The Gipsy's Prophecy BY B. P. SHILLABER.

Bald Cliff is one of the most sightly promontories on the eastern coast, from the summit to the beach, a hundred feet below, presenting an arid and unbroken point of sand and rock, the work of the invading sea, which has been battering against it since the beginning, and will go on to the end. The declivity, though impracticable for climbers, shelves in a graceful line to the sea, and one who had once rolled, by accident, from the top to the bottom, averred that the descent was easy, ally love comfort, chose rather to patdriving, fishing and wood ranging. Some of the sojourners by the shore would, however, frequently climb the hill, to enjoy the glorious prospect from the summit, but the high-priced hotel attractions were not enough to draw them from their allegiance to Pleasant Cove. So the hotel languished, and a fire subsequently dismissed it from the

George Calef and Abel Dorne were scholars of the Broadfield Academy, situated within a few miles of the Cliff, and chose to spend a week or two of their summer vacation at the new hotel. There were few visitors, and those not down there, over the cliff? How it of a character to attract boys of sixteen, the landlord, soured by disappointment, was not in a mood to do anything for especially disagreeable to them. The time hung very heavily on their hands, without any fun to enliven it, and Bald Cliff House was voted by them a bore. The time allotted for their stay had, however, nearly expired-it was a circumstances-and they were one the hotel spy-glass. Vessels were brought into such seemingly close they could hear the crews talk together, and, when a sail was changed, fancy they could hear the order which commanded it; little islands, vague and misty objects in the distance, were rounded into peaceful verities by the magical power of the lens; and white villages and cottages along the coast made the boys long to get back to active life again.

"I say, Abel," growled George, "this is a jolly time that we are having, isn't it? Nothing to do and nobody to help us. Why, old Pen's exercises in logic are fun to this."

"Well," said Abel "I feel about the same regarding it, but let us make the most we can of the few days left Let's make an effort to satisfy ourselves. It is said that happiness depends upon how people enjoy themselves, and so if happy. Isn't that logic?"

we do? Shall we go and lick the land- Hastening on to the spot where the Ho! say, there !"

again spoken to. They were peculiarly water beyond. dressed, in a fashion forgotten to civilization, but were modest and quiet in their demeanor, the younger being very pretty.

"We can," replied the elder.

"No, our people have powers which terrible incident of his life. none others possess. We read the life by lines imprinted by nature upon the teaching thereof, we are directed plainly to the revelation of character."

bears such marks as this," said he, laughingly putting a silver dollar into his own and holding it toward her. "No," she replied warmly, her dark

eyes flashing, "though it bore a thousand like it the result could not be changed."

she shyly declined.

whose thread of existence is twined ever occasion brought him near Plodwith your own. I cannot say where, ville, and there was a cherished hope in

fortune?" said he.

"It is, as far as I can read it. all of importance there is in it, I should

like to know a little more about it." "Very well. 'Tis enough, I suppose. tender influences. As the violence and danger are to come "Abel," said George, at one of their joyed in the weeks to come

'tis your turn."

care about knowing more of my future time." than I can guess, unless this young lady will take a hand, and read me a line or two from the book of fate." She drew herself up with an air of

offended dignity, and the twain turned away by a path that led down the side of the bluff toward Pleasant Cove. George ran to deposit the spy-glass in the office, and in a few moments rejoined Abel on the cliff. The noise of the waves on the rocks below came to their ears in a subdued murmur, and the though he never wished to try it again. | beach seemed a belt of silver in the Upon this cliff a company of enthusiastic morning light. The beach was only speculators built a hotel, in the early accessible from above by a narrow path, days of seaside hotels, whose expecta- which, some distance from the top of tions regarding it were great, but which, the cliff, zigzagged its way through the unfortunately, were not realized; for shrubbery down a rather steep declivity. the inconvenience of reaching it was This had been trodden by adventurous such that pleasure-seekers, who gener- steps, made available by bushes, to which those who tried it might cling ronize the little village of Pleasant white descending. George and Abel Cove, situated in a romantic bend of had frequently traversed it, and enjoythe coast below, which presented land ed it as, next to throwing themselves and ocean attractions—surf bathing and | from the cliff, the best chance for breaking their necks.

> "They say 'tis a hundred feet down there," said Abel, throwing over a stone which was lost to sight before it reached

"Shouldn't wonder," replied George: "and perhaps if you look sharp you may see the chaps gathering campfire down there, that the fellows humbugged King Lear about when he was blind. "Samfire," said Abel, laughing.

