

THE CHILDREN'S HOUR



COLUMN FOR BOYS AND GIRLS.

By Maggie Symington.

Between the dark and the daylight,
When the night is beginning to lower,
Comes a pause in the day's occupations,
That is known as the Children's Hour.

—Longfellow.

The Pilot of Lake Erie

Fire broke out suddenly in a steamship sailing rapidly across Lake Erie in America, from Detroit to Buffalo. A great part of the cargo consisted of tar and resin, so the saving of the ship was hopeless. There were no boats on board to save the passengers who crowded in alarm to the forepart of the vessel. Acting as pilot was an old man who did his duty in the bravest manner. Before long the after part of the ship was one mass of flames, and although the wind was driving the heat in his direction, he stood to his post like a rock. The captain shouted, "Head her for the shore and beach her." John Maynard answered, "By God's good help, I will." And among the raging flames and burning timber, he worked the ship's helm for 20 minutes, until the hair on his head, and the skin of his face was scorched. At last the vessel ran ashore, but the old man's work was done for, as he gave the wheel the last turn, he dropped down dead. All the crew and passengers were saved, thanks to the brave old pilot who sacrificed his own life for theirs.

(Contributed by) Ivor Thomas, age 13.

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