

### A GALLANT RESCUE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—On Thursday last a child, about two years old, while playing with her elder sister on the bank of the Calder and Hebble Canal, fell into the water. The sister, a girl of eight years old, in endeavouring to save her, fell in also, and both were in very imminent danger, when an alarm was given by a relative who witnessed the occurrence from a distance.

Thomas Vickerman, a mason in my employment and a noble-hearted fellow, rushed to the spot and without a moment's hesitation plunged into the water. By this time both children had sunk, but rose again to the surface. Vickerman soon brought the eldest to the bank, and immediately returned for her sister, whom he also rescued. Though insensible for some time, she ultimately recovered by the timely aid of warm water and blankets from a neighbouring cottage, and I am happy to say both children are now doing well. Such an act of courage, performed on a cold January afternoon at a spot where a deep accumulation of mud under 6ft. of water rendered it a service of great danger, deserves some recognition, and I trust, after stating the actual facts as they occurred—for I reached the place as the children were being landed on the bank—to be able to induce the Royal Humane Society to look upon this feat of gallantry in a manner it so richly deserves.

Believe me, Sir, yours very faithfully,

HENRY EDWARDS.

Pyre Nest, near Halifax, Jan. 12.

ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY.—At a meeting of this society, held at the offices, Trafalgar-square, on Tuesday, the following cases, in several of which remarkable courage in saving life was shown, were brought under the notice of the committee:—On the recommendation of the Lords of the Admiralty, the silver clasp of the society (the recipient having in 1867 been rewarded with the medallion) was voted to Lieutenant Lewis E. Wintz, of Her Majesty's ship Raleigh, for saving John J. Maker, who while at sea off the island of Tenedos (the ship at the time sailing seven knots an hour) fell overboard from aloft and was seriously injured, Lieutenant Wintz supporting him in an insensible condition for more than 20 minutes until they were both picked up by a boat sent off from the ship to their assistance. The silver medallion was unanimously voted to Mr. George R. White, a gentleman residing at Ottawa, Canada, for attempting to save the life of his brother, in the following circumstances. The two brothers, with a party of other gentlemen, had gone out duck shooting on the Mississippi Lake, and while the former were arranging decoys the canoe in which they were was upset, and both were thrown into the water. On rising to the surface Mr. George White saw his brother, who was a good swimmer, with a paddle under his arm, but apparently unable to keep himself up. He at once swam to his assistance, and helped him on to the end of the canoe, which was floating bottom upwards, and seizing the canoe with one hand tried with the other to paddle it to the shore of the island, then only 50 yards distant. The wind, however, was blowing from the island, so that he was unable to carry out his intention, and, perceiving that his only chance was to go with the wind towards the mainland, some three-quarters of a mile distant, turned in that direction, and, clinging to the boat, suffered it to drive before the wind. When about half-way across, however, the younger brother relaxed his hold of the canoe, and Mr. George White, passing hand over hand, managed to get to his brother's end of the boat, and held him up with one hand while he maintained a grip of the canoe with the other. At length this proved too much for his strength, and when about 300 yards from the shore his brother became insensible, lost his hold, and sank. The society's testimonial was awarded to Lieutenant George O'Connor, of Her Majesty's ship Impregnable, Benjamin Florence, Charles S. Ryman, Thomas Vickerman, John G. Medlon, and to Joseph Head, all of whom had been instrumental in saving life.