"Well, never mind; one is just as true as t'other." "I say," said Abel, suddenly, wouldn't it be fun to send a big stone

"That's a fact," replied George "and here is one, if we can only free it their amusement, and even the tradi- from the dirt, that'll be just the card. tional "polite clerk" made himself Bring that piece of a rail here and we will dig it out."

It was a large round bowlder, imbedded in the sand, near the edge of the cliff, that a few years' action of the winds would have released, and, with the piece of rail, they began to dig mercy that it had not, under the away the surrounding earth. After expending effort enough to excavate a morning sitting on the highest point of cellar, the stone became loosened, and, the cliff, whiling the time away by poised upon the brink, it stood ready bringing distant objects near by aid of for its descent over the steep front. They assured themselves that there was nothing moving on the beach below, proximity that it required not much and then, using the piece of rail for a stretch of the imagination to believe lever, they heaved the stone from its balance and it started rapidly on its course. As it did so they glanced over, when, to their horror, at that instant a little girl, followed by a woman, apparently her nurse, ran out from behind a projecting rock and stood directly in the track of the descending mass

They dared not look to see the catastrophe which they knew mnst happen but, pale as a sheet, Abel shouted. "To the path! To the path!" Intensely excited. they rushed for the path, down which they plunged regardless of their own safety, scarcely touching the bushes usually deemed indispensable. It required several min utes to accomplish the descent, during which their minds were filled with the most agonizing expectancy and self reproach. They spoke not a word each imagining the scene of terror which we don't enjoy ourselves we can't be awaited them in the form of the man gled victims of their heedlessness, or "Perhaps it is?" said George, lazily. hearing in fancy their groans as they "And now," said Abel, "what shall lay with crushed limbs upon the beach lord, throttle the clerk, or set fire to stone had fallen, its track distinctly the hotel? But-why, here comes the seen on the smooth face of the cliff, fun right into our own hands. See they were agreeably surprised to find no

here, George, here are the two gipsy trace of a casualty, while the stone itwomen back again, who left when we self lay buried in the sand fully ten came. Now suppose we have our for- feet beyond the edge of the water. tunes told, just for the sport of the There were footprints of a child and a thing. We can have the fortune mong- woman upon the beach, but the ones ers all to ourselves, too, as there's no who made them had disappeared. They one with them. I'll try it, at any rate. climbed the cliff, with difficulty, to see how the calamity had been averted, avoiding hotel localities, they would The gipsies were an old and a young and found that, when going most rapid- secure some large farmhouse, furnished, woman, who were walking along the ly, as the stone had neared its destina- and, taking along their servants, would brow of the cliff, but had made a detour | tion, it had met a slight elevation above to pass towards the house, when Abel the level of its course, which had lifted delights of scene and atmosphere, apart hailed them. They stopped within a it, opportunely, and projected it over few feet of the boys and waited to be the heads of those endangered, into the it to be aware of its existence, and ad-

Relieved of their apprehensions, they ran the entire length of the beach in pursuit of the threatened victims, but not a trace of them could be found "Can you tell fortunes?" asked Abel. save a little blue shoe, which fitted to the footprints on the sand, and Abel "How do you do it-by witchcraft?" | claimed this as a memento of the most

The rest of the days at the cliff were eventless, and they returned to school, the palms of the hands, and following to graduate with honor, to go through college together, remaining, until divided by business, the most intimate "You read the palm best when it friends in the world, and, though different cities claimed them, by correspondence and alternations of visiting, the relation was kept unbroken.

Abel Dorne was the only son of his George Calef was the hope and pride of entered, laden with articles he had been There was a stateliness in her manner | Peleg Calef, Esq., the eminent ship- instructed to procure. that subdued his boyish levity, and chandler of Plodville, whose ambition calling George, as he said to see fair it was that George should be associated assured him of the pleasure it gave him, play, he passed his hand over the with him in business. He was the idol when he heard that he was going. gipsy woman's inspection, fixing his of his mother and two sisters, who also eye intently on hers. She took his favored the wish of the paternal ship- best we have found yet. Bear Mounthand in her own, dark and wrinkled, chandler, and so George gave himself ain looms majestically in front of the and spread it open upon her palm. and his education to the business, be- house a few miles distant, a charming George tried to engage the young coming a shrewd and prosperous merwoman in the same performance but chant, gifted in all the mysteries of trade, and watching narrowly all the forest of grand old trees stretches away "Your hand," said the gipsy to Abel, avenues of speculation in his line .-"reveals in its lines the successes and Abel, in a city some fifty miles distant fore the house. Say, dost like the picreverses of human life, with few features from Plodville, after a year's study of ture?" to distinguish it from others. But the medicine, abandoned it for the law, and love line is crossed by two red and won quite a name, in a few years, as a angry lines, that denote violence and barrister. He was a welcome guest at danger, through yourself, to some one the luxurious home of the Calefs, whenhow or when, but there it is written." George's mind, if not in that of other She released the hand, and looked members of the family, that he would

