



John Maynard

BY J. B. GOUGH

John Maynard was well known in the Lake district as a God-fearing, honest, and intelligent pilot. He was pilot on a steamboat from Detroit to Buffalo. One summer afternoon, when the boat was not far out of Buffalo and John Maynard was at the helm, smoke began rising from the hold. The captain, who was in the bridge with the pilot, called out, "Simpson, go below, and see what is the matter down there."

Simpson came up with his face pale as ashes and said, "Captain, the ship is on fire."

Then, "Fire! Fire! Fire on shipboard!"

All hands were called up. Buckets of water were dashed on the fire, but in vain. There were large quantities of rosin and tar on board, and it was found impossible to save the ship. The passengers, startled by this turn of events, asked the captain, "How far are we from Buffalo?"

"Seven miles."

"How long before we can reach there?"

"Three-quarters of an hour at our present rate of steam."