

"It is glorious, indeed," said Conrad, with enthusiasm, "such a spectacle as this; and I can fancy why so many choose to become sea-rovers and navigators rather than remain upon the land. Of one thing I am quite certain, that nobody could live upon the waves and feel as I do now, and consent to be a slave."

As he spoke, the boy's eye flashed, and he drew himself up proudly.

"I often thought," resumed Ellen, after a pause, "how strange it was to shut oneself up in a dreary prison, like that where I was, without taking enjoyment of any sort, and where one is brought to look upon natural things with a churlish eye. Such a life must be both wearisome and sinful, it seemeth to me."

"Sinful it must be, Ellen; for else why do birds sing and flowers grow? Why is the world so beautiful, and the sunshine so gay, if it were not intended that we should enjoy life, in an innocent way, and be friendly hearted one with another."

"So would I often say to them," she replied, "when they tried hard to win me to be such as they were.—Verily, and how is this, my friends? Thou wouldst have me believe the good earth to be a wicked and worthless place; now that may not be, for I have known many happy years since I have been alive, and beheld much good among those with