

fatal to scores who attempted it in a noble steamship. But would you, therefore, prefer the open boat to the steamer if you were about to cross the ocean?

You would not. Reasoning upon these facts, you would say, that the seaman in the open boat was foolhardy. The probabilities were all against him. His exploit is not fit to be imitated, for it could hardly be repeated by himself or any other man. Of the steamship, you would say the few who perished by her fatal mishap were exceptions. Most who cross the seas in such vessels do so with safety, and, therefore, the steamship is infinitely preferable to the open boat.

Do you not perceive the application of these illustrations to the question which now perplexes you? Do you think of sailing over the sea of life alone, without the fellowship of the visible church? Behold the folly of such a purpose in the rashness of that daring seaman. Like him, you may, after many frightful experiences, land safely on the bright shore beyond. But alas, all the probabilities are against you. You are