

became chilled, disheartened and unfit for duty. Once or twice the vessel escaped as by a miracle from unknown currents, then mountains of ice encompassed it, and the crew became so terrified that they arrayed themselves in open rebellion.

In direct violation of his contract with the company, and in sheer desperation, Hudson offered the men one of two courses; one was to sail westward and prove the theory advanced by Captain John Smith, that there was a passage somewhere north of the English colony; the other was to keep nearer the latitude they were in, sail directly to the west, and try again at Davis' strait. The first plan was adopted, and on May 14 Hudson set his face towards the Chesapeake and China. He touched at Stroma, one of the Faroe islands, for water. On June 15, off Newfoundland, where he had avoided the fleet of French fishermen which lay off the bank, the Half-Moon "spent overboard her foremast."

This accident made it necessary to put into Sagadahoc, where, on July 18, a mast was procured, and the crew put at work to repair the little vessel, much the worse for her encounters with the northern seas. Some communication with the Indians was had, and an unnecessary battle fought, in which the ship's two "stone murderers" were employed.

The incident shows the lawless and buccaneering spirit of the crew. As the Half-Moon lay in the bay, two shallops filled with Indians approached her, looking for peaceful trade with the strangers, and such friendly interest as the French had everywhere encouraged. But Hudson's men met them in another temper. Manning a boat, they captured and carried off one shallop; and then, in pure wantonness, they armed two skiffs of their own with pieces which deserved their name of "murderers," and attacked and plundered the Indian village on the shore. The outrage fully warranted a quick revenge; and Hudson feared it, for the same afternoon the ship was dropped down to the entrance of the bay, and on the next day (July 26) she was again under sail to the southwest.

Within a week she went aground on what are now known as St. George's shoals, and it was ten days before her crew sighted land again; this time at the headland of Cape Cod, which Hudson, before he knew it to be Gosnold's Cape, promptly named "New Holland," in honor of his adopted country. Some of the men landed here, for they fancied they heard people calling from the shore, and that the voices sounded like those of "Christians;" but they came back after seeing none but savages, and the yacht again bore away to sea, passing Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard, and once more making a course to the southwest.

When land was again made, Hudson was close by the entrance of