

SELECTED PAPERS.

RELIGION AT SEA.

"I have lately had the honour," said Capt. Parry, at a public meeting in 1826, "and I may truly say the happiness, of commending British Seamen under circumstances requiring the utmost activity, implicit and immediate obedience, and the most rigid attention to discipline and good order; and I am sure, that the maintenance of all these was, in a great measure, owing to the blessing of God upon our humble endeavours to improve the religious and moral character of our men. In the schools established on board our ships during the winter, religion was made the primary object; and the result was every way gratifying and satisfactory. It has convinced me, that true religion is so far from being a hindrance to the arduous duties of that station in which it has pleased Providence to cast the Seaman's lot, that, on the contrary, it will always incite him to their performance, from the highest and most powerful of motives; and I will venture to predict, that in proportion as this spring of action is more and more introduced among our Seamen, they will become such as every Englishman would wish to see them. To this fact, at least, I can, on a small scale, bear the most decided testimony; and the friends of religion will feel a pleasure in having the fact announced, that the very best Seamen on board the Hecla—such, I mean, as were always called upon in any cases of extraordinary emergency—were, *without exception*, those who had thought the most seriously on religious subjects; and that if a still more scrupulous selection were to be made out of that number, the choice would fall, *without hesitation*, on two or three individuals possessing dispositions and sentiments *eminently Christian*."

In connection with this declaration, it is worthy of especial record, that during Capt. Parry's late most difficult and perilous attempt to reach the North pole, and amid the sufferings and privations to which he and his party were exposed in open boats, for upwards of sixty days, the duties of each day were commenced and concluded with "common prayer."

NOVEL READING.

Perhaps the perusal of romances may, without injustice, be compared with the use of opiates, baneful when habitually and constantly resorted to, but of most blessed power in those moments when the whole head is sore and the whole heart is sick. If those who rail indiscriminately at this species of composition were to consider the quantity of actual pleasure which it produces and the much greater proportion of real sorrow and distress which it alleviates, their philanthropy ought to moderate their critical pride or religious intolerance.—SIR WALTER SCOTT.

Without feeling either "critical pride or religious intolerance," we are very far from subscribing to Sir Walter's high opinion of the blessings of Novel reading. His own works as well as some others no doubt possess many charms, but brilliant as are the coruscations of his genius, and full as his pages are of a

place at Free Mason's Tavern at which the Archbishop of Canterbury and several Bishops were present, and at which the Duke of Wellington presided, when a subscription was made amounting to more than £20,000.—Ed. C. S.