

COULD EAT A JONAH.

A Big White Mediterranean Shark That Could Easily Swallow a Man.

So they took up Jonah and cast him forth into the sea; and the sea ceased from her raging. * * * Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. * * * And the Lord spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.—Jonah 1: 15.

Careless translators have called the great fish a whale. St. Matthew, in all

lucies in circumference. Through this space the body of a small man could have passed with perfect ease. Thus science, in nature, comes to the aid of the Bible, and proves the existence of the great fish capable of swallowing a man.

As to Jonah's preservation in the shark's stomach for three days, that has not as yet been explained. But, then, thinking men did not believe until this giant shark was stranded on Cyprus that there was a fish that could have swallowed Jonah or any other man.

The white shark has been suspected more than once, however, of having been the probable temporary sepulchre of the prophet.

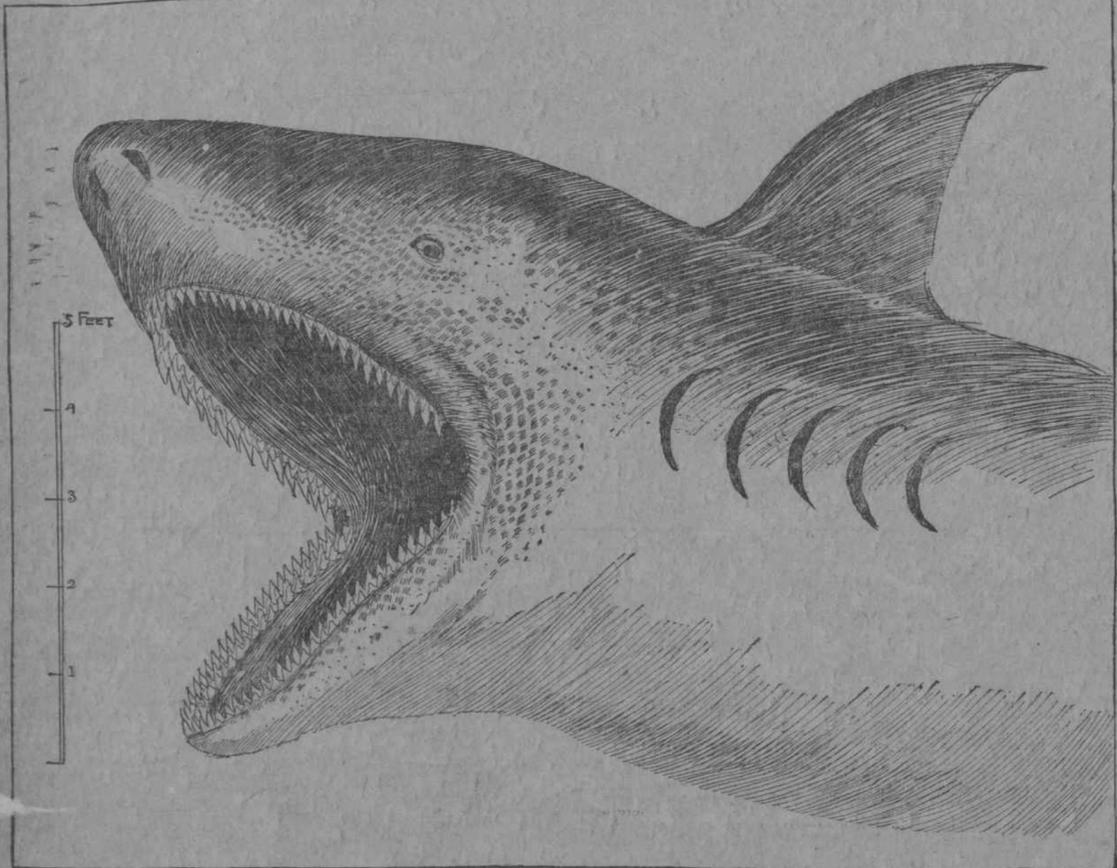
A very respectable "Dictionary of the Bible," edited by William Smith, LL. D., a very distinguished man of letters, says: "Although two or three species of whale are found in the Mediterranean sea, yet the 'great fish' that swallowed the prophet cannot properly be identified with any cetacean, for although the sperm whale has a gullet sufficiently large to admit the body of a man, yet it can hardly be the fish intended, as the natural food of cetaceans consists of small animals, such as the medusae and crustaceae. The only fish, then, capable of swallowing a man, would be a large specimen of the white shark

