

gress in study and the rectitude of his conduct, he was indulgent to his taste for novelty and excitement, and did not attempt to control his adventurous rambling, provided he was himself always by his side to watch over his safety and moderate his impetuosity. Even now, though it cost him a pang to abandon the luxurious ease of his studious life at Cambridge, he at once agreed to follow his beloved pupil on his wild project, rather than trust him unguarded amongst strange and perilous associations.

And thus it was that, ten days afterwards, in the pleasant days of August, the gay, careless, prosperous child of aristocracy, and the retired, gentle, philosophic Rodney found themselves in the inconvenient state cabin of the pompously-advertised emigrant vessel, the *Nugget*, laden with speculators for California, and a party of emigrants, driven by poverty, or induced by domestic relations to seek a home in a new world.

"Now for it, Dominic," said Harold, when the disagreeables of the first two or three days of sailing had subsided; "don't look so wistfully at that wooden case of literary lumber. Let us go on deck and study human nature under adverse circumstances. The skipper himself seems to have but one idea, the endeavor to make his ship last out the voyage; the mate is a coarse ruffianly fellow; we shall derive no amusement from them, but I hope we may glean something from the steerage passengers."

The two friends were the only cabin passengers, and, limited as the accommodations were, they had the satisfaction of having them to themselves, and might arrange their books and other possessions as they chose, certain that they would remain undisturbed.