

ously, they go through life deprived for the most part of all chance of religious instruction or exhortation.

Nor is their lot much more enviable when they reach their temporary destination. Those who know what a seaport town is are also aware of the thousand and one temptations that await "poor Jack" as he steps ashore. He is met by "land-sharks," as he aptly terms them in his own peculiar phraseology, who wheedle him out of his hard-earned wages; he is assailed and harassed by visions of vice on every side and in every shape as soon as he lands. Thus, with every pleasure soliciting him, and with no friendly advice or sacramental succour, he is in imminent danger of being lured to the shipwreck of his soul.

And yet there is no better soil for the seed of grace than the strong, manly soul of the sailor, whom danger calls back so readily to the thought of God, and to whose character stern discipline in the discharge of duty and a life of hardship have imparted the finest temper. He is inured to suffering and ready at all times for acts of self-sacrifice and heroism. In many a Jack tar there is wherewith to make a saint, and in all, resources enough for good and fervent Christians.

These same ideas found expression in other and more forcible words in the *American Messenger*, when in May 1890, six months or so before the CANADIAN MESSENGER saw the light, the Holy Father enjoined on the Associates of the League to pray for the Men of the Sea: "Great, indeed, is their number, grievous are their needs, and miscellaneous the spiritual supplies for which there is a very reasonable demand, in their behalf. And first of all it may be stated that the world at large seems to be either very little aware or very strangely forgetful of the immense numbers of human beings who live by the sea and spend their time upon the waters. The fishermen upon all coasts easily count up to hundreds of thousands. The crews of merchantmen, whalers and other craft may safely be reckoned among