

an infinitely preferable dwelling-place to the cabin of a vessel.

To an Englishman, however frequent may have been the calls of duty or of pleasure, which may have estranged him from his native land, when the actual certainty arrives of being about again to leave it for an uncertain and an indefinite period, there is something which calls forth most potently the natural melancholy of his temperament. To me, the song of the sailors, particularly the lengthened cadences of "top the boom," and "ho cheerly," appeared unusually affecting, following as it did, the adieus of dear and loving friends and relatives. Whilst sailing through the dangerous channels of the Estuary of the Thames, these thoughts had ample food for rumination. Here we passed within the ship's length of the solitary mast of a vessel buried beneath the waters; the sole visible testimonial of what had lately been a scene of agony and woe.

The final adieus of all parties on board were now made, as the ship lay to, off Deal,