

my dire industry) I have done more with smaller gifts than almost any man of letters in the world."

With the publication of his first long tale, "Treasure Island," in 1883, Stevenson became widely popular. He wrote many essays, poems, and short stories, and in 1886 another absorbing story of adventure, "Kidnapped," this being followed in 1893 by a sequel, "Catriona." Stevenson did not concern himself with the problems of life and society, the mysteries of thought and conduct. He returned to the pure romanticism of Scott—the love of a story for its own sake, the delight in adventure, the spirit of eternal youth.

The great romance of Stevenson's own life began in France in 1876, when he met Mrs. Osbourne. Stevenson knew immediately that she was the one woman for him. She had returned to her home in San Francisco when Stevenson, hearing that she was ill, decided to follow her.

He crossed the Atlantic in the steerage, and the continent in an emigrant train. The experience gave him material for several books, but, together with the hard times he suffered in San Francisco, nearly killed him. He there

might live and work. At last he settled with his family in one of the Samoan Islands in the South Pacific. Here he gained four more years of life and of fairly good health.

The end of the brave struggle came quite suddenly in 1894. While talking gaily on the veranda of his house at Vailima he had a stroke of apoplexy, from which he never recovered consciousness. The natives, who had come to regard him as their beloved chief, carried his body to Mount Vaea, cutting a path to the summit with their knives and axes.

His Grave and His Epitaph

There they buried him, and there he lies to-day in the green place of trees and birds and wind-swept solitude, with one of his brave verses for an epitaph:

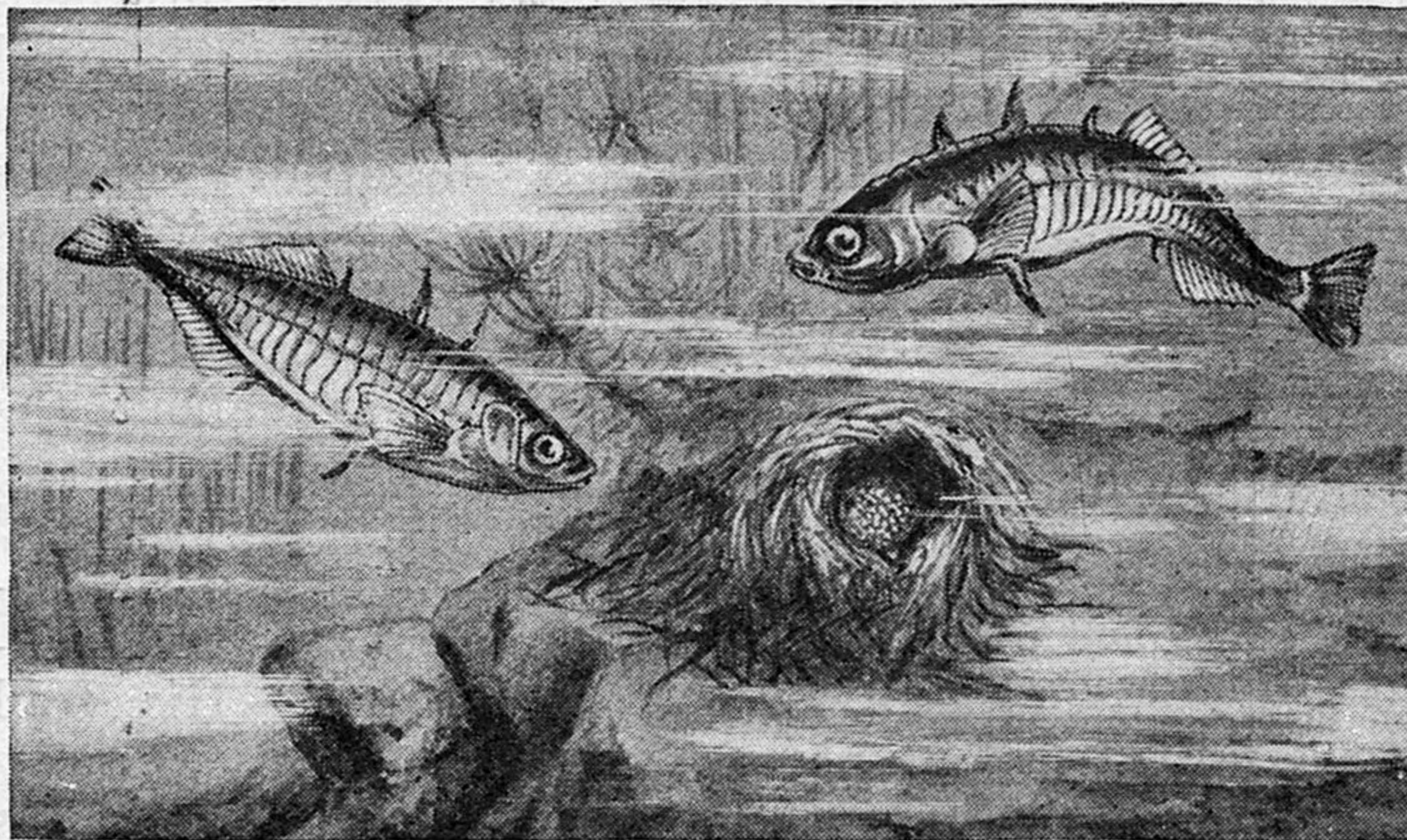
Under the wide and starry sky,
Dig the grave and let me lie.
Glad did I live, and gladly die,
And I laid me down with a will.
This be the verse you grave for me:
"Here he lies where he longed to be,
Home is the sailor, home from the sea,
And the hunter home from the hill."

