

Sailors no doubt have many and strong temptations to run into extremes in conduct. The restraints to which they are subjected on ship-board are removed when they reach their harbour; and it is wonderful in how short a space the impressions of the voyage are obliterated. As the visions of sleep are dispersed by the light of the morning, so the ideas which occupied the mind at sea are scattered by the sight of the shore. Fatigue and fear are no longer felt; vows are forgotten with the perils which produced them; and from the very abstinence of their life, sailors rush upon forbidden pleasures with all the hunger of appetite.

In these intervals of service they heed not the storms that are past, nor the approaching miseries of being at once friendless, and indigent, and old. By an oath and a jest they banish serious thought, and take courage in dissipating the wages which ought to support and cheer their declining days.

But in the end they suffer severely for their misconduct. When discharged as no longer capable of service, they have neither resource nor asylum. Estranged from their friends by the nature of their employment, and wholly unqualified for the ordinary labours of life, they are forced to cast themselves upon the charity of