

cations are the general tenor of the conversation which issues from the cabins of many vessels, and even the forms of religion are not known in many a long and perilous voyage; and it not unfrequently happens that it is neither seen, nor exhibited, in the whole course of a sailor's life. Can it, then, be a matter of astonishment, to behold the indifference and recklessness of sailors, in regard to these matters? Just, for a moment, behold them on the ocean, excluded from the restraints of society, deprived of all those instituted means of grace, on the Sabbath, which are always within the reach of landmen, besides being surrounded on all sides with evil example, and especially that which is exhibited by their superiors; looked upon, in many instances, as possessing no souls. I say, when all these things are considered, it is not surprising that sailors manifest but little relish for morals or religion.

It may be asked, What course shall we pursue with sailors, while on the ocean, in order to impress their minds with a deep sense of their obligations to God, and the necessity of seeking the salvation of their souls? I answer, if possible, let the commanders of all vessels, if not strictly religious, be at least moral, and observe the forms and restraints of Christianity on the Sabbath day. This observance, in keeping alive a state of moral feeling, will, consequently, give a check and restraint to those outbreaks of profane swearing, and other vices, so common among sailors. It may be objected that these observances will interfere with the duties of the ship, or that it will be impossible to bring many sailors to attend to these forms of devotion at sea. In the latter years of my sea life, as will be seen in the preceding narrative, I never found any obstacle, either in reference to carrying on the duties of the ship, or the unwillingness of sailors to obey orders. Certainly, if a correspondent and uniform course of discipline is not observed, it cannot be expected that sailors will either be willing to attend to those exercises, or place confidence in the highest profession.