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## CHAPTER XXXV.

## SUGGESTIONS IN REGARD TO THE MORAL IMPROVEMENT OF SEAMEN.

It is a matter of speculation and much doubt with many, whether the plan of reforming sailors, and of making them religionists, so that they may sustain their place in society, is at all feasible. This is not to be wondered at with landmen, who have no other opportunity of forming an opinion of sailors, except by the conduct which is exhibited by them while on shore. This, indeed, will be an erroneous judgment; because the baser passions are alone manifested, by reason of the many temptations and baits which are thrown out, by designing men, to allure them from the path of rectitude, which, unfortunately, not only prove too successful, in the ruin of thousands, but also stamp their general character with infamy in the estimation of a large class of landmen.

It is impossible to judge of the real character of a sailor by what is seen of him on shore; and although he seems to be impervious and callous in regard to the great subject of religion, yet there is no class of men that might so easily be brought under its influence, if properly managed, as seamen. Permit me to give a few of the more prominent reasons why there is such an apparent indifference among sailors in regard to morals and religion.

First, then, it is owing to the almost total neglect of its observances and requirements on board of nearly all vessels that navigate the ocean. The Sabbath is desecrated, and little or no difference is recognized between it and other days of the week; oaths and impre-