Rare Presence of Mind.

"I knew a sea captain, who died some years ago, who displayed great presence of mind at a most critical time," said Henry S. Roberts, of Boston. "His ship had caught fire, and the passengers and crew were compelled to take to the boats in a hurry. The captain remained perfectly cool, throughout all the confusion and fright of the embarkation; and at last, everyone but himself was got safely into the boats. By the time he was ready to follow, the passengers were wild with fear and excitement. Instead of hurrying down the ladder, the captain called out to the sailors, to hold on a minute; and taking a cigar from his pocket, coolly bit the end off, and lighted it with a piece of the burning rigging. Then, he descended with great deliberation, and gave the order to shove off. 'How could you stop to light a cigar at such a moment?' he was afterwards asked by one of the passengers. 'Because,' he answered, 'I saw, that if I did not do something to divert your minds, there would likely be a panic and upset the boats. The lighting of a cigar took but a moment, and attracted the attention of everybody; you all forgot yourselves, in thinking about my curious behaviour; and we got safely away."-St. Louis Globe-Democrat.



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