THE LOSS OF THE SWANSEA; A STORY OF THE FLORIDA COAST

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The Loss of the Swansea; A Story of the Florida Coast by W. L. Alden & F. O. Small

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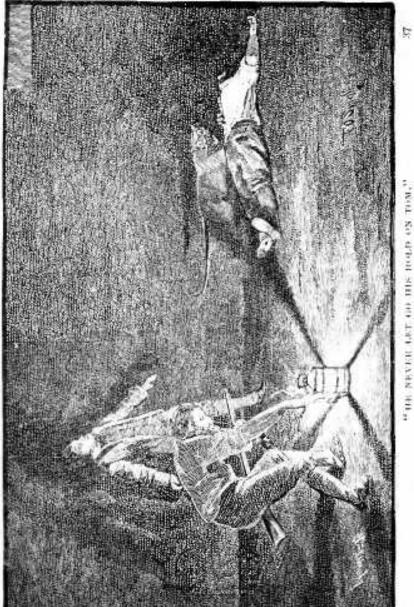
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W. L. ALDEN & F. O. SMALL

THE LOSS OF THE SWANSEA; A STORY OF THE FLORIDA COAST





OF THE SWANSEA

A STORY OF THE FLORIDA COAST

BY

W. L. ALDEN

ACTHOR OF "THE ADVENTURES OF JIMMY BROWN,"
"THE MORAL PRATES," ETC.

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ILLUSTRATED BY F. O. SALIL

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THE LOSS OF THE SWANSEA.

CHAPTER I.

THE MUTINY.

I was nearly fifteen and my brother Tom was a little over sixteen when father died. There were no more of us, for our mother had died when I was so little that I could scarcely remember her. The only relation we had in the world was an uncle whom we had never seen and who lived in America, in the colony of the Carolinas.

Father was a British channel pilot, and Tom and I were born and had lived except for one week, all our lives, in Bristol. This I have been told is the finest city in England, though, of course, everybody knows that it is not quite so big as London. Father owned a share in a pilot boat, and he often took us out with him when he was cruising for a homeward-bound ship. We used to help the men work the boat, and we were better sailors than either of the two apprentices.

Once a man hired father to sail a new brig from Bristol round to Penzance, and we went with him. That was the one week when we did not live in Bristol, which I just mentioned. We enjoyed it very much and learned a good deal about square-rigged vessels while we were in the brig.

Pilots did not make much profit in those days, and father left us nothing except half a crown and his share of the pilot boat. Before he died he told his partners to sell his share and use the money to send Tom and me to our uncle in America. The two partners bought the share themselves for thirty pounds, which was all it was worth, for they were good honest men, and when they had paid our passage to America on the brig Swansea, they gave us two pounds ten and