

THE POLK COUNTY ITEMIZER.

DALLAS, SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 1882.

A SEA-MONSTER.

Tom Langtry, walking along the pebbly beach a few miles from Mulligharth, came upon a sheltered inlet, where, undisturbed, he might indulge in the luxury of a swim. It was a warm afternoon, and Tom, oppressed with the fatigue and dust of a long railway-journey from Dublin that morning, could not resist the temptation of a "dip" in the cool, sparkling water. Leaving his clothes half hidden among the rocks, he plunged in and struck out boldly from land. After half an hour's lusty buffeting with the waves, he swam slowly back to shore, and, scrambling up the shelving beach, saw, to his indescribable consternation, that his garments were on the rocks not a trace remained.

house, which rejoiced in the name of "The Gull's Nest." Folded in the bottom of his trunk, which was shortly conveyed to his new dwelling, lay the long blue cloak which Captain Langtry had found of some service on a former occasion. If he found it expedient to acknowledge himself the thief, he would restore the old woman's property without delay, as his conscience troubled him for not having done so long before. Shortly after his installation in his new abode, a timid knock, accompanied by the rattling of dishes, sounded at his door. To Captain Langtry's great delight, his attendant proved to be no other than the charming little girl for the sake of whose pretty face he had given up his comfortable rooms in the town. She set the tray, containing a carefully-prepared tea, on the table, and asked bashfully what the gentleman's further wishes might be. It was hardly possible that in the well-dressed and pleasant smile she should recognize the shivering wretch who had come to their cabin door the previous summer; and Captain Langtry felt safe against questioning on that disagreeable subject.

same dingy pocket; but when Teddy re-entered the room, all trace of astonishment had vanished from Captain Langtry's face, and he allowed the young rustic to depart without remark. "Confounded the rascal!" the captain exclaimed, when he was alone. "To think of him having my pipe and handkerchief in his possession all this time, besides all the other things that he stole from the rocks that day! No wonder he had 'reason to suppose' that the sea-monster was a man 'like ourselves'—uncommonly like myself! In truth, I should like to give this young Paddy a taste of a prison-cell; but I dare not accuse him for Nora's sake. It is well for the villain that I want to keep that adventure a secret from his cousin; my tender conscience might rebel against marrying the man who had so ill-treated old granny. No, Teddy may keep his spoils, and I will hold my tongue. My sweet little Nora's confidence in me shall not be disturbed for a thousand times the value of those paltry clothes."

It was the day before the wedding, and "The Gull's Nest" was the scene of a cheerful bustle and confusion; the bridal pair were to start for Paris, and the little house was full of the tasteful new clothes that had been bought for Nora. As Captain Langtry walked up and down the garden paths, some one touched his shoulder softly from behind; he turned, and beheld Teddy, who, instead of breaking forth into one of his many voluble greetings, beckoned to the captain to follow him into a small summer-house. There was an air of mystery mingled with malicious triumph about the boy, which excited the captain's curiosity as to what was coming.

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