

the millions ; whilst the ocean-steamers, coast-steamers and naval fleets of all nationalities may be regarded as so many populous villages and towns.

" All these men are habitually exposed to many dangers and, with very few exceptions, are far removed from the opportunities of divine worship and the help of the Sacraments. The surroundings amid which they live, though of themselves fitted to awaken a feeling of awe and to turn the thoughts toward the Creator of the vast and wandering billows, become so familiar to them, by custom, that they scarcely arouse a sentiment of anything beyond what is seen. And even though the Psalmist, in the ecstasy of his delight over the wonderful works of God, appeals to the men of the sea as witnesses who can furnish strong evidence, it is greatly to be feared that the witnesses are painfully slow in forthcoming.

" *They that go down to the sea in ships, doing business in the great waters : these have seen the works of the Lord and His wonders in the deep. He said the word and there arose a storm of wind : and the waves thereof were lifted up. They mount up to the heavens and they go down to the depths . . . And they cried to the Lord in their affliction.*" (Psalm CVI, 23-28.) Unfortunately there is scarcely any class of men reputed to be so reckless in behaviour or so little open to the impression of holy thoughts and outbursts of thanksgiving to the Creator as the men who go down to the sea in ships. Sailors are seldom looked upon as good patterns of Christian demeanour ; and it is only in cases of imminent shipwreck that they seem to be, according to common repute, aroused to the necessity of calling upon the Lord saying : "*Thy way is in the sea, and Thy paths in many waters.*" (Psalm LXXVI, 20.) Indeed, it is even said that, in the midst of the mightiest storms, seamen show a special forgetfulness of the Lord above them Whom the winds and the waves obey. Sailors, in fact, have a bad name for recklessness, profanity and general misconduct.