

river, and that before it flooded a tremendous acreage under the shadow of Wroxham old church. So, by a second freak of this ordinarily peaceful little river, many lives and houses and mills and shops were saved.

But the water was four feet deep across the road beyond the bridge, and further progress eastwards was barred. You could just get through on a wagon with a pair of lusty horses in the shafts; but it would have drowned my engine,

so I took the wagon, rolled up my trousers, and explored the dismal, dismantled little town. Every house hereabouts was aswim—or very near it.

Gruesome Flotsam.

I stood on the shaking bridge (remembering with a quail that already 80 of its brethren in Norfolk had been swept away), and watched the most confounding cirens I have ever seen in my life. Hundreds and hundreds of haycocks were flashing down with incredible speed on

the top of the swirl. Some of the tallest of them would hit the under side of the bridge with the sound as of giant wet sponges being flung at it—squash, squelch! and then with a devilish gurgle the careering water would suck them through, to reappear on the other side, and then float on merrily again to their ultimate end, wherever that might be.

It was not only hay that danced this weird water dance through Wroxham town. All manner of things came down on the crest of the torrent—once a whole haystack, and now and again the produce

of gardens, the wreck of outbuildings, and the drowned bodies of birds and animals, both tame and domesticated. Pigs and sheep were seen, and one man paddled into the Horseshoes Inn telling in a hoarse whisper of the corpse of a child he had seen disappear under the bridge—just a momentary glimpse, and no more. But it had turned him sick and livid.

I could find no definite news of lives lost or people missing; but who can tell, when miles of wild water have broken down the lines of communication in this sad, blighted land of the Broads?



THE CORNFIELDS ROUND HUNTINGDON INUNDATED—SHEAVES OF CORN ARE SEEN FLOATING ABOUT OVER THE FLOODED FIELDS.

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