

swain causes the tarpaulins which cover the large hatchway to be sprinkled.

Some moments after, I speak to Robert Curtis, and at first we talk of insignificant matters. Seeing that the mate does not broach the subject which I wish to discuss, I say to him,—

“By the way, Mr. Curtis, what happened on board last night?”

He looks at me attentively, without replying.

“Yes,” I continue, “I was awakened by an unusual noise, which also disturbed M. Letourneur. What was going on?”

“Nothing, Mr. Kazallon,” returns Robert Curtis. “A blunder of the steersman made it necessary to correct it promptly; this caused some commotion on deck. The blunder being promptly repaired, the *Chancellor* at once continued on her way.”

It seems to me that Robert Curtis, usually so frank, is not telling me the truth.

VIII.

From October 15 to October 18.—The voyage continues in the same way; the wind holds still from the northeast; and, to one not warned, there seems to be nothing unusual going on on board.