pound and drank two glassfuls, which was enough, Sir John said, to act all day. It was nearly tasteless, and its only effect was to raise the spirits and increase the vivacity of us all. Then, after we had carefully adjusted the clothes-pins to our noses, and a modification of the microphone to our ears, the door communicating with the ocean was opened, the water rushed in, and we soon found ourselves walking along the bottom. Our inflated rubber suits relieved us from all inconvenience from pressure, and our leaden shoes seemed light as slippers.

Sir John and myself went in front, while Sam followed with the baskets containing our picnic dinner. We went on in this way for an hour or more over a plain as level as a parlor floor and formed of tiny shells, loosely compacted. I had begun to tire of the monotony of our walk, when a dark mass loomed up before us. In response to my inquiries, Sir John said:

"We are nearing one of my submarine forests, the base of a minor Sargasso Sea. I am hoping to find a pleasant place to picnic there, for I am hungry already."

A walk of a few minutes brought us to the edge of the forest, and we were soon wandering through the curious growth. The heavy pressure of the water caused every trunk and branch and leaf to grow directly upwards, giving an absurdly perpendicular aspect to the whole.

Naturalist as I was, I should have been less than human if my heart had not beat fast as we passed among these rigid trunks. Algae and sea-weed of many species, richly colored zoophytes of varieties quite unknown, and sponges of every size and shape, were scattered about on every hand. Fishes of strange form passed in and out among the branches like those curious winged monsters, found only now as fossils, and gave to the whole the aspect of a forest in some long past geological epoch. I wandered about in the happiest state of mind, classifying everything I met, until a shout from Sam reminded me that I was almost consumed with hunger.

I retraced my steps without difficulty in the direction of the voice and came out into a little open space, where Sam was about to arrange our dinner while Sir John watched the operation with interest from a seat upon a huge sponge. I was just seating myself beside Sir John when a sudden cry from him made me look up just in time to see the contents of our first basket mount toward the surface. Bottles of a very refreshing liquor made from the fermented milk of the sea-cow, salads, preserved sea-peaches, all followed one another in quick succession and disappeared above our heads. At the same moment Sam made a frantic grab as a bottle passed him, and in so doing knocked the clothes-pin from his nose, so that, for the moment, his position was quite precarious. I rushed to him, however, and held his nostrils tightly, while Sir John, with great presence of mind, whittled another pin from the handle of our empty basket.

As soon as the excitement was over, I looked to ascertain the cause of the loss of so large a portion of our dinner, and immediately saw that Sam, in defiance of all the laws of hydrostatics, had opened the basket with its mouth upwards, so that the food, being lighter than the water, had of course risen to the surface. Luckily, however, we had the second basket, and Sam, with many protestations of regret, opened it in the proper manner, with mouth downwards, and we began our meal.

It was some time before I could accustom myself to the precautions which were rendered necessary by variations in specific gravity. Almost all the food, the liquid portion especially, was considerably lighter than the surrounding water, and as a consequence it was not only necessary to have the baskets weighted with lead, but to decant all the liquids upwards into glasses held and kept upside down. Even the salads and similar dishes, with which Sir John's foresight had provided us, had to be eaten off the under side of the plates, and "There's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip" acquired a new significance.

When I had partially satisfied my hunger under these novel conditions, I remembered that Sir John had not yet told me how we happened to be so suddenly precipitated into the interior of the plesiosaurus. In response to my inquiry, he said, as he drew a cigar from his pocket and lit it with a sodium match:

"I had been for some time absent from my cabin and so was quite unacquainted with the events which had taken place so near me. The plesiosaurus had been for several hours under water and the air on board was becoming foul. I therefore ordered the hatchways to be opened, and was quite as much surprised at the result as yourself."

I was about to ask Sam to get a little more of the salad from the basket, but looked around in vain for him. I was quite alarmed, and Sir John and myself immediately started to find him. We had gone but a few steps before we saw him sitting behind a huge trunk looking as white and forlorn as can be imagined.

He seemed very loath to tell us what the matter was, but finally said that as he was eating a piece of pickled sea-cucumber, he had swallowed a quantity of sea-water and its only effect was to raise the spirits and increase the vivacity of us all. The plesiosaurus had been for several hours under water and the air on board was becoming foul. I therefore ordered the hatchways to be opened, and was quite as much surprised at the result as yourself."

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