

blessing to all the ship's company, but I have not the strength. Let the officers all be asked to see me ; I would speak to each one of them, and thank them for their loyal, hearty aid in all that I have been led to undertake. Call them down, Martin."

Obeying with a bursting heart, Martin summoned the officers, and a most affecting leave-taking took place, several of them shedding bitter tears, both for the loss of one personally dear to each of them and also for the enormous loss to England that was about to befall. Some of them indeed ventured to prophesy that it only needed the good cheer, rest, and comfort of the land to restore the admiral again ; but he knew better, and told them so. Presently a ringing cry of "Land-ho" came pealing down from the masthead, and was heard in the stillness of the admiral's cabin. His eye brightened, and he murmured, "Dear land, though I shall never see thee more, I love thee to my latest breath, and pray that thou mayest prosper in all right ways, but principally in the simple worship of God, and the succouring of all such as be oppressed. Gentlemen, return to your duties, or your rest, and God bless you all. I am weary, and would fain sleep."

On deck all who were not actually engaged in some work that kept them from doing so were feasting their eyes upon the soft beauties of that most lovely coast of Cornwall and Devon, lying in the mellow light of the westering autumn sun. And in many an otherwise hard heart was the unuttered prayer that God would spare their dear leader, the personal friend of them all as they felt,