

Presently Timothy said: "It must be about eleven o'clock. Let's go for a swim first." "That's sensible", said Sam Sturgeon, and immediately took off his coat and shirt and trousers.

They were all good swimmers, and without any trouble or stopping for a rest, they swam to the outermost limit of calm water.... So in the smooth water, they floated, or dived as ducks and came up again. Then Timothy, bobbing out of the water cried: "Oh, look! Look there! Who's that?"

One after another they bobbed as high as they could, and each in turn saw a remarkable and unexpected sight. In the rougher water beyond the shelter of the bay, among bright waves that rose and fell, there floated at ease a man with a bald head, a red nose, red parches of hair above his ears, and red whiskers, and in his mouth a short clay pipe from which came little puffs of smoke as if he were a steamer.

Eric Linklater