(*caeharus vulgaris*), that dreaded enemy of sailors, and most venomous of the family of squallidæ. This shark, which often attains the length of thirty-five to forty feet, is quite able to swallow a man whole. The whole body of a man in armor has been found in the stomach of a white shark, and Captain King, in his "Survey of Australia," says he caught one which could have swallowed a man with the greatest ease. Bluntnbach mentions that a whole horse had been found in a shark, and Captain Basil Hall reports the taking of one in which he found, besides other things, the whole skin of a buffalo, which a short time before had been thrown overboard from a ship. The mouth of the largest specimen of the white shark when fully distended presents a hideous and cavernous appearance, and it would be possible for a man of medium height to stand up right between the jaws, with their terrible triple rows of teeth. The local clergy are, however, inclined, notwithstanding the recent discoveries as to the man-swallowing possibilities of the great fish, to discuss the story of Jonah from the standpoint of the mystery rather than the miracle or phenomenon. Two distinguished divines have favored the Sunday Journal with short expressions upon the lesson of the story without discussing its practical probability.

IDEAS FOR EIFFEL TOWER

Suggestions for the Paris Exposition of 1900 That Are Novel.

All sorts of suggestions for the utilization of the Eiffel Tower during the forthcoming Paris Exposition continue to be received by the officials. One lady, a Parisian and a widow to boot, proposes that the summit shall be provided with so strong a light as to illumine the entire grounds on the approach of night, and adds that an enormous lampshade of pagoda form, set off with multicolored spangles,



THIS IS THE HEAD OF A REAL SHARK AND HE COULD EASILY HAVE SWALLOWED JONAH.

How the Rev. S. P. Cadman Looks Upon Jonah and the Whale Story.

The serious objection in the minds of many theologians against the explaining away of the incident of Jonah and the whale lies in the fact that our Lord himself refers to the occurrence and makes a parallel between His resurrection and the swallowing of the prophet by the specially prepared fish (Matt. 12, 40).

So that, behind the whole question, small in itself, lies the infinitely larger one of the attitude of Jesus Christ toward the Old Testament Scriptures. It is beyond doubt that Christ did not spend time in elucidating many matters of debate; that He continually practiced a rigid economy of speech as touching upon essentials to the faith, and left much for our devout study which may never be finally determined.

Those who urge these things state that it begs the question to refer to our Lord's quotation of Jonah's catastrophe, and that the genius and message of the prophet are obscured by unnecessary miracle mongering.

While this view has much to commend it, a reverent hesitancy to make dogmatic utterances one way or the other, and affirm insistence on the greatness of the prophet and his work apart from this incident, is, to my thinking, the best position to maintain.

REV. S. P. CADMAN.
Pastor Central Metropolitan Temple Forward Movement, Seventh avenue and Fourteenth street, New York.

I have been led to preach on this subject owing to Mr. Moody's statements concerning the story of Jonah and the whale.

The Book of Jonah is simply a practical lesson of the teachings of the belief in the Fatherhood of God. The story of Jonah's being swallowed by the great fish was not essential to the important lesson which may be derived from this book. The story lacks definiteness in statement, and seems rather more to point to an interpretation which may be derived from a figurative illustration than to a literal fact.

The judgment of God had been pronounced upon the Ninevites by Jehovah. Jonah, of the Israelitish race, had been sent to preach at Nineveh. He thought that the people of Nineveh not being of his race, were condemned, and that the judgment of Jehovah might rightfully be pronounced upon them. Because he disobeyed the dictates of his Master he was brought down in despair and disgrace. He prayed to his God for help. He received the light. He was told by Jehovah again to go to Nineveh, and there to preach. He went, and we have the gratifying report of the conversion of thousands of souls at Nineveh. We therefore see that the important lesson to be derived from the Book of Jonah is its teaching the universal Fatherhood of God.

