STORIES ABOUT OUR LIGHTHOUSES.

FOR one hundred and twenty-three years the noble lighthouse built with so much care by Smeaton withstood the storms of the Atlantic, and might have continued to defy its terrors for a century more, but that the sea was slowly undermining the rock on which the building stood. Of this structure you have doubtless read, but I am sure you will be interested in hearing a little about its gigantic successor.

It was in the year 1879 that the Duke of Edinburgh laid the foundation-stone of the new lighthouse, and under the superintendence of Mr. James Douglas the building was completed in less than three years, and was finally opened in 1882.

Smeaton's lighthouse rose but 70 feet from the rock on which it stood, while the new one is no fewer than 130 feet high.

You can quite understand that with the huge billows dashing with tremendous force upon the lighthouse, the masonry has to be of the most durable character, and it is therefore built of the best granite, and up to a height of twenty-five and a half feet above the level of high water it is solid stone. Each block of stone is beautifully fitted and dove-tailed above, below, and on all sides, which is very wonderful when it is remembered that many of the blocks are over three tons in weight. The tower consists of 2,171 stones containing 63,020 cubic feet, or 4,600 tons of solid masonry, whilst in Smeaton's but 988 tons were used.

Let me tell you a little about the inside of the new lighthouse. The bottom portion contains a large water-tank capable of containing 3,500 gallons. Then there are two rooms set apart for the oil, which is stored in eighteen large cisterns, holding in all about 2,500 gallons, which would be a supply sufficient for about nine months.

Now you will perhaps like to take a peep into the dining-room, drawing-room, kitchen, &c. You will find all these in *one*—a living-room, in which the party of three men who inhabit the lighthouse cook their meals and take their recreation.

The light from the great lamp can be seen for nearly twenty miles. Ships passing the Lizard up the English Channel were formerly left in darkness for several miles between the two lighthouses at the Lizard Point and Eddystone, but now the two lights meet one another, to the great comfort of the mariner.

The new lighthouse is generally visited every fortnight with fresh supplies ; but last winter, the weather being rough, it could not be easily approached, and its inmates had to endure a time of famine. Their reserved store of food was exhausted ; they were obliged to fry their flour in lamp-oil, and had only two or three hard biscuits on which to live. They had no fire, and were compelled to keep themselves warm by the light of the lamps. They became reduced in time to such a state of exhaustion, that they could only speak in monosyllables. Signals of distress were kept flying, but so boisterous was the weather that no boat could approach for many days. At length, greatly to their joy, a ship arrived with succour for the starving inmates, and their dangers were at an end.

Now having told you about a very celebrated lighthouse, let me picture a scene which took place at one of the little-known stations by which Great Britain is begirt.

Some months ago a stirring incident occurred by which the lives of six men, dwelling in the Calf Rock Lighthouse (Dursey Island, co. Kerry, in Ireland), were endangered. On the morning of November 27th, 1881, a fearful storm arose accompanied by vivid flashes of lightning. About four o'clock the chief keeper retired to bed, after having kept a long watch during the night, and was suddenly awakened by a terrific crash. He called for help, thinking that some panes of glass out of the lantern might need renewing, and when his men came to him they proceeded to open the lantern door. To their horror, they found it all blown away, and nothing but sky overhead. Closing all the doors as quickly as possible, they next thought of their own safety in case the remainder of the lighthouse should be blown down. By order of the keeper, the men collected all the provisions they could, carrying biscuits round their bodies, and made with as much speed as possible to another part of the rock called the West House, in which was a kitchen that offered apparently the most suitable shelter.

Thither the keeper, taking his clock with him, followed, after securing the barometer in the room in the lower part of the tower. It was with great difficulty that he reached the West House safely, for the wind was so high, and the waves were dashing in on all sides of the rock. A few hours after all had left the building the remainder of it fell, and blocked up the road to the kitchen with stones, cement, and iron girders from the wrecked tower. For eleven days these six men lived in the kitchen, being up to their knees in water the greater part of the time, as the sea rushed through

doors and windows, and down the chimney. They had six chairs and two tables, and when the waves broke in they had to jump on to them to avoid a thorough drenching. Their fire was made in a coal-scuttle, and while the kettle was being boiled a man had to stand on a chair and hold it, lest the fire should be extinguished by an incoming wave.

