

some, intelligent, and most agreeable person—full of life and pleasant humor. At supper-time, I noticed him with a glass of champagne in his hand, gaily talking with some ladies. In a little while after, my eye happening to rest on him, I saw him holding a glass of port wine to his lips, which was emptied at a single draught. Again passing near him, in order to speak to a lady, I observed a tumbler in his hand, and knew the contents to be brandy and water. This caused me to feel some concern, and I kept him in closer observation. In a little while he was at the table again, pouring out another glass of wine. I thought it might be for a lady upon whom he was in attendance; but no, the sparkling liquor touched his own lips. When the company returned to the parlors, the flushed face, swimming eyes, and over-hilarious manner of my young friend, showed too plainly that he had been drinking to excess. He was so much excited as to attract the attention of every one, and his condition became the subject of remark. I was mortified and distressed at the occurrence, and drawing him from the room, made free to tell him the truth. He showed some indignation at first, and intimated that I had insulted him; but I rebuked him sternly, and told him he had better go home. I was too much excited to act very wisely. He took me at my word, and left the house. There was no sleep for my eyes on that night, Mrs. Eldridge. The image of that boy, going home to his mother at midnight, in such a condition, and made so by my hand, haunted me like a rebuking spectre: and I resolved never again to set out a table with liquors to a promiscuous company of young and old, and I have kept that word of promise. My husband is not willing to have a party, unless there is wine with the refreshments, and I would rather forego all entertainments, than put temptation in the way of any one. Your son's suggestion is admirable. Have the independence to act upon it, and set an example which many will be glad to follow. Don't fear criticism or remark; don't stop to ask what this one will say, or that one think. The approval of our own consciences is worth far more than the opinions of men. Is it right? that is the question to ask; not how will it appear, or what will people say? There will be a number of parties

given to your niece without doubt; and if you lead off with coffee instead of wine, all the rest of Fanny's friends may follow the good example.

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A MONSTER OF THE DEEP.

In some parts of the ocean there are enormous sea animals called "Sepia," which are a sort of polypi. They have very long legs, and are said sometimes to seize upon the coral divers along the coast of Italy. Mr. Beals tells of the following adventure with a creature of this sort:—

While upon the Bonin Islands, searching for shells on the rocks which had just been left dry by the receding tide, I was much astonished at seeing at my feet a most extraordinary-looking animal, crawling towards the retreating surf. I had never seen one like it before. It was creeping on its eight legs, which, from their soft and flexible nature, bent considerably under the weight of his body, so that it was lifted by the efforts of the tentacles only a small distance from the rocks.

It appeared much alarmed on seeing me, and made every effort to escape, while I was not much in the humor to capture so ugly a customer, whose appearance excited a feeling of disgust, not unmixed with fear. I, however, endeavored to prevent its escape by pressing on one of its legs with my foot; but although I used considerable force for that purpose, its strength was so great that it several times quickly liberated its member, in spite of all the efforts I could employ, in this way, on wet, slippery rocks. I now laid hold of one of the tentacles with my hands and held it firmly, so that the limb appeared as if it would be torn asunder by our united strength. I gave it a powerful jerk, wishing to disengage it from the rocks to which it clung so closely by its suckers, which it effectually resisted; but the moment after, the apparently enraged animal lifted its head, with its large eyes protruding from the middle of its body; and, letting go its hold of the rocks, suddenly sprang upon my arm, which I had previously bared to the shoulder for the purpose of thrusting it into the holes in the rocks to discover shells, and clung with its suckers to it with great power—endeavored to get its beak, which I could now see between the

roots of its arms, in a position to bite. A sensation of horror pervaded my whole frame when I found this monstrous animal—for it was about four feet long—fixed so firmly to my arm. Its cold, slimy grasp was extremely sickening, and I immediately called to the captain, who was also searching for shells at some distance, to come and release me from it by taking me down to the boat, during which time I was engaged in keeping the beak away from my hands. He quickly released me by destroying my tormentor with the boat-knife, when I disengaged it by portions at a time. This animal was the species of "Sepia" which is called by whalers "rock squid."

Thus are these remarkable creatures, from the adaptation of their remarkable tentacles and modifications of their bodies, capable of sailing, flying, swimming, and creeping on the shore, while their senses, if we may judge from the elaborate mechanism of their organs, must possess corresponding neatness and perfection.

A TALE OF THE ARCTIC REGIONS.

We take from a very old monthly publication the following extraordinary narrative. The circumstances are certainly within the range of possibility, since no putrefaction could take place whilst the bodies of the sufferers were in the temperature of a vessel "encased in thick-ribbed ice."

In the spring, some years ago, a whaling vessel sailed from the port of London, upon a voyage to the Polar Seas. Nothing material is said to have occurred until their arrival at those solitary regions, when it became the duty of the crew to keep a perpetual look out upon the horizon, in search of fish. Whilst thus occupied, it was fancied by one of the seamen that a sail was discernible as far to the northward as the eye could reach; as the course of the whaler was toward the supposed vessel, a mast became gradually distinguishable amidst the mountain of ice which appeared in that quarter to bound the sea.

It was now summer, and the afternoon unusually calm, whilst the whaler gradually neared the object in view, the supposition being that it was a vessel engaged in operating upon the blubber, in a bay which would open to the view upon approaching nearer to the ice. Upon