

On the foremast of one great steamer fly the "stars and stripes" of the **United States**, showing us that the vessel has just arrived from New York. But there is one flag which we see more often than all the others put together: a bright red flag with the **Union** in the corner. It is the "**red ensign**," which I hope every Englishman knows is the flag borne by all the merchant-ships of the British Empire.

It is not wonderful, you will perhaps say, that in a British port the British flag should be the most conspicuous. But sail the wide world round, follow every pathway of the ocean, and enter every port where ships are to be found, and you will find our own red ensign on more than half the ships you see.

### Outward Bound.

Now we have crossed the Mersey bar, and as night falls, the coast of England sinks out of sight behind us. But we have not yet quite said good-bye to the United Kingdom. As we steer North-West we see on our left the coast of Ireland, on our right the coast of Scotland. The mouth of **Belfast Lough** opens to the West. A little further North and the lights on the **Mull of Cantire** in Scotland and **Fair Head** in Ireland show us that we are in that crowded channel by which ships pass into the Clyde and up to Glasgow. In the morning our vessel turns sharply from her direct course around the North of Ireland, enters **Lough Foyle**, and comes to anchor at **Moville**, some miles below the famous town of **Derry**.