

to lay eggs. He is sometimes disposed to show you how the ship may be made to lay two—ahem! I beg pardon—lay to. He sometimes causes trouble, and is occasionally put to confusion himself.

I was once on board a vessel which was slowly forging ahead into Southampton docks. Near me was a typical meddlesome man, and he was engaged in meddling with a mysterious little lever which projected inwards over the rail of the ship near the bow. He was playing with the polished handle while talking to a friend, and speculating as to its uses. Suddenly there was a shout and a splash. The passengers rushed to the side of the vessel and beheld in the water a life-buoy, with a little mast and a red flag attached. It was the "man overboard" buoy which had been dropped into the water. No