

P R E F A C E.

IN placing before immediate friends the incidents of a Midshipman's life, the author feels that he has much forgiveness to ask for so great an intrusion on patience and leisure hours.

Having, however, two very unselfish motives for so doing, it gives him some encouragement, and even boldness, in launching forth his little volume.

He has only to observe that, should any "nautical terms" here made use of appear inelegant to the reader, they must be kindly passed over—never being intended to offend.

He hopes he may also be excused for occasionally giving way to his feelings (and, perhaps, he may unintentionally get credit for an excess of gallantry). He can assure his readers it is done only to illustrate the sensitive heart a sailor naturally possesses at all times, and not introduced for the sake of being thought romantic. As they happened to him when a boy, so they were then recorded in his Diary, and so they are now transferred here.