bay with a crowd of accompanying tugs and ferryboats the artillery companies at the forts presented arms and fired a salute. Soon we coasted along the sandy shores of the Hook, which were black with the thousands who had gathered for a parting cheer. Here our cortege left us after a babel of steam whistles and hurrahs, and returned to the city with flags at half mast. Then we slowly realized the gravity of our undertaking, and at the same time our buoyant steamer passed out into the broad waters of the Atlantic.

CHAPTER II.

I stayed on deck for a short time, but the rocking of the steamer soon drove me below for a quiet nap. I remained in my birth somewhat longer than I intended—three days in fact—and when I at length got up I found that my faithful Samuel had arranged my books and instruments. Sam was an invaluable product of our complex American civilization. He combined the vivacity of a Frenchman with the soberer qualities of the German, and to the deference of an English servant he added the wit of a true son of Erin. He entered into all my enterprises as though they were his own, and into the present one no less than the others. Even his enthusiasm began to cool, however, as day after day passed without incident. A few whales or a floating mass of sea-weed from time to time made the pulses of all on board beat high with expectation only to sink far lower when the disappointment was known. Thus it went on till the days lengthened into weeks, but still no sign of the monster which had before seemed everywhere.

"Ah! Sam," said I one day, after another of these disappointments, "how foolish we were to start on such a chase! We might have been home long ago."

"Yes," said Sam, "in the little room in the museum, with your fossils all arranged and your great book on The Emotional Nature of the Edible Mollusks already published."

The reference to my book made my spirits sink lower than ever, and it was with unfeigned pleasure that I heard the captain say to me,—

"I am convinced, Professor, that our search is useless. We have done all that can be done, and we start for New York to-morrow."

The news rapidly spread among the crew and was received with the utmost joy. All went to sleep that night impatient for the morrow. Early the next morning I was awakened by Sam, who knocked loudly at my state-room door, and shouted, "Master! Master! come up on deck." I seized my telescope and hurried upstairs, where I soon found the cause of the summons. Far away on the horizon a dim speck was seen, which in the telescope resolved itself into a raft, bearing a confused mass at the base of a mast from which floated that universal signal of distress at sea, a shirt.

CHAPTER III.

The ship was quickly put about and every preparation made on board for the relief of the unfortunates. As we drew nearer, the confused mass became more clearly defined, until we saw two human figures, both apparently in the last stages of exhaustion. One of them held, tightly clasped in his hand, a dark-colored bottle,