



"REGGIE DREW  
NEAR  
AND LISTENED."

girls, of whom there were several in the intermediate, competed with one another for the honour of her companionship. It was also a point of distinction to "have a friend among the officers of the ship," and Sybil felt quite proud when Tom came up and spoke to her before several of her new acquaintances.

When, late in the afternoon of the second day, Reginald Jessop crept on deck, he was immediately attracted by the sound of singing. Looking in the direction of the sound, he saw a group of sixty or eighty persons gathered round a clergyman, who was evidently leading their devotions. To his intense surprise and delight, he recognised Mr. Turner, the rector of the parish in which he had lived the greater part of his life. Feeling as though a friend had been specially sent to him in his desolation, Reggie drew near, and listened to the address which had now commenced. He was deeply impressed by it, as, indeed, were several others. The novel surroundings, the conscious-

ness of helplessness as the steamer sped on after the sun that was just about to dip beneath the limitless waters of the west, the memory of an old life left behind

and the dream of a new one yet hidden beneath the far horizon—these and the like sentiments crowding the mind, tended to make the occasion one of special solemnity. The speaker poured forth his words with intense earnestness, and the people listened reverently.

At the conclusion of the service Reginald went up and spoke to Mr. Turner.

"I daresay you don't remember me, sir, though I am an old parishioner?"

The clergyman was puzzled a moment. The Jessops being so persistently retiring, he did not know much about them; indeed, he had had no personal intercourse with Reggie, except as a member of a Confirmation class some two years previously.

"I know your face; but as for your name—ah, now I recollect. You are young Jessop. But what are you doing here? Are you emigrating? are you alone? Tell me all about it."

Reginald was quite ready to respond to this hearty invitation. It was a relief to have some one to talk to, and one, too, who was sure to be a useful and sympathetic friend. So Mr. Turner