

## For the Boys and Girls

### REDSTONE CLIFF

What a happy crowd of boys we were, to be sure, in those good old times when our greatest troubles consisted in constructing Caesar or learning Latin roots—when our dearest pleasures were holidays spent in rambles through the forests or along the golden-sand beach!

We were students, you know, in Mr. Minton's Academy. Who could ever forget the doctor—a gray-headed, kind-hearted old man; and, above all, who could forget the Academy?—an ancient-gabled structure, picturesque and venerable, situated near the noisy sea, just three miles from the little village of Kingston.

Many and various are my reminiscences of those happy school days, but, through the gathered dust of years one memory in particular stands out in bold relief.

I refer to a simple incident which I am never likely to forget. Among my companions was Tom, whom in the principal figures in the following sketch, it is necessary to describe. In fact, he is my hero, the boy of all, whose books and tools who was generally soiled and torn, who was generally in all kinds of mischief, but who, as you will shortly see, possessed some good qualities after all.

In Minton's Academy as in the reality of schools, the detestable habit of conferring nicknames held full sway. My hero's name was Frank but he was universally known by the sobriquet of "Toby," a corruption of his surname, Tobin.

One hot afternoon in September, when a lazy stillness seemed to brood over land and sea, Toby, Archibald and myself were trudging along the shore.

The weather was too warm for a game of ball, or even for a nesting updition through the woods. So, you may fancy how restlessly we tramped over the sand, stooping now and then to pick up a curiously shaped shell or to spy a pearly at some white-winged seabird.

Look at Redstone Cliff," said Archibald, pointing to where, in the distance, a huge, jagged, perpendicular rock rose about a hundred feet above the level of the sea. "Let us go over there, to the cove, and have a swim," he continued, "and when we get there I'll tell you a story about Captain Kidd."

"I can't," we replied, "and we have the wonderful story in the mean time."

"All right," replied the good-natured Archibald, coming along. You know how the big round stone lying by itself in the middle of the cove, when the tide is low?"

"Yes! yes!" we eagerly exclaimed. "And then Archibald went on to tell us, five hours before dark, that his vessel anchored about one mile from the shore, just opposite Redstone Cliff."

The strange craft excited the curiosity of the neighboring farmers but, in the following day, it disappeared, cast as mysteriously as it arrived.

Shortly afterwards, however, a party of boys playing in the cove were amusing themselves by jumping over the round rock.

Suddenly one of their number astonished his companions by remarking that the stone had evidently been moved as small marks around the edges could testify.

The boys provided themselves with a number of stout poles, and at last succeeded in overturning the rock.

"Now, what do you think they found?" inquired Archibald, turning on us.

"A pot of gold," was Toby's prompt reply.

"No, but they found a hole in the sand where the pot had been. You see, the pirates carried off the gold before."

So ended the story, and soon we reached the cove, examined the black rock, which we were unable to move, and spent a pleasant half-hour pluming about among the salt-waves.

They sat at the foot of Redstone Cliff, while I stretched ourselves at ease and told wondrous tales and watched the girls circling round us, until evening shadows crept from the sea and enveloped all the land.

Archie rose with a yawn, stretched himself and remarked that the air was very oppressive and that a thunder-storm was pending.

"Then he took a few steps forward, and in another instant Toby and I leaped to our feet, shuddering with terror at the explanation which burst from Archie's lips:

"Heaven save us!"

We ran toward him, and the terrible truth flashed through our minds when we felt cold, splashing waves around our feet.

While we were telling stories the treacherous tide had stolen into the cove, and the water was now hemmed us in without any means of escape!

"We must swim for our lives!" Archie cried, pulling off his coat and boots, while I followed his example.

At that moment I caught a glimpse of Toby's white, scared face. My heart sank within me and my voice trembled as I turned to Archie.

"Poor Toby can't swim!"

"Then stay with him!" Archie exclaimed, "while I go for help." If I can weather the point, the boat will be back to rescue you in half an hour."

He plunged into the water and we watched him struggling with the waves, which were growing larger and larger every second.

They conquered him, and in five minutes he was being cold, chilled and exhausted at our feet.

"Oh, my poor master!" Archie

### The Little Road to Nowhere.

The little road to nowhere  
Is the road for you and me,  
The little road to nowhere  
That runs beside the sea,  
Between the sea and mountains  
Where often the fence breaks,  
The little road to nowhere  
Is the road we long to take.

The little road to nowhere  
That lies beside a stream,  
The little road to nowhere  
That leads us to a dream,  
To where a dream awakes us,  
A dream we've sought in vain,  
The little road to nowhere  
That runs past mead and plain.

It runs past lake and mountains,  
Past farms and town and tree,  
It leads to where the sunset  
Is sounds in the sea,  
To where no envy whispers,  
No greed or hate can mar,  
The little road to nowhere,  
Where peace and silence are.

This world is far too earnest,  
Is far too grim and cold,  
Too full of petty warfare,  
Too bitter and too old,  
But we'll be young for ever!  
Because so well we know,  
The little road to nowhere,  
The road all wise folks go!

Mary Carolyn Davies.

### Spider Web Secret.

The spider's web is remarkable in several ways. It is the only trap, save one, that any animal builds.

The manufacture of this essential accessory to the spider's life is performed by a series of actions in which intelligent life no share. Such typically instinctive actions depend on the inherited structure of the nervous system and not on the inheritance of intelligently acquired habits.

A spider in the corner of its web is stimulated to rush out and attack an enmeshed insect by the vibrations of the silk threads. It will attack a tuning fork that is used to shake its web in the same way, for a certain time.

The Dominion has recognized this

since the war, and has taken practical advantage of the large number of highly trained men who had been carried

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