

Gospel. If there was a man in debt, and I told him a surety had discharged him—if there was a man perishing for want, and I told him of provision—if there was a man destitute of clothing, and I told him of raiment—or if there was a condemned man, and I told him of liberty and life; who does not see in each case that here would be good news? Sinner, "Behold, I bring thee glad tidings of great joy." Sinner, indebted to Divine justice, having nothing to pay, behold "the Surety of a better covenant," "the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." Sinner, perishing with hunger, behold "the bread of life, whereof if a man eat he shall never die." Naked soul, here is "fine raiment that thou mayest be clothed; that the shame of thy nakedness may not appear."

object floating upon the surface. As we drew near, we could see two of the sailors trying to draw it towards them with a boat-hook. It proved to be the body of a man deprived of the head and one arm. With much exertion they raised half the corpse out of the sea, as high as the gunwale of the boat, when to our horror and surprise a huge shark rose rapidly to the top of the water, seized the mutilated form in its ponderous jaws, and dragged it from the grasp of the seamen. The voracious creature at once disappeared, leaving us all perfectly amazed and horrified.

I now understood that the painful scream I listened to the day before must have arisen from the seizure of this poor Prussian by the shark. I could not help wondering what might have been the man's state of fitness, passing as he did from perfect health by so dreadful a death into the immediate presence of his Maker.

On another occasion, I had a very narrow escape myself, and thank God that I am spared to relate the event. It was our custom when on shore to bathe in the surf at a secluded bay, into which the natives assured us sharks never entered. After swimming about for some time, I made for the shore, but was prevented gaining a footing by the strong back-wash, which swept me off at each attempt to land. My companions had left the water, and after another determined effort I managed to follow them.

When upon the beach, I beheld a shark driven into the shallow water at the very spot I had emerged from. The bulk of the creature was very great, and it had for the moment become grounded, floundering about in its efforts to reach deep water, nor was it successful until the next roller carried it back to sea. Had I remained in the waves for another minute, I should have met with the fate of the Prussian sailor.

By sea and by land we are at all times exposed to countless and unforeseen perils. How necessary it is, then, that every one of us should take advantage of health and life, that we may be prepared to say without fear, and with well-grounded hope of acceptance through having believed in the Saviour, "Into Thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit." A holy life is the best evidence that our souls are in a fit state to meet death, whenever or however it may come.



SHARKS.

STANDING by the gangway of a fifty-gun frigate, riding at anchor in the picturesque port of San Blas, Mexico, admiring the grandeur of the scene, my attention was attracted to a large Prussian bark lying near to us. A sailor was reaching from her side in the act of filling a bucket. The sea was perfectly calm, the motion of each separate wave being absorbed in the long heaving swell that set in from the thousand miles of the broad Pacific.

I was startled from my reverie by a sudden splash and a piercing shriek. Turning my eyes towards the bark, I perceived many men rushing to the side, and I missed the sailor whom I had just before seen leaning over the ship.

The next day, on our way to the shore, we met a boat from the Prussian vessel pulling towards a dark