

The Patter on the Shingle.

When the angry passion gathering in my mother's face I see,
And she leads me in the bed-room—gently lays me on her knee.
Then I know that I will catch it, and my flesh, in fancy, itches,
As I listen for the patter of the shingle on my breeches.

Every tinkle of the shingle has an echo and a sting,
And a thousand burning fancies into active being spring;
And a thousand bees and hornets 'neath my coat-tail seem to swarm.

As I listen to the patter of the shingle, oh, so warm.
In a splutter comes my father—whom I supposed had gone—
To survey the situation and tell her to lay it on;
To see her bending o'er me as I listen to the strain,
Played by her and by the shingle in a wild and weird refrain.

In a sudden intermission, which appears my only chance,
I say: "Strike gently, mother, or you'll split my Sunday pants;"
She stops a moment, draws her breath, the shingle holds aloft
And says: "I had not thought of that—my son, just take them off."

Holy Moses! and the angles, cast thy pitying glances down,
And thou, O family doctor, put a good soft poultice on;
And may I with fools and dunces everlastingly commingle,
If I ever say another word when my mother wields the shingle.

The Floor of the Ocean.

Here is an end of all romance about hidden ocean depths. We can speculate no longer about pearls in chambers of pearl, or mermaids, or heaped treasures and dead men's bones whitening in coral caves. The whole ocean floor is now mapped out. The report of the expedition sent from London in Her Majesty's ship "Challenger" has recently been published. Nearly four years were given to the examination of the currents and floors of the four great oceans of the world.

The Atlantic, we are told, if drained, would be a vast plain, with a mountain range in the middle running parallel with the coast. Another range crosses it from Newfoundland to Ireland, on top of which is a submarine cable. The ocean is thus divided into three great basins, no longer unfathomable depths.

The tops of these sea mountains are two miles below a sailing ship and the basins, according to Reclus, are fifteen miles deep, which is deep enough for drowning, if not for mystery.

The mountains are whitened for thousands of miles by a tiny creamy shell. The basins are red in color, heaped with volcanic masses. Through the black, motionless waters of these abysses move gigantic animal creatures, which never stir the currents.

Legend coming down to us from the old world on which the Sea soundings throw light, and Solon record in their days, of a sea where flourishes the son of mankind, whose name, were submerged, the story is told by the ancients, who still celebrate, in the midst of the frightful cataclysm which has deluged this land with its stately

DeBourbourgh and other archæologists assert that this land extended from Mexico beyond the West Indies. The shape of the plateau discovered by the "Challenger" corresponds with this theory. What if some keen Yankee should yet dig out from its unfathomed slime the Atlantis?

English corduroy is the most fashionable material for little boys' suit. Mixed cassimeres and Scotch cloths are the next in favor.

New silk handkerchiefs for the neck are in pale shades of blue and rose, and edged with platings of Breton, Languedoc Valenciennes laces.

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