

upon it—and nothing more, remember—this lady must place her two hands upon my left shoulder. Now, before we start off into deep water, is there any amount of your clothes that you can get rid of? The least thing adds to your weight. Men's clothes are heavy, ladies' are light, and do not so much signify."

"How can I get rid of my clothes, they are all so wet and clinging to me?"

"Well, I will help you; first of all there is your coat. Can you hold on by the rock with one hand for a few moments?"

"I think so."

"Very well then, first let go your left hand gently, and I with my right will pull that sleeve off; then let go your right hand and we will pull that off."

"But there is my pocket-book in my coat."

"Has it much money in it?"

"Yes, two hundred pounds."

"That had better have been left on shore in boating. Is it in notes?"

"Yes."

"Well, first of all, I will take out the book. Let me feel. Oh, here it is; come, it is not so heavy as I feared, I will just stick that inside my waistband. Now then, I am ready to pull off the left hand, take that hand off the rock. So! now hold fast. How the coat sticks! Hurrah! that is done. Now then, hold fast with your left hand and let go the right. So there he goes up the stream to Totness," said Herbert, as soon as he had drawn the coat from its late wearer, and thrown it to sink in the bubbling tide. "Now, what boots have you got on?"

"O, luckily, I have got on shoes."

"Well, kick them off directly then."

"I cannot; they are tied."

"Well, put your foot out, so that I can get at it, and break the shoe string. So that is it. There, he is gone. Now the other."

"O, how the rocks cut my feet."

"Never mind the cuts now, up with the other foot. I have him. There goes the second shoe. Now, how about gold watch and chain? Have you got one on?"

"Yes."

"Well, give it to me, I will do my best to throw it towards Dittisham shore. If it does not reach the dry ground, we may at least throw it so far into shallow water that it may be picked up next tide."

"Just take it off my neck, will you?"

"I will. Ah, it is a nice watch. It is a pity to use it so roughly."

"Oh, here is my watch too," said the lady, "if you will take it over my head."

"Thank you," said Herbert; and gathering the two watches up together in the hollow of his hand, he gave them a good vigorous cast towards the shore, and saw them sink a few yards from it. "Now, those will be easily recovered tomorrow morning. Have you anything else about you—keys or anything of that sort?"

"Nothing," said the lady.

"I have some silver in my trousers pocket," said the gentleman.

"Pitch it all into the river," said Herbert; "this is one of those occasions on which money is a curse to man."

"Just put your hand in my left trousers pocket, and take it all out then."

Herbert did so, and produced a whole handful of silver, which he threw after the watches.

"Now, then, we are as light as we can get. The water is rising very rapidly. Be ready to start. You must neither of you attempt to