

**LAWRENCE'S ADVENTURES  
AMONG THE ICE-CUTTERS,  
GLASS-MAKERS, COAL-MINERS,  
IRON-MEN, AND SHIP-BUILDERS**

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Lawrence's Adventures Among the Ice-Cutters, Glass-Makers, Coal-Miners, Iron-Men, and Ship-Builders by J. T. Trowbridge

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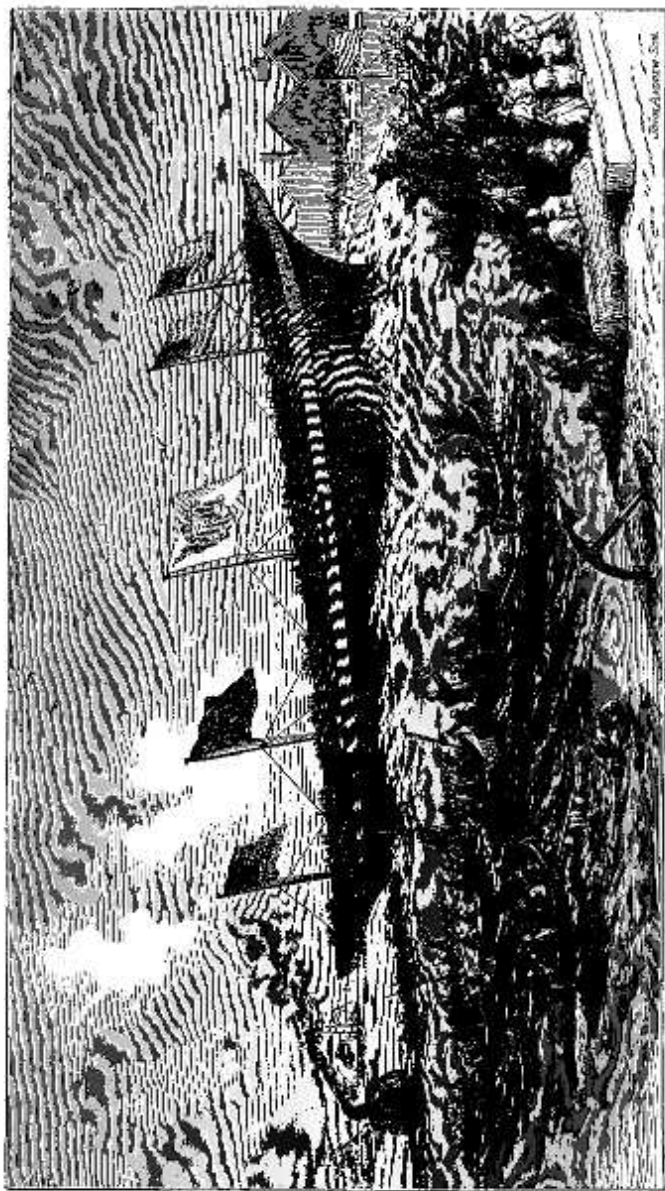
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THE SHIP LAUNCH.

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BY

J. T. TROWBRIDGE.



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## PREFACE.

THESE "Adventures" of Lawrence were written in the faith that instruction could be made entertaining, and that the young might be educated to observe and think while following the by-paths of a story. Contributed originally to "Our Young Folks," their success as magazine papers has led to their republication in this form.

J. T. T.

ARLINGTON, MASS., Dec. 1, 1870.



# LAWRENCE'S ADVENTURES.



## CHAPTER I.

### AT THE POND-SIDE.

#### I.

##### LEARNING TO SWIM.

IT was June when Lawrence came to the pond-side to live. His uncle's house stood on a high green bank; and his aunt gave him an attic room with a window that looked out upon the water. The winding shores were fringed with flags and willows, or overhung by shady groves; and all around were orchards and gardens and meadows.

A happy boy was Lawrence, for he was passionately fond of the water, and he had never lived so near a pond before. The scene from his window was never twice the same. Sometimes the pond was like glass, mirroring the sky and the still trees. Sometimes light breezes swept over it, and sail-boats rode the dancing waves. Then there were the evenings, when clouds of the loveliest colors floated above it, and the moon rose and silvered it; and the mornings, when all the splendors of the new-risen sun were reflected into Lawrence's chamber.

Whenever he had a leisure hour, — for he went to school, and worked in the garden, — he was to be seen rambling by the shore, or rowing away in his uncle's boat; and he found that the faithful performance of his tasks made his sports all the sweeter to him.

As children who play about the water are always in more or less danger of falling into it, Lawrence's uncle had lost no time in teaching him to swim.

"The first thing for you to learn," said the doctor, — for his uncle was a physician, — "is confidence. Plunge your head under water."

Lawrence did so, and came up with dripping hair and face, gasping. The doctor made him repeat the exercise until he neither gasped nor choked.

"That does not hurt you, does it? No. Neither will it hurt you if you sink to the bottom, for you can hold your breath; the water is shallow, and, besides, I am here to help you. Now try to take a single stroke, just as the frogs do. Throw yourself boldly off your feet, and don't be afraid of sinking."

Lawrence, after considerable hesitation, tried the experiment, and found that he could swim a single stroke, and come down upon his feet again without drowning. He tried it again and again, delighted at his success.

"That will do for this lesson," said his uncle. "You have been long enough in the water. Swimming is a fine exercise for boys, and the bath is good for them; but they often make the mistake of

staying too long in the water. Especially at first you must be careful; after you get used to it, you can stay in longer. Never go in when you are heated; or if you do, come out again immediately, and continue exercising, so as to keep the pores of your skin open."

Lawrence learned, in his next lesson, to swim two strokes, and in a few days he could swim a rod. His uncle then taught him how to dive.

"You must avoid falling flat on the water; for if you do so, from any great height, it will beat the breath out of your body almost as suddenly as if you struck a board. Learn to keep your eyes open under the water. Some people's nostrils are so large that the water gets into their heads when they dive; if that is the case with yours, it will be well to stuff a little cotton into them."

Lawrence found no trouble of that kind. He was soon able to dive, and pick up pebbles, and to swim beneath the surface. His uncle then taught him how to rescue a drowning person.

"If he is still struggling, you must not let him get hold of you, or he will very likely cause you to drown with him. The safest and readiest method is to pull him up by his hair. Be sure and keep behind him as you bring him to the surface. Do not try to do more than to lift his face out of water, as you swim with him to the shore. The human body is so light that it may be supported in the water by a very slight effort; but it is hard to keep any portion of it much above the surface."