

IT IS A TERROR

AWFUL MONSTER IS SEEN OFF THE COAST OF NEW JERSEY.

Sighted by Four Persons Who are Positive of the Fact and They Testify that it had the Form of a Snake with a Head Like that of an Alligator—Length of the Monster is Estimated to be at Least One Hundred Feet and it Goes Through the Water Like an Express Train—Details of the Fight.

New York, Sept. 26.—The Sun will print the following in the morning: Another chapter has been added to the rather fragmentary history of the great sea serpent. The story comes from the Jersey coast, and its sponsor is Willard P. Shaw, 41 Wall st. Not only did Mr. Shaw have an excellent view of the monster, but his wife, their 9-year old son and Miss Ella B. D. Salter of Patterson, who was visiting at the Shaw's cottage at Spring Lake, also watched it for several minutes. Moreover, a neighbor who was walking along the beach observed the phenomenon, and his observations tally exactly with those of the Shaw party.

As it is Mr. Shaw who is sponsor for the story, it is worth while to take into consideration four points regarding him. First, he is temperate; second, he is not subject to hallucinations; third, his sight is excellent, and fourth, his veracity is unimpeachable. The same is true of the other observers. Mr. Shaw who is a lawyer at 41 Wall st, lives in Patterson, and has a cottage at Spring Lake, N. J. just across the road from the sea beach.

Yesterday afternoon he, Mrs. Shaw, Miss Salter and young Willard Shaw were sitting on the front porch, which overlooks the sea, trying to keep cool. The afternoon was calm and hot, and the only motion of the water was a long, quiet swell breaking monotonously on the beach. Mr. Shaw, however, which had been desultory, had almost died away, and about 1:30 Mrs. Shaw was considering the advisability of going up stairs for a nap, when Miss Salter, who had been looking intently out to sea toward the north, said: "There's something strange out there in the water, and it is coming this way."

Looking where she pointed, the others saw a black object projecting from the water, and about a considerable commotion. "Perhaps it's a school of porpoises," suggested Mr. Shaw.

"Or a whale," exclaimed the boy. "It doesn't act like a whale I ever saw, and I've seen a good many," replied Mr. Shaw, shading his eyes with his hands, "and it certainly is not porpoises. If I believed in such things I should say it—well, bring out the big glasses!"

Running into the house the boy quickly came out with a pair of very powerful field glasses. Boy like, he held them to his own eyes for a moment before he handed them to his father and on getting the object in range he cried: "Why, papa, it's a big snake."

Mr. Shaw took one long look at the creature in the water and passed the glasses to Miss Salter, who, after using it, handed it to Mrs. Shaw. Then they all looked at one another.

"The sea serpent," they said simultaneously, and starting down to the beach. By this time the creature, which was plowing through the water with tremendous rapidity, had reached a point opposite them. Judging from the fishing net poles set out in the water Mr. Shaw thinks that it must have been about a half mile out from shore, but where the creature's head was usually run. The water there is 60 or 70 feet deep. As there were no waves to impede the sight an excellent view was obtained of the monster on every motion.

As near as could be judged the creature was from 75 to 100 feet long. The head, which projected above the water as it swam, was flat-nosed like an alligator's head. It seemed five or six feet long, and as large as a four barrel in circumference. No part of the body was as large as the head, the mean diameter being perhaps two feet. Its tail was long and tapering.

In color the creature was very dark. No fins could be seen, nor were there tentacles projecting from the head, as described in the story of the sea serpent alleged to have been seen in Long Island Sound. It made no noise, but the water was greatly stirred up by its movements.

Progress was made by a series of writhing movements, not sideways, but up and down. Its speed was estimated as being at least 40 miles an hour. At times nearly all the body could be seen as the huge serpent contorted itself, and again only the head was out of water. From the time it was first sighted to the time it disappeared in the distance the head was not once withdrawn beneath the surface of the water.

"Evidently the serpent had some definite objective point in view," said Mr. Law in describing it. "For it never paused or turned from its course, but kept pointing south, skirting the coast at a distance of half mile out. A little further in it would have struck the rocks, and then there would have been a fine commotion. I suppose, luckily the creature kept to the deeper water. I think if it had turned toward the shore I should have been induced to collect the family and run for the wood."

It was in eight or more than seven minutes. When Miss Salter first saw the serpent it was more than five miles from the shore, and altogether we must have seen it cover considerably more than five miles. I should say that 40 miles an hour was a moderate estimate of the speed. In describing our strange visitor generally, I should say that it looked like an enormous smooth-skinned serpent, with an alligator-like head.

After the monster had vanished from sight, its uplifted head being the last thing seen, the spectators went back to the porch to talk it over. In comparing observations they found that all their estimates agreed. While they were talking a neighbor who occupied a cottage not far from Mr. Shaw's came breathless and in great excitement. "I have seen the sea-serpent," he gasped when he reached the porch. "I was walking along the beach and saw it as plain as I see you now, swimming south faster than any steamer that ever floated, out beyond the fish poles. Didn't any of you see it?"

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Before he went away he said to Mr. Shaw: "I hope that you'll make this thing public. I'll go at any time and take oath to what I have seen."

In his excitement the neighbor went away without giving Mr. Shaw his name, but he can be found easily at any time.

The question of the expediency of making public the adventures was discussed by the Shaws. Mr. Shaw was very doubtful about what he should do. "A great many people will think that you are raving," said his wife, "and many others will make fun of you or think you are trying to make fun of them. Nevertheless, as there is not any reasonable doubt that it is the sea serpent, as I think, as a matter of scientific interest you ought to give out the facts."

Mr. Shaw said that he was willing to make affidavit in support of his statements.

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