

vessels, from the small brig of 200 tons to the ship of 1,000 and 1600 tons. Bidding adieu to my kind mother and sisters I was soon on my way to the nearest sea-port to join my ship, having a letter to the captain. I soon found him at his lodgings on shore, but was not at all prepossessed by his abrupt, stern way of speaking to me. I was quickly fitted out for the voyage and at once began my duties as an apprentice. Our barque was quite a handy vessel of 460 tons, and there were two other boys, both of whom were much older than I, and had been several voyages at sea.

I was soon made acquainted with all the details of a younger apprentice's duties in sweeping decks, scrubbing, &c. Our barque after taking in ballast and making ready for her spring voyage to Quebec moved out to anchor in the stream to wait for a fair wind. Our crew now, all on board, were busily employed, securing spars, long boat, &c., and getting all secure for sea. The mate bore an excellent name as a sailor, and was well known to most of the crew, although a stranger to the ship. It was here that I first became aware of the nature of the martinet captain with whom I was about to take my first voyage. The mate, busy looking after the various duties of the men, did not perceive that the boat with the captain was alongside ;