—doubtless all he had saved from the wreck, and containing a few drops of a brownish liquid. Later in the day I applied a few tests to the fluid, and even tasted it; but the smallness of the sample prevented my making a complete analysis. I felt justified, however, in concluding that it was an impure hydrate of one of the radicals of the marsh-gas series, and my heart warmed toward its possessor, who was doubtless a scientific man.

We came up to the raft in about half an hour and tenderly lifted its occupants on board. Their very tired condition and long exposure rendered the most careful treatment necessary, and I attended them myself in the captain's cabin. There was little change in their condition during the first twenty-four hours, but on the second day they awoke from their stupor and talked incoherently of snakes and serpents. It occurred to me with almost painful suddenness that they had doubtless seen the very thing we sought. I soon convinced the captain of the probable truth of my surmise, and he consented to remain in our present neighborhood three days longer. Should we see nothing in that time the head of our ship would be turned toward home and our expedition pronounced a failure. The next three days were ones of feverish activity to all on board. I trusted to Mr. Barnum's liberality, and offered a thousand dollars to the man who should first sight the object of our search. The crew scarcely slept; all spent the nights in watching, but in vain. The allotted time passed without incident, and the order was given to turn the ship about. We had proceeded about half a mile in our new direction when Sam startled all on board by shouting, "The thing itself, I'll bet a quarter." All eyes turned in the direction indicated, and sure enough in the spot so lately occupied by our vessel appeared the veritable sea-serpent. His head was raised high above the water and his long body curled in a graceful spiral far behind. All was excitement on board. The captain's gig was manned immediately, and I took my seat in the stern, armed with the ship's telescope. As I never travel, even for a very short distance, without a tooth-brush and light garment for nocturnal wear, Sam, with his inseparable crush hat, out to its fullest extent, was also allowed in the boat, to look after my bag and a large bottle of spiritus frumenti, which I took along in case any of us should be bitten by the serpent. With a silent wave of the hand to those on board the ship we rowed away and neared the monster. He apparently took no notice of our approach, but remained almost motionless where first observed. We soon were almost upon him, so near that we could observe the heavy folds and wrinkles of his skin. The man in the bows straightened his arm with a rapid movement, and was about to hurl the harpoon, when a sudden crash was heard, and a tremendous shock at once shattered our boat and threw us all high into the air, while beneath an enormous whale-like body rose out of the water.

We saw then that what all the world had taken for the sea-serpent was in reality this unknown creature's gigantic neck. The same shock which shattered our boat threw me far forward, and I was closely followed in my parabolic course by Sam. He was soon astride of the great neck, cold and dripping and with hat collapsed. With great difficulty I placed myself in a similar position of comparative safety, and I had scarcely done so when the monster started off at a rapid rate, leaving those poor wretches, our companions in the boat, still struggling in the water. Sam and myself remained in our perilous position until long after nightfall. Our spirits were at the lowest ebb, and I felt myself slowly slipping back into the water, when suddenly the motion ceased, the great head sunk down upon the surface of the sea, and again the eyes threw out that inexplicable radiance first noticed on board the "Phantom." At the same time the enormous body, which had sunk below the surface, rose again and the creature lay at full length along the water, apparently asleep. A ray of hope came to me with the idea that we might husband our failing strength by swimming to the body and resting for a time upon it. After repeated efforts we found ourselves upon the broad back, and threw ourselves out at full length. I was greatly pleased to find that Sam had kept hold of the bottle of spiritus frumenti throughout all. Although we were sure that our animal was no longer a serpent, the snake-like contour of his neck still led me to take a large dose of the preventive. I was about to pass the bottle to Sam, but was astonished to find it empty. He grumbled loudly at his unprotected condition, but said he didn't care a rubber dam if he only got his thousand dollars. At the mention of