

sailed the next day I felt very pleased indeed. The skipper, just promoted by circumstances, was cheerful and companionable and sober ; the second mate, although to my mind a little too chummy with the skipper, was a good fellow enough ; the crew were sturdy and willing sailor-men ; and so the ship, taken all round, was as comfortable as she could well be. Too comfortable, I am afraid, for me ; for I said not a word about my profession of Christianity when I first came on board, and ever afterwards I found it impossible. Sailing under false colours is always a risky as well as a dishonest proceeding, and in this instance especially it did me, spiritually, an immense amount of harm.

Not that I ever felt any desire to contract myself out of the Lord's requirements ; but somehow the miserable fallacy was wrapping itself about my heart that the Master's service was bringing me always into trouble. I felt, as I know so many have felt, that while the service of God in the world was a glorious thing to die for, it was not so glorious a thing to live for. It meant a world full of enemies, misunderstandings and impositions ; not, perhaps, so painful as the short sharp agony of the stake and the torture-chamber,