

prefer the steerage, you will in that case require provision; but information thereon will readily be furnished you on board. Have a care that the ship is not an old one, and with a steerage six feet clear. See that the mid-hatchway communicates with the entrance, so as to afford a current of air; likewise glass inlets on deck, thereby admitting light when the hatchways, by stress of weather, are obliged to be down. Choose your birth on the windward side, about the fourth from the ladder hatchway, and the lower not the upper one. Observe if the scuppers, side outlets for letting off shipments, are quite clear and open. If upon deck when shipping a sea, seize the first rope, and hold fast until it has subsided. A wet ship, as was the Ontario, means a shipper of seas; a dry one is known by its offensive bilge-water. Medicine, before embarking, prevents much sickness.

3. On the night of Dec. 7th a passenger died, chiefly from the want of medical aid: hence the inconsistency of exacting \$1, 50 from each cabin, and \$1 from every steerage passenger, for the New York Quarantine Hospital, which received \$31,321 in 1830, from 29,770 European passengers, and leaving the ship without a doctor. 4. Soon after the deceased had been thrown overboard, prayers being first read by the captain, a violent tornado came on. During the pause preceding its termination, several voices, three of them female, raised a gentle chorus to Addison's beautiful hymn at sea, composed while on his voyage to Italy. Sacred harmony is at all times attractive, and especially grateful at a season like this: nevertheless the storm had scarcely subsided, when all on board laughed at their past terrors, but no sooner did another threaten, than they instantly betook themselves to meditation, and he, who in halcyon days was known as the noisiest, invariably, on tempests, became the most humble.

5. On getting into the offing, or open sea, the first sounds I recognized from the sailors were those of Mother Carey's chickens, which they applied to a small black bird, about the size of a swallow. Their appearance foreboded a storm. Its proper name is *Petrel*. On approaching land they exchange the homeward for an outward bound ship: it is not precisely known where they breed. In fine weather I often saw the Nautilus or sea snail: sailors call it the Portuguese man of war. The sea weed floating around the vessel, now denoted our vicinity to the Gulf stream: the circumference of its vast whirlpool is 15,000 miles: it was unknown to Columbus, and was first observed by Sir Francis Drake; but its warm temperature, and effect on the climate of the adjoining country, were not discovered until about fifty years since. We had a very dangerous passage, but fortunately lost only the captain's boat, though considerably damaged in the rigging. 6. Regular packets across the Atlantic were established 150 years after the discovery of America: they first sailed, in 1764, between Corun-

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