



produce of the seas."

It was the prayer of a rugged, uncultivated nature, and perhaps, in some respects, would seem offensive to refined minds; but it came from the heart, and so was undoubtedly well pleasing in His sight. This is an old time-honoured custom among the fishermen; it is still kept up on many of the boats, though not on all. Would to God that we could all so realize His presence with us in the midst of our daily work!

"How would our hearts with wisdom talk
Along life's dullest, dreariest walk."

One cannot help being struck by the nobility of character displayed by the great majority of these hardy toilers on the deep. They are temperate in their habits, pure in their conversation, and godly in their lives. It was rather a remarkable fact that all my seven companions that night were total abstainers. Nothing of an intoxicating nature is allowed on board the *Puffin*—surely an argument against those who say that for men who have to work hard, and are exposed to the severities of the weather, intoxicants are necessary!

It was very hot and stuffy with seven

of us in the small cabin, about three yards long by two yards wide, and a hot fire in the grate on an August evening! This heat and the rolling of the boat in a rough sea were very conducive to sea-sickness. I was not sorry when at 3 A.M. the day began to dawn, and all hands were called on deck to haul in the net. This, of course, is the most interesting part of the proceedings. The net is not drawn in from the two ends, enclosing the fish, as many of us might suppose, but just hauled in from the one end in the following manner: Two men work at the winch, hauling in the spring-back (the long, thick rope). The boat is thus gradually drawn along by the weight of the net. Another man unfastens the cords connecting the spring-back to the net; two others haul in the net, and set free the fish; one arranges the net in order in the hold as it comes in, another coils up the spring-back in another part of the hold; so that the seven men are all really required for the work. The fish are caught by swimming into the net and getting fastened by their gills in its meshes; then, as the net is hauled over the bulwarks, they are pulled off one by one, or, if the catch is a large one, they are shaken off on to the deck by jerking the net.

Unfortunately, the fish seem to be leav-