

taken place there. That vast field of waters covering two-thirds the surface of our planet has been a wonder and a mystery to man, from the beginning. Its depths who can reach? Its hidden places who can explore? Its huge form, instinct with motion, who can measure? Its heaving and boisterous waves who can tame? It rolls freely round the earth washing the borders of every continent, everywhere approaching human abodes, and tempting the genius of man to adventure upon its yielding form, and to make its trackless path a highway of intercourse. From the early days when the men of Tyre put out with their tardy oars to steal cautiously along the Mediterranean coast, until our own times when stately palaces float from east to west, and from west to east, ploughing the waves of the Atlantic and the Pacific from shore to shore, the skill and enterprise of man have found scope and enjoyment upon the great uncertain deep. Alone with sea and sky, what a feeling that is, when abroad upon the ocean! Riding the waves, so terrible in their rising and their falling, how the heart of a man exults, and how the blood courses through his frame as he does it! The distant shore, how welcome its sight when he sees it, how joyful its touch when he safely reaches it! That wide sea, how it helps men to know their brothers, and bears upon its broad and flowing surface the products of every clime! That wide, deep, heaving sea, how it serves man! It brought Tyre to Carthage and opened the way for commerce and civilization. It floated the navies of Solomon which carried the gold of Ophir to Jerusalem. It lifted the modest ships of Columbus and halted them by the shores of the new western world. And fleets to day, more than I can name or number, are borne upon its