

ing with each other in feats of strength or agility. So the time passes until eight bells are struck at eight o'clock, and the watch is set for the night.

The look-out, and man at the helm relieved, the watch below retire to their hammocks until called at midnight, while the watch on deck, save the officer of the watch, look-out and helmsman, arrange themselves for a comfortable sleep on deck, the weather is so delightfully mild and warm. Sometimes roused up to brace up or square yards, and at four bells to relieve the helm or look-out. So the time passes as we proceed towards the equator.

Our first duty in the morning is to scrub and clean the decks before eight o'clock. The monotony of the voyage is sometimes relieved by the capture of a shark, porpoise or dolphin, or watching showers of flying fish which often come on board to escape the merciless dolphin or bonito. But as we come towards the line our steady trade winds begin to fail us, and finally to die away altogether; studding sails are taken in, and the ship cleared for working through the variables and calms so prevalent here. Frequent squalls of wind accompanied with heavy rain now come down on the ship, and the officer of the watch must use all his energy and watchfulness to prevent losing any of his