

CHAPTER 5

ONE EVENING AFTER HE HAD FINISHED HIS DUTIES, JIM decided that he would like an apple. When he got to the apple barrel, however, he discovered that most of the apples were gone, and he had to climb right into the barrel in order to find one at the bottom. Once inside the barrel, the movement of the ship, and the sound of the water, made Jim sleepy. He had just started to fall asleep, when he suddenly felt the barrel shake as a heavy man leaned against it. Jim was about to jump out, when he heard Silver's voice saying:

"Flint was captain, and I was second mate. I lost my leg when we took that last ship, but I got nine hundred pounds out of it. Old Black Dog got twelve hundred. He spent it all within a year, however, and became a beggar. So did the rest of Flint's crew, and that's why they are here, looking for another chance. Gentlemen of fortune don't usually plan for the future. But take my advice: when this cruise is over, save your share of the money. Then you'll be able to live well all your life."

Jim quickly understood what was happening. Silver was trying to convince one of the crew members to become a pirate. That's what he meant by 'gentleman of fortune.' Then, another voice was heard; it was that of Mr Hands, another sailor:

"How long do we have to keep pretending? Why don't we take over the ship right now? I'm sick of taking orders from Smollett."

"Use your brain," Silver replied. "Captain Smollett knows where the island is, and we don't. Also, one of his friends has the treasure map, and you don't know where that map is, do you? So the smart thing to do is let Smollett sail the ship to the island and find the treasure for us. Once he does, we will kill them all, take the gold, and sail away on the ship."

"And you will make a great captain!" added the other man, George Merry.

"Why thank you," said Silver. "Now get me an apple out of that barrel, will you?"

