

"Then, if we are rich enough, why not pay a part of our debt by having her repaired?"

"Norah," said Parton, as he pressed her arm with satisfaction, "you are wonderful. We will do it."

And they did.

The refitting changed the *Lydia* into something between merchantman and yacht. Her first voyage was notable, principally because of the nature of her passenger list. The voyagers were selected by the two women, and the choice was made because of real and carefully investigated worth—and need of long vacations. Her cruise, with the Captain in command, partially disabled but still proudly capable of standing watch in daylight, will long live in the memory of all those who were on board of her; and the night—the crucial, almost tragic night—when the Captain in an emergency forgot infirmity and saved her and her passengers, has become history.

And, notwithstanding the many references to this episode made in the public press at the time, I have decided to, some time, make an account of it and other episodes of that unique voyage, and put it between pasteboard covers. And there may be those who have been good enough to go with me thus far in the tale of folks and vessel who will also follow the rejuvenated ship's adventures, and sail with us again. And if so, I shall be glad, for of all things, I love best good company, at sea.