

vessel or the wilderness ; and may so become acquainted with the future home of their sons and brothers. There were also other mysterious circumstances about the party which Captain Parsons could never fathom, and which must yet remain unrevealed to the reader.

A sea voyage is said to be tedious ; but to a family afloat for the first time, it can never be without its excitement and incidents. How interesting it was to hear captain and mate, with spyglass in hand, speculate upon the identity of some vessel miles ahead—certain only that she was European because of the heaviness of her build and rigging—and break off the useless speculation, saying, “ It matters not : we shall pass her shortly ! ”—What pleasure it was then to feel that we were parties interested in the character of our pretty *Kate Hunter*, and to watch her stealing along the waters and gaining—gaining, till, in three hours, we passed the other, and recognised her as one that had left Hâvre a fortnight before ourselves ! How amusing it was to note the gambols of the dolphins which sometimes used to cover the sea like floating weeds—to mark

them heaving their round glittering backs far above the blue wave, and then roll and tumble over as if they enjoyed the cool bathing and the power of swimming in it while the sun shone so bright over head! How exciting it was to be startled from our reading round the saloon lamp at night, by one of the boys, who had escaped on deck, rushing down and calling to us that the sea was on fire! Then how blissful to hang over the sides of the vessel and mark the bright phosphoric gleaming in the track of the rudder and around and on every side on the dark face of the ocean, whenever a tiny wave toppled over its surging crest, as if silver and gold sands were flashing up from beneath! The sky over head was a deep dark blue, through which millions of stars brightly shone. A light wind was gently swelling out the white sail that hung from our tapering spars; and onwards, almost without motion, onwards glided our wedge-like clipper, as silent as the stars above or the ocean around; onwards into those bright phosphoric waves in front, and leaving a broad

track of liquid flashes over the dark blue sea behind her.

And then, too, we had our broils and incidents of human life. Our German steward and the cook would often disagree; and once in their quarrels they issued forth where we could see them on the emigrant's deck; and the steward caught up a carving knife and was making towards his foe, when out rushed Captain Parsons, who seemed to be everywhere at once, and began silently to belabour the steward with a rope that he caught up. I promise you that the German bore on his person for many days the marks of that rope's-ending. Flogging is forbidden on board the merchant navy of the United States; but no captain hesitates to inflict it when he thinks necessary; and public opinion prevents the culprit from declaring his own ill-conduct by informing against the law-breaker.

One day, in crossing the deck, one of our emigrants fell and broke his leg. Captain Parsons was instantly there, and having caused the poor man to be laid upon a stretcher, he himself set the limb and bound it with splin-

ters in a manner which, as I afterwards heard, was satisfactory to the surgeon on shore. We had no surgeon on board the *Kate Hunter*; and subsequent experience of him of the *Asia* steamer inclines me to exonerate those who chartered the vessel from the omission. Two poor little babies were born on board about this time; I know not if with our captain's assistance.

A tidy lass from amongst the emigrants acted as our stewardess, and fulfilled her duties with alacrity and cheerfulness; and the more so when, seeing the crucifix in one of our cabins, she exclaimed "Catolische!" and joyfully crossed herself to show that there was sympathy of faith between us. More than that, our daughters could not understand; but this was a bond of benevolence.

But now the colour of the sea began to change from dark blue to green; and a sparrow alighted upon our deck and brought us news of land. Poor little thing! it seemed very faint; and when, with thoughts of the "Ancient Mariner's" albatross, I divined that it must be thirsty and fetched a glass of water

and poured it out on the deck, it hopped into it and sipped deliciously. It was unable to eat the crumbs we scattered until it had taken many a swallow of the fresh water. Hopping about the rigging, it stayed with us some hours, and then we saw it no more.

We had been becalmed several days since we started; and, on the 31st of May, being then one hundred and thirty miles from New York, were again lying idle, whistling for a wind. The sun had risen very bright and warm; the sky was a deep unclouded blue; many vessels were in sight becalmed like ourselves. The captain and mate were very busy with their glasses; and, at length, distinguished a small open boat which had put off from the side of a vessel on the nature of which they had differed. This settled the question. By degrees, we were able to distinguish the six rowers who urged the little boat over the heaving sea; and after three hours' hard work, it came alongside of us and a pilot climbed on deck.

Few words were interchanged between him and the captain—men of business both; when