to save him. The sharp crack of a rifle, however, sounded, and a ball hit the scaly armor of the creature and glanced off into the water. It was not hurt, only disgusted. It seemed to pause, and wonder whence came the ugly blow, and in that moment Johnny took courage and gained the beach—scrambling on to high ground with all the speed of terror.

"Well aimed! Who fired?" asked Captain Mostyn eagerly.

Not Sam, he was asleep among the coals; not Sin-sing, he came out of the engine-room, saucepan in hand, greatly terrified. No; it was Molly, who, with a very red face, met the inquirers.

She was half crying. "I beg your pardon, please, captain, but I couldn't help it. Missis, she learned me how to use the gun, and I couldn't see the little lad eaten up by that live log of wood, even of a Sunday, and I quite forgot to wait for your orders."

The captain's harangue on obedience had sunk so deeply into the poor girl's mind that she hardly dare lift a finger except by command.

"You have saved the lad's life, girl," was the quick reply, and then Molly was forgotten in the anxiety to recover the missing pair.

Johnny was at last got into the boat and brought back to the *Dart*, to receive a severe cuffing from Sin-sing, and a strong reproof from Captain Mostyn, shared by Peter, after which the little pigtail was no more seen for the rest of the day, and even Peter's chatter was silenced. One was as much a child as the other, it seemed.

As for Molly, she rose into high esteem at once. Her good eye, steady aim, quick perception of danger, and intelligent use of the means of defence at hand, were the admiration of all.

"I see you will be of real service to us, Molly," said her master; "you are not one who will run away or tremble when danger comes."

"No, sir, if you please," returned Molly, in great delight at the praise.

(To be continued.)

The *Memphis Christian Advocate* comments in terms of great severity upon the practice of raising church debts by means of ice cream festivals, etc. "The most effectual way to pay a church debt," it says, "or to meet current expenses, is to do it. Let the amount needed be apportioned among the membership according to the ability of each. If any member refuses or declines to do his part, then let the rest assume it without dispute or contention, and pay it, not by suppers or indirect methods, but right out. Pay the money without letting it go through an ice-cream freezer."

"LET me tell you, nothing lightens the labors and soothes the spirit of a hard-worked man, and especially a missionary, be he in India, China, the African deserts, or the islands of the great Pacific, as the feeling that his countrymen and countrywomen at home are watching his toilsome steps, and stretching out over land and sea to help him, if only by kindly thoughts and prayers."