

steadily along on our course towards the equator! We have plenty of work to do during the day time. The carpenter either caulking decks or at some other necessary work; the sailmaker repairing sails, assisted by some of the crew, and the boatswain with his men divided over the ship repairing or replacing rigging where required, the whole under the direction of the mate or second mate.

Such are the duties in any well disciplined merchant ship on a southern voyage, leisure being the exclusive privilege of the captain alone, who is generally walking the deck in the day-time, watching the steering of the ship or occupied in reading, when not taking or working up observations of the sun for latitude or longitude. The day's duties being over, our best singers begin after supper, and the chorus of the whole crew to some well known sea-song is heard over the ship as she moves steadily and majestically over the waste of waters, every stitch of sail full to the breeze, and like a thing of life and light on this beautiful star-light night. Some of the men can play different instruments of music, and a dance is often started by some excellent dancers among the crew; others are occupied in various gymnastic performances, vie-