

child, a thorough seaman and navigator; and withal a simple-minded, great-hearted Christian. With him were his wife and two little ones, and to see him with those hostages to fortune was to wonder how one human heart could hold so much love. After a most perilous passage round the Cape, another little son was born to him away in the middle of the South Atlantic. But before he had nursed his precious helpmate quite back to strength again, he himself was stricken down by some terrible disease, about which neither the mate (now captain) nor his wife knew anything; and, after battling with it manfully for five or six days, he suddenly lost the desire of more life and quietly drifted homewards in the arms of his heart-broken helpmate. Four days later the vessel arrived in Barbadoes, where the hapless widow and her orphan children were transferred to the mail steamer and sent home.

By the time the second mate had finished his recital the skipper had arrived, and in the course of a few minutes we had arranged terms &c. The vessel was bound to the coast ports of the Gulf of Mexico for mahogany, whither I had sailed so many years before on my first voyage; and as the only reason she had for calling at Barbadoes at all was to get orders where to proceed, we