

"wide-awake" on his head, the lower part of his face quite concealed in a voluminous muffler, and a large cloak completely enveloping his figure. I saw his nervous look around as he set his foot on deck, and and as he came aft, I went straight to him, and said, "How do you do? You are rather a late riser for a youngster." He immediately and evidently recognised me, and became more husky than ever as he answered, "I am not well. I thought we were already in."

"In where?"

"London, of course."

"You won't be in London to-night." (A great start and hat nearly off.)

"Heavens! you don't say so?"

"I do. We have injured our engines, and may be out two or three nights yet." (This I said to torment him, as I knew at latest we should be in early the next morning.)

Another ejaculation—huskiness nearly forgotten—"What shall we do?"

"We! Who's we?"

Slight confusion, and "Me, I mean, I——"

"Oh, you. You are all right; you are quite welcome to my cabin all the time we are out."

"Thank you—thank you! But—I think I will go down stairs."

I was within an ace of offering him my arm, but recovering myself in time, allowed the discomfited youth to go "*down stairs*" without further question, and seeing his piteous expression, I determined on sleeping on deck, and leaving him in undisturbed possession of the cabin.

The night was fine, and having secured my greatest of coats and thickest of horse-rugs, and a supply of the inevitable "*baccy*," I selected a secluded and sheltered corner, and therein made up my impromptu couch. My next move was into the purser's cabin, where, in the company of that functionary, I contrived to pass a very comfortable hour or so until the "*putting out of the lights*," when a yawn from my companion, and the chance intimation that a heavy dew was falling, sent me off to seek my resting-place "*beneath the blue canopy of heaven*," &c. &c. '*Twas occupied!* My couch was *somebody else's*, my rug was a stranger's mattress, my coat his counterpane!

"Hulloa! you sir; you are in my berth! Get out!"