

their sublime precepts, at least to furnish his mind with texts for controversy. He was known to have beaten the minister in one of the outlying parishes of Galloway, in an argument on predestination and the final perseverance of the saints; and none of the magistrates or baillies of Kircudbright would venture to discuss a point of Scottish or British law with the learned tailor, so it was no wonder that he was looked up to on board the Polly by men, many of whom had never been farther from home than perhaps the nearest market town, and whose only reading was the Bible, the Shorter Catechism and the Psalms of David.

"For the first fortnight the winds were favorable. The ship made good headway and was nearing the Banks of Newfoundland. The passengers had not suffered much from sea-sickness, and were for the most part in good health and spirits.

"There were several Kirk elders on board, and they had religious exercise every morning and evening—a psalm was sung, a chapter read and explained by some one of the elders, and the Divine blessing was asked for all on board. Sandy would gladly have taken his turn in these devotional exercises; but his speech was noticed on some occasions to be a little unsavory, and it was quietly hinted amongst the passengers that he indulged in occasional bursts of profanity among the crew.

"These deviations from the right line of devotional propriety, excluded the agent, as he was still called by his fellow-passengers, from taking a leading part on those occasions. But as he knelt with the rest and joined in the singing of the psalms, his prestige was not materially affected; and as he quoted scripture texts with great readiness, in endless controversies he had with the elders on board—with whom he debated morning, noon and night on the doctrine of election and kindred difficult theological subjects—he was still regarded as a man who might yet make good his claim to an inheritance among the saints.

"On the evening of the 15th of June, a long, low strip of cloud-like shape and bluish color was observed on the distant horizon. It extended from northwest to southwest, and gradually faded away in the dim distance, as the eye traced its course from north to south between these two points.

"It was a beautiful fine day. Many of the passengers who lingered around the decks had heard the sailors on several occasions talk about the banks of Newfoundland. They, consequently deceived themselves with the notion that they were now rapidly approaching the end of