

early age of thirty, having passed through many dangers and shipwrecks, he was drowned while bathing in a calm sea.

A passing glimpse of the character of this Christian sailor will be furnished by an extract or two from the Memoir.

"His was no idle sentimental life. He set about the business of the world with this end full in view to promote the happiness of all with whom he came in contact—to restrain vice and immorality in every form in the case of those under his control; and by strictly watching over their temporal welfare he gained their respect and love. The boys especially shared his care and solicitude, which partook more of a father than a master. He set apart a portion of every day to instruct them in the plain branches of education; and any of the crew who chose were at liberty to attend also. He has taught men to read who knew not even their letters; and their grateful thanks with those of their parents and friends cheered his endeavours; and many a tear has been shed by them over his early tomb."

What a beautiful picture of an earnest man, working out his own salvation with anxiety and prayerfulness, is given us in the following extract from his own diary:—

"I am in the habit of retiring alone to my own cabin every afternoon from 5 to 6 o'clock for prayer and reading of the Word. I commenced with Barnes on the 1st Epistle to the Corinthians, and I trust it was blessed to me. I then thought I would dip into the more hidden matters; so I took up the Epistle to the Romans! but I found the apostle's reproof of the Hebrews, chap. v. 12, answered equally well with them.

"In the morning I select for study some important doctrine, such as sanctification by faith; search it out to the utmost of my ability, and write down all I have learned from it. This gives me a subject for meditation during the day. I feel it *very pleasant*; it leads along the road that opens up eternity to my view."

What an example to all! Men say they have no time for Religion, they are so pre-occupied—they can only think of present interests, present engagements. Yet this man, engaged in the duties of a laborious profession, with large responsibilities devolving upon him, can secure leisure for the culture of his soul's life, and devote his thoughts to one or other of the grand topics which the Gospel furnishes to his contemplations. In Religion, as in other things, there is always a way where there is the WILL.

It is possible to remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy on board ship? Let us look at the practice of Captain Watt:

"Every Lord's-day, wind and weather permitting, he had regular service, the one at watch 9, a. m., and the other at watch 1, p. m.; and in the evening he took the boys by themselves, and instructed them in the knowledge of the Word of God."

As an illustration of what may be done by captains for their men, we heard of one who not only worshipped with his men upon Sabbath, a duty known to be performed in 200 vessels sailing from British ports,—but also, when possible, on week-days. The most of his crew have sailed with him for seven years!

We have heard also, on the best authority, of another captain (who have been under the impression that it was Captain Watt, but in this we may possibly be mistaken) who began a voyage from the Clyde to China with a very indifferent crew. He pursued his usual course of Christian instruction and worship on board. By the time they reached the Cape of Good Hope, a marked change for the better was visible in the men. When they reached Canton, they all had resolved to abstain from intoxicating liquors, and kept their word. On their voyage Home their improvement continued, until at last not a sailor on board refused to take some share, by reading the Scriptures, &c., in the public worship of the ship, while many gave good reason for hoping that in them there was a thorough change of heart and life.

We must now close our remarks. Let the sailor ponder the character of this good captain and Christian man. Was he less an able seaman and a kind commander, because he was a humble follower of Jesus Christ? And, if not, why may there not be in every ship of our navy and our merchant service another Captain Watt? Let those, who despair of sailors on account of their moral position and multiplied temptations, study this memoir. Let the worldly man approach also, and behold how a Christian's faith can triumph over all difficulties, and rise superior to all situations, and shed an everlasting glory on the humblest duties of the most lowly life.

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