earnestly into his young and glowing be attracted by one of his sisters; but, beyond a very devoted friendship, he "And this short story you call my made no sign. The home of the Calefs was a delightful one, possessing all the qualities of taste and refinement to "You can't see anything more about make it desirable. The girls were in ings as described; the mountain in the the crossed lines, can you? As that is the highest degree accomplished, hand- near distance, the meadow and forest in some and amiable, whose merits none front, and the lake gleaming through acknowledged more appreciatively than the foliage in the setting sun like silver. "That is all I am permitted to see." Abel, yet he was impenetrable, to all It revealed in the index the whole Just arrived per steamer "Hibernian" via Halifax.

through me, I shall keep a sharp look- meetings, "I am going to be married." The farm-house, the property of a 10 Cases Sparkling Burgundy & Hock. out to avoid everything of the kind, "Good, my dear boy," was the reply; widow lady named Marlow, had been

twisted in with mine will be perfectly whether happiness depends upon how abundance, but adversity, attended by safe. There's the dollar. Now, George, people enjoy themselves. Eh, George?" the death of her husband, had left this "No, thank'ee," said he, "I don't ber. I think we shall never forget that

home which I prize more than rubies, like Cinderella, she brings me its mate." "Why don't you marry?' asked

to be incurred by the one whose thread of existence is entwined with my own? That should keep me single for ever." "Nonsense!" said George. "Surely to any such craze as that.

swer, such as it is, to your question,' Years passed by, during which George had married, and erected a house of his own, had introduced several chilfamily relations, though changed, were down to the business of enjoyment. guest with them all. He was from the first installed in the good graces of Mrs. George, and was exceedingly useful as a godfather and in such other relations as

was happy in the happiness of his friends who frequently bantered him about the gipsy's prophecy; and his replies thereto all had reference to the perilous contingency of union with him. "But all must take their chance,"

Abel was a society man in his own tween them from the start. city, a member of clubs, could be a bon | The sporting attractions were great, the drama and the dance, and was very ed a profound admiration for females and female society, yet there was nothing that drew him into more than respectful relations with them, the gipsy's prophecy, without being an admitted influence, checking any emotion beyond friendly admiration. He was an enigma to all, but a very pleasant one, and, professionally and socially, was regarded as one of the finest fellows in the world. If all who are thus designated by partial friends could be brought to-

would show! The decease of his mother had left him in quite affluent circumstances, which, with his amiability, rendered him a most desirable "catch;" but the trap wouldn't spring, the fact of the bait being too transparent. "Setting springes to catch woodcocks" paid the operators better than all attempts of this nature. The law, he said, was his bride, and, though rather old and somewhat musty, had charms for him parathe same position. He was near thirty when he came to this conclusion, and he was given over as an obdurate and hardened case, one young lady affirming as her belief that he would not change even though he had rheumatism in his foot in prospect, with no sympaflannel! This was putting the case strong, yet she was doubtless very near the truth. But we can't see far ahead at best, and matters of the heart can no more be calculated than the weather under ordinary predictions. There may be a general disappointment, and the fulfillment as predicted not within three rows of apple trees of the truth.

Thus, matters remained up to one sum-It was the custom of the Calef family during the summer vacation, to combine its several branches in a visit to some cool retreat by the sea, lake, or mountain, and enjoy a season of delightful ease, in a very sensible way, varying the scene each year. To effect this, enjoy all the comforts of home amid the from the world and yet near enough to mitting of immediate return to it if necessary. One summer they had se-

cured a farmhouse of the description named, and were making arrangements for their flight, when "Uncle Abel," as he was affectionately called, dropped down among them, suggesting the hospitable thought that he should be one of their party.

"And will you go?" said Mrs. George "Certainly I will," replied he; "I have just concluded a dreary case at law, and need recreatiou. But where is the spot you have chosen for your re-

"Oh, I don't know, but George will tell you all about it. He says it is just a lovely place, with such mountains and such brooks and such grand woods mother, and she was a widow, while and such-well, here he is," and George

He welcomed his friend heartily, and

"It is," he said, "a fine place-the lake lies at its foot, trout brooks full of fish abound in every direction, while a beyond a green meadow which lies be-

"As the bee upon the flowers hang I upon the music of thy eloquent tongue" said he, quoting Melnotte, in sentiment if not exactly in words. "Well, you will go with us?"

