

the delinquent is set down in the captain's private list. The tendency of such an intimation is to make men reckless of the future, and regardless of character, which they, with a good deal of reason, imagine is irrecoverably lost the moment their name is enrolled in writing on that hateful memorial, emphatically denominated by sailors the "*Black List*." No unprofitable task in the way of black-list duty should ever be imposed. It is in the recollection of many, that captains have compelled seamen on this list to brighten the 'breeches of the guns,' the 'belaying-pins,' the ring-bolts in the deck, and even a two-and-thirty-pound shot, tasks which the sailor must himself perceive were useless and absurd.*

Instead of such a misapplication of time and labour, which happily is on the decline, but

* These, and similarly vexatious practices, as they begin to be discontinued in our navy, have been taken up and adopted by commanders of American vessels of war, more particularly in the "crack ships" on the Mediterranean station.