

I was well pleased to do so—so loaded my heart,
 I was quite on the bend for unburdening, in part ;
 So, the Captain, very graciously, standing aside,
 I, at once took his place—and, with some little pride :
 The sailors, I could mark, were a tip-toe to see
 What canvass I'd carry—what my course would be.
 I soon set them easy, however, as to that,
 My discourse, by design, a mere brotherly chat ;
 I could guess pretty well upon what tack to reach them,
 They had just had a lesson One only could teach them ;
 With that for my compass, my card, all along,
 I should'nt, in my land falls, I knew, be very wrong ;
 So, I put us all, straight, in the worst of weather,
 And then did my best—for a good cry together ;
 I was right with my fold—no one could tell
 The shepherd from the sheep, by anything that fell.
 There was no veiled distinction between them and me,
 When I spoke of poor strayers, I took care it was—*WE* ;
 This seemed to hit home with them—perhaps it did,
 I spoke what I felt, only, nothing was hid.
 I took, too, the occasion I mind, to recall,
 What we owed to the Captain for his care of us all ;
 There was some little thing, too, about folks far away,
 Of storms all over—of a happy, happy day ;
 I forget the particulars, th' occasion was trying,
 But I marked—when done, more than one—had been crying.

The service now ended, in the quietest order,
 All took their departure, and not one aboard her,
 But, again, and unbidden by ship's cabin light, *the*
 Came to pray, to thank God, for a calm quiet night ;
 So, I verily believe that none went away,
 But something the better for a hard night and day ;
 From the Captain to the cook, I noted, not a word
 Profanely, or impurely, for many a day, was heard ;