

is nearly as rapid as travelling by steam, and is preferable on all accounts. In the early autumn the season is still fine in the lower latitudes. I therefore decided to take passage by the *Chancellor*.

II.

September 28.—I have said that the captain's name is Huntly. His first names are John Silas. He is a Scotchman from Dundee, about fifty years old, with a high reputation as an Atlantic sailor. He is of medium height, with narrow shoulders, and a small head which, from long habit, is inclined a little to the left side. I do not pretend to be a physiognomist; but I think I have already read Captain Huntly, though I have only known him a few hours.

I do not doubt that Silas Huntly is reputed to be a good sailor, or that he is a thorough master of his business. But I cannot believe that he has firmness of character, or a physical and moral energy which is proof against all tests.

In short, Captain Huntly seems heavy, and betrays a certain depression in his manner. He is indifferent; this is seen in the unsteadiness of his look, the slow movements of his hands, and his way of resting languidly first upon one leg, then on the other. He is not and cannot be an energetic, or even an obstinate man; for