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it is blowing fresh, and I long to look at the waves."

"I certainly shall not," said Joan, shortly. "The sweet mother gave me work to do, and I shall do it."

"You mean that I am not doing mine," said the pert Marjorie. "Why don't you say so straight?"

"I said what I meant," answered Joan.

"Do come to the rocks—just a short while," besought the younger girl. "I hate to be shut up here when the sea is rolling up against the cliff—so free. Oh, so free!"

"You are talking nonsense," said Joan, somewhat dictatorially. "The sea is no more free than you are. It has to go just where the good God sends it, and no further."

"Ah, Joan!" sighed Marjorie, "you take away all my thoughts and fancies. The sea looks free, at any rate; and the wind sounds free. Just listen! Isn't it lovely? I must go and look at it!"

"Marjorie," said Joan, earnestly this time, "do not go. Our lady mother would not like it. You remember how vexed she was when we went to the Piskies' Pool. Do not go. It is not seemly for a maiden to be out alone."

"What harm can it be?" persisted wilful Marjorie.

"I am only just going to look at it, and then return; and our lady mother need never know that I have been out—unless you tell upon me."

"I would not go, Mistress Marjorie," said one of the serving women; "it is blowing rough and wild, and as Mistress Joan says, the good lady your mother would not like it."

"I care not," said the girl, who could not brook contradiction, and was really a very wilful maiden. So she tossed back the long plait of her golden hair, which, after the fashion of the day, she wore tressed down her back, and she rose from the window-seat and left the chamber.

"I do believe she goes!" cried Joan, distressed. "What can I do? I will not go myself; I am afraid the sweet mother will be angry."

"If Mistress Marjorie insists upon going," said the serving-woman, rising from her work, "I will even accompany her; but it is not fit weather for her to go. But be easy, Mistress Joan. I will bring her back again."

The girl bent over her frame once more with a sigh as her mind went after Marjorie, and for some time worked on in silence; but neither sister nor maid returned.

As a matter of fact, the woman had found Marjorie sallying forth with hood and cloak wrapped round her, and hastily snatching up her own wrapper, had followed her swiftly down the narrow pathway that led to the sea.

The wind had risen now, and the ocean, making immediate response to her sister element, was roaring and dashing against the rocky headlands, and rushing in, foam-laden, to the little bays along the coast.

"Oh, it is not grand!" cried Marjorie, gasping for breath, and rosy with the wind and the spray.

(To be continued.)



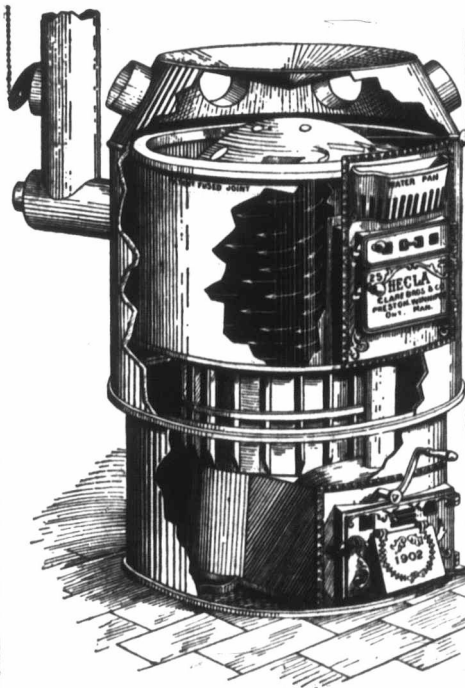
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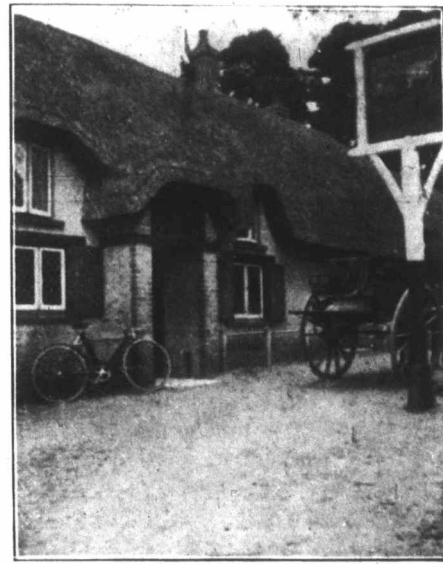
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