

young children were there, evidently going to rejoin their husbands, and so nerved to the trial they anticipated on their crowded deck. Some fine lads exuberant with joy, triumphed in the anticipation of the future. There were many fathers of families with wives and children, anxious and doubtful, like myself, of the prudence of the course they were taking, and fearful of the dangers into which they might be leading those who confided in their judgment. But it was my wife's birthday; and we all stood about her and were resolved that it should open to us upon a bright future. The children clustered together on deck and sang appropriate songs,—“A health to the outward bound”, or “The sea, the open sea”. It was well they should sing while they could.

The Captain went coolly and methodically to work. He stood on the lower deck; and calling over the names of all the passengers, made them pass before him. Some objected: but his quiet air of determination quickly showed them that his will was to be obeyed. At last, from the lower decks, they turned out one whose name was not on the register: a

stowaway: of course, there was much threatening of what should be done to him; but no one would subscribe to pay his passage. He was placed on a stool, with his hands tied to the rigging over his head, for three hours, and was then turned adrift amongst the crew to work his way out. Our crew was, indeed, a motley set: Germans, Norwegians, Dutch, Irish, and English: sixteen only in number to work a vessel of upwards of one thousand tons. Not an American was amongst them except the Captain, his mate, Mr. Burdock, and his second mate, Mr. Hobbs: and I was surprised to learn that Americans very rarely choose the sea as a profession: never, indeed, unless they have the sure prospect of rising shortly to the command of a vessel. Our second mate, of whom we heard nothing except that he grumbled to my children that the Captain would never carry sail enough to go a-head,—our second mate, “Young Go-a-head”, as we called him, was only nineteen, but would doubtless, I was told, be intrusted with the command of a vessel in three years more.

Unless he be calmed down, I would rather not sail in her.

It was wonderful to see how this motley crew of different nations, and of whom many did not speak the language of the others nor of the Captain, was soon brought into order, taught to understand the commands given, and to work together. We were short-handed, it is true; but the bolts used in American rigging are more easily worked than those of English vessels; and we could always, in case of need, find willing help from among the able-bodied emigrants below.

Our songs were interrupted by dinner and by unpleasant sensations; somewhat sadly, we saw the sun set; and nerving myself not to repent our undertaking nor to dread the future, I betook myself, for the first time in my life, to my berth; and went to sleep, wondering how we should get through a whole month in such quarters.

We were awakened next morning by the clear sound of the ship's clock striking two bells. Be it known to landsmen, that the day of twenty-four hours is, on board ship, broken

up into three divisions of eight hours each, beginning at midday: that the clock is regularly altered by the sun: but that the bells alone give the recognised time, and that those cannot be struck without superior orders. I rose, washed and dressed, as well as I could in a little space about nine feet long and six feet broad, where ewers and looking-glasses were fixed in such way only as to take up least space,—the floor gently undulating beneath me, and the walls of the room slowly inclining from one to the other side. We all met on deck: the sun was shining brightly: the deep blue sea was spangled by its rays: many fishing boats, with white or brick-coloured sails, were around us: green hills rose in the distance on our right. We were becalmed near Tor Bay.

Tor Bay—Torquay! what pleasant hours I had spent beside that pretty shore! What hopes, what happiness, had sprung to me from that calm retreat! And here we lie and look at it; and the fishing boats supply us with fish; and the vessel sways from side to side on the sunny waves for about eight and

forty hours. But then—up arose the breeze, and away we went, westward! There was not much wind, but the effect was disagreeable enough; and we had not much appetite when we were called down to dinner.

“But what is this on the table?” I asked.

“A spider.”

Dear landsman, I knew no more than you what “a spider” meant on a dinner-table on board ship: and I lifted up the table-cloth to examine the wooden framework which covered it all, and divided it into little boxes, about three inches deep and twelve or more inches wide or long, according to the size of the plates or dishes that were placed upon it. We all admired the contrivance; and still more so when the ship leant on one side, and some plates, that had been set down at the other end of the table beyond the “spider”, slid upon the floor, while our own dishes were firmly fixed in its fangs.

Captain Parsons had engaged to supply us with all proper provisions as state-room passengers; but he had so short a time to lay in stores, that I was somewhat anxious as to how