

him and by some means he had come to the conclusion that this storm had been sent as a judgment upon him and others for their sins, and that no human exertions could save the ship from inevitable destruction. I was sent for into his room at about three o'clock in the morning, and there saw him lying in a state of helplessness and terror stricken on the floor, with a bible grasped in his hands, incoherently uttering prayers. He would listen to nothing, he would talk of nothing but judgment and fatality and his sins, and we decided to leave him alone for the present, at least as one temporarily unworthy his position. It was an unexpected and certainly a strange state of things for the Captain of a ship thus to desert his post in the hour of danger, under a sense of uncontrollable fear, but even it had I believe no appreciable influence over the passengers.

Still the barometer told of worse yet to come, and at times it almost seemed that the Captain's anticipations were to be realized. The wind which had been blowing from the south east now gradually veered round toward the south—the ship flying through the sea, one of the top-masts gone, the rigging blown away, and now one side, now the other plunging beneath the waves. For half an hour the gale increased, and it did not seem that we could look for anything with much more certainty than to an early end of our career. But the direction of the wind rapidly changed, and presently the barometer began to tell us that the worst was over-past. The dangers of darkness too were gone, for while many perils of the sea come when land is far away, we had had all night to contemplate the chance of running headlong into some iceberg—an object which cannot well be seen on a dark night, and which offers to the sailor no sign of its proximity. But now when the wind began to abate it was well nigh mid-day.

The sea however, was in no degree appeased, and scarcely had we begun to congratulate ourselves upon our comparative comfort, when a mountain wave first towered over us, then broke with full force upon the deck as if it would haul us to the bottom. With one crash, glass,

tumblers and water came in a common ruin into the saloon, and exposed us to the full severity of an icy sky.

But the worst was passed. For some days after, no regular meals could be obtained. There was no warmth, nothing dry, scarcely any fuel, and hardly more food, while our ship itself looked little better than a successful wreck. But in due time all this improved, and notwithstanding the inconveniences, to say nothing of the dangers of such a storm and its incidents, I cannot say that I ever regretted the experience. For if all the world think it is easy to build up in the imagination an idea of these oceanic hurricanes, I know that it is only by stern experience that they can be adequately appreciated, even as I also believe that it is only in witnessing such convulsions of nature in all their severity that the mind can be brought to realize fully the helplessness of man as contrasted with the goodness and omnipotence of God.

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THE SUN, AND THE WORLDS AROUND HIM.

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BY OMICRON.
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He who created us has implanted within us a desire for the wonderful. It would be as vain as unprofitable to strive to stifle this feeling; it should be ours to select proper objects for investigation, and such surround us on every hand.

Truth has been, and must ever remain, stranger than fiction; the creations of the human mind, no matter how gigantic that mind may be, shrink into insignificance when placed beside the work of the hand of God. In His works, that is, in nature, there is an exhaustless store of the amazing; and as the heavens, when carefully studied, reveal much that is marvellous, and as modern astronomy is solving one mystery after another, in rapid succession, I will venture to ask your readers to follow me whilst we glance at that portion of God's works known as the solar system.

The sun and his system shall be my theme; but in order that we may be able