

and we soon found it more easy and more pleasant to go that direct road, than by an indirect one.

We had one of the kindest and most gentle commanders; in spirit a lion, in heart a lamb; amiable and officer-like, but strict on duty. Our First Lieutenant a pattern of a sailor. My young readers will therefore conclude that our schooling was good, and I do not believe one of those fifteen ever regretted it.

Our ship was ready for sea, and we were taken to a far off anchorage, to make our final arrangements for starting and wean us from the shore; and while here, our good-natured commander allowed us a boat every evening to pull round the harbour, and learn our first duties in "managing boats, under oars and sails."

By this time I was fast learning the "ins and outs," and the "ups and downs" of a ship in all her mystery, and indeed there is a great deal to be learned; moments of thoughtlessness, however, sometimes occur, and in one of these I subjected myself to a severe (as I felt it) rebuke.

During a fine evening some of my young school-fellows had come on board to say 'Adieu,' and in my anxiety and hurry to welcome them, I had forgotten my cap, on coming up our good commander was pacing the quarter-deck, and gathering himself up with a degree of astonishment, placing his thumbs in the armholes of his waistcoat, and throwing back his coat, says, "you'll catch cold sir," "Oh no sir!" I replied. "I think you'll take cold," says he. "Oh no sir!" I answered, "I'm accustomed to knock about without a hat." "Then," he remarked, "if you won't take a hint sir, go below and