

until the storm subsided before launching his boats ; but to do and to dare was his watchword, and with consummate management he brought every shipwrecked sailor safe to land. If a soldier or sailor performs an act of heroism, he is rewarded, but the men of the coastguard, often throw a dice with death, with no recompense save the approval of their own conscience.

SAND FLIES AND MOSQUITOES

Hog Island might be compared to Eden of old : that primeval garden had its snake, whereas this gem of the Atlantic coast has its mosquito, which, by the way, differs from its New Jersey cousin in size ; it is larger but more sluggish and tarries longer. When an island mosquito alights and begins its meal, there it remains until it has finished. You may kill, but you can never scare him.

There are sand flies also ; the most pestiferous insects that ever afflicted humanity. After a heavy rain in summer and fall, both of these species arrive from their breeding places in the ponds of the sea-meadows and, wafted by a slow breeze across the inlets to the island, they come in veritable swarms ; the natives retire into their houses, close the doors and windows and put up the mosquito blinds. The dogs burrow in their deepest holes under the stables ; the cattle wade out in the sea until the water reaches their necks ; and the only comfortable beings on the island are the lighthouse keepers and their families, who from their lofty post on the tower's summit, can look down upon the myriads of ravening insects