

### “ ASK THE SKIPPER ”

My faith having come through the foolishness of preaching, I do not want to think of it as all folly. But my faith now is far more helped by seeing the fruit faith bears than by anything else. Personally, therefore, I preach (or try to) rather as an adjunct to my other work, than as the principal remedy for unfaith, or the most effectual weapon for Christ. Our staff is a company of doctors, engineers, teachers, sailors. I have listened to an appeal for faith in Christ made by the cook on my steamer, which was more eloquent than many I have heard from lawn sleeves. It was impossible to sleep through that discourse, or to be indifferent to it. It was simply a series of facts, which, knowing him, I knew were true, and they went right home to their mark. I was called once to see a man dying on a fishing-vessel off this coast. As I left the cabin he called out, “ You ’ve forgotten me, Doctor; I ’m the man who was converted at — two years ago.” “ Well,” I said, “ what difference has it made to you?” “ Ask the skipper,” he replied. The remarks of his skipper were no end of a help to my faith.

### UNFORMULATED FAITH

It is true much excellent, unselfish work is being done without any definite recognition of faith in God, or, perhaps, of the deity of Jesus Christ as its base. Most helpful have many such efforts been to me, Hull House in Chicago, or Dr. Edward Everett Hale’s work in Boston, far