

two older than myself, who stopped in his hurried walk about the ship, by my berth, and said :

"I say, youngster, ain't you afraid of being drowned ; it's a terrible storm I can tell you".

"I won't say I'm not afraid", I replied, "but I hope we shall get through all right, please God".

"Well hope is a good thing if it can keep you so calm as you seem, perhaps it is because I have no hope that I cannot control my agitation".

"If we have no hope to be saved from drowning there is hope in the future, sir".

"That's it, that's it. You have this hope, I suppose, and I have not".

"I am sorry to hear that, sir, but why cannot you get it? God will hear you".

"Why what a coward do you take me for to suppose that I shall ask a favor now, when I have laughed Him to scorn when the sun shone".

"But you are sorry now that you did so, sir".

"I don't know that I am as sorry as I ought to be; such times as these are not favorable to self-examination, even if I was fond of it".

"My mother told me that if I prayed to be able to repent as I ought, God would hear me".

"So mamma has told me, but you see I am none the better for it".

"Oh, sir, I fear you are mocking God who gave you a good mother; she must have taught you to pray".

"I have learned a good deal since then, my boy, and have forgotten how to pray. Do you pray?"

"Yes, sir, I do, I dare not forget".

"Pray for me then, will you? Oh, this is dreadful".

As he said this the ship gave a great lurch, the noise of water pouring from a great height upon the deck above, the shrieks of nearly every passenger on board, the tumbling about of trunks and boxes which had broken from the fastenings with which they had been bound at the commencement of the storm, made us both spring up, and with terror look for the next event, which I, at least, thought must be the loss of the ship, but it was not so, the noise and cries subsided, and soon after the second mate came on board to enquire if we were all safe. Many had been thrown down, the tumbling boxes had hurt others, and some of the poor children were so terrified that their friends, themselves pale and agitated, could not quiet them. The mate said that the ship had not rightly answered to her helm, and had consequently received a tremendous wave broadside, which had torn away some of the bulwarks. He told us that it had been impossible for the cook to prepare dinner, consequently we must be satisfied with the remains of our breakfast; very few of us felt inclined to eat, and the general cry was that the cook should be spared the trouble of serving any food at all, but this the mate would not allow, saying that we must not add faintness to our other evils, and that he

hoped the storm was at its worst now. As he left the steerage a tremendous volume of water came pouring down the hatchway, knocking him down as well as several others standing near; he sprang up laughing and gained the deck safely, closing the hatch firmly after him, but some of the others who were not used to being wet through, and were hurt also, began to grumble; we had been far too damp to be comfortable before, for the steam from so many human beings, the pools of water that came in dribblets from the upper deck, and the impossibility of ventilation during such weather, had made all below in a fog, but now the floor was flooded, and all the consolation we had was in the assertion of somebody that "nobody ever caught cold from sea-water".

When the steward was seeing our meal—of which he had persuaded many to eat—removed, we learned from him that the captain considered the storm to be breaking, and we might look for further news by sunset; he confirmed the account of the mischief in the first cabin, and told us to be thankful, for that many of the ladies had not a dry article of dress to put on, their bedding and carpets were wet through, and some of the passengers had lost a considerable amount of property through the damage done by sea-water. The steward also shewed us also how to make ourselves a little more comfortable, and though the ship continued to pitch and roll frightfully, he and his boy swabbed up the floor, rubbed the lanterns dry, put the trunks and boxes in more convenient places, encouraged some of the men to get washed, and helped the women to make the children neat; many laughable accidents occurred during these operations, one man declared he had swallowed the soap, another fell on his back with a tin full of water which flew all over him, another dropped his comb, and, instead of picking it up, sat on it, the steward taking advantage of everything to make a laugh, and so raise our spirits. We were astonished how much better we all felt, and how the time had slipped away by these simple means; some declared that the ship was much quieter, and that the great swashes of water overhead did not come in so frequently as usual; for myself I saw little change in these things, but I began to hope we should be safe after all. The boy, of whom I have before spoken, came and sat down on his bag beside my trunk, on which I was sitting, and entered into conversation with me again. He was rather a nice looking youth, with a moustache just growing, small soft hands, and the manner of a gentleman; he was in company with a man much older than himself, a frowning, moody-looking fellow, whom I, nor any one else on board, appeared to like; they were both dressed in dark suits of rough cloth, and neither had a trunk with him, the younger one only having a carpet bag stuffed pretty full. It was evident that both belonged to a better class of society than those they were travelling with, but they joined the wilder part in all their frolics, and seemed bent on occupying a low position among the general passengers, for they acted as roughly, spoke as rudely, and behaved as