The morning after the lighthouse fell the light-house-keepers could see crowds of people on Dursey Island, looking anxiously for signs of their being alive, so they waved a flag on the top of a fishing-rod six times, to show that all six men were safe. The sea remained so high that though they waited and watched for help to be sent them from the shore, no boat could possibly approach them. At last, to their relief, they saw a gun-boat anchoring in the harbour on the eleventh day, and then their rescue was soon accomplished. The keeper remained till the last on the rock, seeing all his men safely hauled on board the vessel; and great was the surprise of their friends to find that, notwithstanding all the perils and hardships they had undergone, they were little or none the worse.

These are specimens of dangers which are often endured by those who keep watch in the light-houses which guard our brave mariners in their arduous calling, and there is hardly a lighthouse or lightship around our shores which could not tell of similar perils nobly and patiently endured.

SOME LITTLE PRESENTS; AND THE WAY TO MAKE THEM.

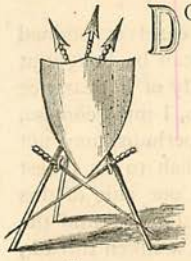

Fig. 1.

DO you know any boy who has not a pen-knife in his pocket? I don't. And don't you know many boys who find constant amusement in cutting and whittling wood and sticks? I do.

All amusements, as I dare say you have found out, are made even more amusing and fuller of interest, if there is some definite aim in view. The ambition to gain high scores in cricket, goals in football, sets in tennis, always adds greatly to the zest and pleasure of the player.

And so it is in the lesser amusements; whenever we set ourselves to accomplish something, we find the occupation doubly enticing and pleasant, do we not?

Well, with this end in view, I propose to give those boys—and *some* girls too, perhaps—who are fond of cutting and chipping, and whittling with their knives, some ideas, and I feel sure that the favoured friends, mother or sister, aunt or cousin, on whom they bestow these specimens of workmanship, will gladly accept the gifts.

The fashion of painting is just now so prevalent, that easels are much in request. I do not mean painters' easels, but those small ones which stand on tables, and on which amateur artists place their latest productions. Easels of this class are also brought into use to hold up to view photographs of famous people and places, and are often found on one or more tables of our drawing-rooms.

The two easels about which I shall tell you can be made with your trusty tool, the pen-knife, and can even be manufactured in the woods or fields, if you like to work out of doors. I will tell you how.

Device 1 (shown in the engraving) represents spears and swords supporting a shield; there are three spears, two swords, and one shield. I will give you the dimensions of each weapon, by which you will perceive that they are not to represent those which would be used by giants, but those which would be handled by veritable pigmies. This easel is only adapted for small pictures and light weights, and would not support even a painted tile or plate.

The thickness of each piece of wood is about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch. Two of the spears are $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, and the third spear is barely 9 inches; each one is left square at one end of its long body, and has a spear-head shaped at the other end.

The two swords have hilts, projecting in a peg-like form, about an inch from the end; their blades are not as fine as the far-famed Damascus blades, but yet are discernible, and the points are unmistakeable; these two weapons are 5 inches long. The shield is 3 inches long and 2 inches across; its edges are bevelled.

These weapons are made to help each other, and are arranged together in the following manner:—Two of the spears are crossed just 2 inches below the tip-top point of their heads, and are fastened to the middle of the shield on its back, (glue is used for the joining together in all cases except when a pivot is used). Now if one spear were placed over the body of the other, we should have a bumpy effect, so we cut away that part of one which would otherwise rest on the other's back; exactness and nicety are required just here, or we shall have one spear shorter than the other, and that would indeed be a disaster. The two swords are crossed, and are placed reverse ways, and fastened near the foot of the spears; in this instance