"Yes." "Enough said; and now for the pre-

These were soon effected, having been begun some time before, and, at the Seven Pure-bred Young Berkshire Pigs close of a warm day, the party found themselves at their destination in the large old farmhouse with the surroundvolume of charms which was to be en- 20 baskets Finest Champagne,

and so that thread of destiny which is "you will have a chance then to know built as a princely residence in days of

"Bald Cliff," said George; "I remem- as her all, excepting a trifle by way of the most of the premises in the warm Revolvers! the most of the premises in the warm "No," replied Abel, "that is a fixture season to sojourners, who found the in memory; and I have a little shoe at place a delightful resort. The new-

comers were received courteously by and am keeping for the owner, when, Mrs. Marlow, who informed them that she had reserved two rooms for herself and daughter, in a retired part of the house, and that she desired to be as se-"Do you remember the gipsy's pro- cluded as possible. She then conducted phecy," replied Abel, "and the danger | them through the rooms they were to occupy, including the kitchen, which Biddy, the maid-servant, pronounced "illegant," and left them in possession.

The "farm" was but an apology for you are too sensible a man to give heed the name, the meadow in front and about as much land in the rear for cultivation comprised the most of it, but "Well," returned Abel, "it is an anit was bounded by the lake on one side and the subject was dropped pleasantly. and by the country road on the other, with no near neighbors, and no more retired spot could be desired. There was a good stable for the horse and cardren into the domestic arena, and be- riage which they had brought with come a public man of much importance. them on the train, and with the assur-His sisters had also married, one of ance that needed supplies could be had whom occupied the homestead, and the with little inconvenience, they settled still very pleasant. Abel was a beloved The children were especially delighted. An old mastiff which had grown up on the premises immediately took them under his charge, and followed them, wherever they went, with a most hoscircumstances might determine. He pitable wag of his tail, seeming, among other things, to warn a pompous and belligerent looking turkey that these were young friends of his that it would not be safe for him to interfere with .-They hung round his neck and got upon his back, which seemed to give was the philosophical rejoinder of Mrs. old Towser great satisfaction, and confidential relations were established be-

vivant when occasion called, loved music and were improved by Abel, who was more than a theoretical amateur, but far from being a hermit. He entertain- George often averred that such sport was too much labor, and he would rather drive about with his family, or sit in the shade and rest, contenting himself with helping to eat all that his friend might obtain. So rambling the woods and fishing in the streams, with an occasional visit to Bear Mountain, formed the quiet but satisfactory occupation of Abel, who, within a week, had overstocked the family larder, and sent many a toothsome morsel to the Marlows, whom he never saw, the ladies, gether what a vast multitude they however, exchanging brief interviews in the way of housekeeping.

The young lady had kept herself assiduously from the view of Abel, and a want of interest had repelled all wish to form her acquaintance; but he had heard now and then a delightful voice coming from the other part of the house, and wondered perhaps how the rustic might look who breathed it, yet made no effort to see, strictly regarding the isolating compact. One day as he was going out, armed with his fishingmount to more youthful aspirants for rod and arrayed in fisher's costume, he met a young lady going toward the door, whose appearance instantly attracted him. She was tall and graceful simply yet tastefully dressed, her sweet face the picture of health, her eyes dark, bright and sparkling, of kindly aspect, her demeanor ladylike and thizing hand to do it up for him in red | pleasant. He bowed graciously, which courtesy she returned with perfect politeness, and he was puzzled to associate so much grace with Bear Mountain and its rural surroundings.

"Well, Abel, what luck?" said George, as the fisherman returned in the afternoon. "What," he continued. opening his creel, "not a single shiner! Caught nothing?" "No," was the reply. "I came near-

er being caught myself than the fish. "What's the matter?" asked Mrs. George. "Have you seen the spirit of the woods?" "Not exactly," said he, "but one

who might readily pass for such were the locality adapted. I met, this morn-"Alice Marlow," she interrupted,

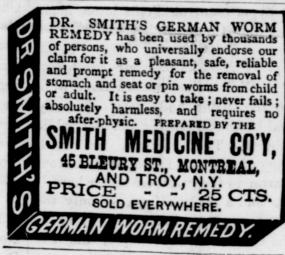
clapping her hands. "I saw you bow (To be Continued.)

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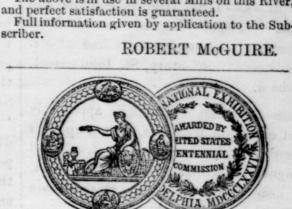


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