

the voyage was really over, I laid myself down in my clothes, and requested the Captain to call me as soon as we began to "turn in" to the harbour. He did so about four in the morning ; and in a minute or two I was on deck, and sure enough there we were quietly gliding in by a narrow entrance between two moderately-sized hills. I was then a young traveller, and I shall never forget the thankfulness and pleasure I felt when I saw our situation. It was true : the voyage was over ; the inconveniences and dangers of a life on shipboard were passed. We were as good as on land. If small things may be compared with great, something of this sort (but O, how much higher !) will be felt by the Christian when he first experiences the consciousness of the blessed reality,—Life, and all its trials, conflicts, sorrows, pains, are now over, and I am safe in heaven for ever. God grant, my dear children, that this pleasure may be ours. Your hearts will say *Amen*, I am sure.

C. Thank you, uncle : they do indeed.

U. And now I go on with my true story. A trifling circumstance added to my pleasure. I suppose the sailors made a little noise on board, and disturbed a dog in a little cottage by the water-side, and *he barked* ; and that disturbed a cock, for one immediately *crew*.—The bark of that dog, and the crowing of that cock, the first land-sounds we had heard for a good while, seemed to me to be the sweetest sounds I had ever heard. It was a bright starlight night ; and looking upwards, that by seeing the pole-star, I might see the direction in which the vessel was moving, I saw towards the north-west what looked almost like sunbeams, as they sometimes appear through a break in the clouds, except that they were paler, looking more like thin clouds that the moon shone upon, only they shot so straight down from the upper part of the sky to the horizon. They were like thin clouds of pale yellow light, through which I could see the stars as plainly as if nothing were there. And I soon saw that these seeming clouds were formed of numerous dartings or pencillings of light,—I hardly know what to call them,—in perpetual and rapid motion as it were downwards. I then remembered the "*Aurora*," and also that one of their names is, (taken from this peculiar motion,) the "*merry dancers*." It was as if every darting vanished, and yet there was another in its place, so that the beamy appearance was not for a moment interrupted. There were several of these beams, and they continued as long as I remained on deck, which I did for about an hour, and then went below and threw myself on bed to get a little sleep before going on shore in the morning.

C. Now tell us of another, uncle.

U. My next description may be given in few words, although the appearance was one of the most splendid sights I ever beheld. It was one night in autumn, about eleven o'clock ; the sky was perfectly cloudless, and full of stars. With the exception of about a fourth part,