

ship where you know you'll have a free hand as far as your crew is concerned. Besides, you'd like Willie here for third mate, and you'd hardly be able to manage that without Don Dinero behind you. Oh, money isn't a bad thing when you use it right ! ”

To this Dick could have no possible objection indeed, anything that furthered his heart's desire, that of doing some good to his fellow seamen, was welcome to him. Mrs. White was the only unhappy one of the party, for the thought of parting with her beloved son was almost more than she could bear, and she was perilously near hating Dick because of his innocent influence over Willie. All remonstrances and arguments were in vain, for they beat hopelessly against the Gibraltar of maternal selfishness, which is often ready to sacrifice a dear son's future if only he can be kept at home and mothered—that is, kept utterly unfit to do anything in the world.

However, Willie, backed by Mr. Williams, was adamant, and the beginning of the new week saw Dick and he in London in comfortable lodgings, and full of enthusiasm over the coming voyage, wherever it might be for. As might have been expected, Dick passed the examination for chief mate with flying colours—it has only terrors for the waster who expects to cram