

SHARKS AND THEIR WAYS.

Curious About Divers and They Like to Be Scratched.

Sharks are very common all along the coast of Australia. They become more numerous, larger and more voracious the nearer we go to the equator. Passengers who make ocean voyages may often see them from the deck of the ship, but I see them in their native element, says a diver. A day seldom passes when I am at work that I do not see some of these creatures. They do not seem to recognize a diver when clad in his diving dress as a meeting which is good to eat. Probably he is mistaken for some other great sea monster with which the shark would just as soon not meet as his strength. At all events sharks rarely give us any active annoyance. At first when we go into a new country they exhibit some curiosity. They sometimes come and inspect us and our work, moving slowly around us with perceptible motion and smelling us like great dogs. It gives one a very horrible feeling of insecurity, I assure you, when one of those monsters twelve or fourteen feet long runs his nose around your body, and without even a solitary "wag" of his tail to indicate good fellowship. The shark will swim away right enough when he has finished his inspection—at least he has always done so with me—and, although annoying, I can stand it now.

Sometimes when you go down of a morning you will find half a dozen big and little sharks who have evidently selected the site of your operations as a camping ground. This is awkward. Perhaps they have observed the disturbance at the bottom of the sea and, like marine constables, they "are waiting for the fellow who made it to run him in." This is an awkward experience, for these sharks do not clear off and admit your claim. They say all animals have a fear of man, but sharks cannot recognize a man in a diver's costume. They neither oppose nor assist us in our operations—they simply ignore us. We have to be very careful then, walking around about these pigs without disturbing them.

I have occasionally used a small crowbar as a weapon, and struck a small shark on the nose when he was annoying me with his persistence. The shark will then turn and go off with a rush. I would not, however, like to try my crowbar on a shark ten feet long. After his rush away, he might return for further investigation.

I have had many nasty adventures with sharks when pursuing my occupation. I recollect one that gave me a considerable shock. I had been engaged blowing up a reef of rocks so as to enlarge a little harbor on the coast. It was my duty to make the hole and put in the charge of dynamite. The charge was exploded in the evening after we left work. On going down every morning I was accustomed to go over to a certain ledge which was always a good resting place for lobsters. Morning after morning I had invariably found a pair or more of these crustaceans, which I sent to the surface in a basket.

On the morning to which I now refer, I walked straight to the ledge and ran my hand carefully along its lower side. I was surprised to find my hand scraping what I took to be the rock, but I was surprised still more when I observed my hand groping within a foot of the mouth of a great shark which had retired to rest in the cavity. The shark must have been as much alarmed as I was, for it made one sprinting from its resting place and disappeared in the dark wall of ocean. The shock to me was greater than I could have believed, and even yet I do not care to think about it much. It is hardly necessary to say that I did not return to that ledge for lobsters for some time.

Lincoln's Three Books.

"In these days of advanced legal lore it is hard to conceive that Abraham Lincoln gained about all his knowledge of law from a copy of the 'Revised Statutes of Indiana,' which contained the Constitution of the United States and the Declaration of Independence," said the Rev. F. M. Munson. "This Book, a Bible and Bunyan's 'Pilgrim's Progress' completed his library, and he mastered them so well that his education formed on this foundation was sufficient to carry him to the Presidency. In his younger days Lincoln made three trips to New Orleans with a friend named John Hanks, and it was during these visits that he became aroused regarding the slavery question. Turning to his friend once he said: 'Hanks, that is all wrong, and if I ever get a chance at this institution of slavery I will hit it hard.'"

Expenses of Naval Officers.

A commander in the United States navy says that the heaviest drain on the resources of the officers comes from social obligations, especially in foreign ports. They are invited to dine with a King, a Prince, a governor, and as representatives of this nation they have to go. Then, in return, they must invite the potentate to dinner with them; they must decorate the ship brilliantly and provide a sumptuous "spread," not only for the King, but for as many of his Ministers and hangers-on as he chooses to bring with him, and every time this is done each officer must go down into his pocket for \$25 or more.

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They both need healing; oft are sold, And both in time will turn to mould; With shoes the last is first, with men The first shall be the last; and when The shoes wear out, they're mended new; When men wear out, they're men dead too.

They both are trod upon, and both Will tread on others nothing loth; Both have their ties, and both incline When polished, in the world to shine; And both peg out. Now would you choose To be a man, or be his shoes.

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