Stevenson's best-known works besides those already mentioned are: "Virginibus Puerisque" (1881); "Familiar Studies of Men and Books" (1882); "New Arabian Nights" (1882); "The Silverado Squatters" (1883); "Prince Otto" (1885); "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" (1886); "Kidnapped" (1886); "The Merry Men, and Other Tales," including "Will o' the Mill" and "Markheim" (1887); "The Master of Ballantrae" (1889); "The Ebb Tide" (with Lloyd Osbourne, 1894); "Weir of Hermiston" (unfinished 1896); "St. Ives" (another unfinished story that was completed by Sir A. T. Quiller Couch, 1899).

STICKLEBACK. The life of this little fish is short, but full of excitement. At the age of about three or four years he has lived out his time, but he usually dies as he lived, by the "sword." He is a tyrant, cruel toward the weak, insolent toward the strong, always seeking a fight. Yet the male stickleback combines with his ferocious fighting qualities a great domestic virtue. It is he who builds the nest in which the female lays her eggs, and it is he who guards it jealously until the young are hatched.

Sticklebacks are found throughout northern and central Europe, northern Asia, and North America. The common British three-spined sticklebacks grow at the most to be 3 or 4 inches long, and carry sharp spines or thorns on their backs, which are formidable weapons. During the first year of their lives, they gather in small friendly groups. But with the coming of the next summer each male selects a territory which he fiercely defends against all comers, fighting other intruding males to the death.

MR. STICKLEBACK DEFENDING HIS NEST



If you do not want trouble, you had better keep out of Mr. Stickleback's front garden, for that little home under the water is the dearest place in the world to him, and he will defend it with his life.

developed tuberculosis and would have died, had it not been for Mrs. Osbourne, who nursed him back to health.

In 1880 they were married, and Stevenson returned with his wife and stepchildren to Scotland, where they were welcomed into his father's home. The stepson, Lloyd Osbourne, collaborated with Stevenson in some of his stories, and also won considerable distinction as a writer on his own account.

Settles in the Samoan Islands

Stevenson could not stand the severe climate of Scotland, and so for years he wandered from place to place in search of a climate where he