LYMAN WARD,
Pastor Second Universalist Church, New York City.

The Rev. Lyman Ward Doubts If it Was a Literal Fact.

modern editions of the New Testament, refers to the belly of the whale.

Critics of the Bible find in the story of "Jonah and the whale" one of their favorite arguments that everything in the Bible must be untrue because it is susceptible to ready proof that a whale has a small throat and could not swallow a codfish, let alone a man.

Jonah, if swallowed at all, was not swallowed by a whale, but by a shark. True, the story had been scoffed at by all thinking men. One after another the preachers of the Gospel began to abandon it. Commentators sought to find a great but deep lesson in what they were inclined to treat as a parable, but left the reader still in doubt.

Orthodox ministers with no disposition toward being considered leaders in the walks of the higher criticism have been inclined to answer their more adventurous brethren by quoting the Rev. Henry L. Cooke, D. D., LL. D., who in the notes to the same famous Brown self-interpreting Bible said:

"The fact that whales are not found in the Mediterranean, is of no weight, inasmuch as they may have been there abundantly, and extirpated by the fishers, as they have been in other seas, and the lower latitudes of the Atlantic. But as the whole transaction was a miracle, it is not necessary to have recourse to these facts in defence of the narrative; it is enough to know there is nothing beyond the power and mercy of God, when wisdom requires the exhibition."

Interest in the story of Jonah was revived only last week, however, in this vicinity by the Rev. Dr. Lyman Ward, of the Second Universalist Church, who declared from the pulpit that the story could not be accepted in its literal sense. The scoffers chorused and quoted Dr. Ward, when along comes the news of the stranding on the shores of the island of Cyprus during a heavy storm of a gigantic caeharius, or white shark, forty-six feet in length and weighing nearly 4,000 pounds. The monster was killed and cut into pieces. It was then discovered that its throat when fully distended was thirty



SUSIE HALE, WHO IS JUST GOING OUT WITH THE "LITTLE CHRISTOPHER" COMPANY.

might contribute to the general effect. Another enthusiast, this time a member of the sterner sex, beholding himself of the sterner rays of the sun, and also of the changes of an occasional downpour, would have a colossal umbrella affixed to the tower; so comprehensive, indeed, as to include all the visitors to the Champ de Mars beneath its sheltering wing. He omits, however, to explain how the gigantic parapluie would be slung when it was found in the way, though he glibly observes that it could be brought "underground." Another gentleman, hailing from Rotterdam, would like to behold a globe of extraordinary dimensions—100 metres (325 feet) in diameter, no less—"rotating and presenting divers attractions" on the top of the structure, a kind of graphic illustration of the theory of perpetual motion, in fact. But the cake, to borrow a homely expression, is taken by a worthy Parisian endowed with a lively imagination and with a keen taste for the humorous, who writes that instead of one Tour Eiffel, he would have five. This is his suggestion. He would have three towers, like to the first, erected "in juxtaposition to it." On these four towers a strong and substantial platform would be laid, and from its centre would rise a fifth tower 200 metres in height. Thus those enterprising people who might arrive at the summit would be able to gaze on the world below from a vantage ground of 200 metres, or over 650 feet, and, perhaps, into the recesses of the moon above, as well.

THE RACCOON AND THE BEE
A Popular Song That is Sung in "My Friend from India."

"The Raccoon and the Bee" is published in this issue of the Woman's supplement by permission of Wiltmark & Sons. It is the composition of Mr. E. S. Abeles, the bright young comedian of "My Friend from India."

Mr. Abeles is a native of St. Louis, where he showed decided dramatic ability in local theatricals. He afterwards graduated to the professional stage under the guidance of the Problemist, and has gone steadily to the front ever since. His notable part of the great success of "My Friend from India" and his imitation of Richard Mansfield in the banquet scene of "Beau Brummel" is one of the most enjoyable bits of the play.

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