

through all his details, however interesting. Your Committee have, however, been much pleased in looking over the Gratis-distribution Report, to find that so many of their publications have gone to the Lake, not to be *sunk* there, but, as they trust, to float for many a day for the sanctification, and comfort of those who do business on its extended waters. Sailors are a class of men evidently claiming our sympathy and attention. Their roving and unsettled life has a tendency to give them peculiar customs and habits, and we know does actually give them peculiar customs and habits, which isolate them from the rest of the community, and which of course remove them in a great degree beyond the bearing of those means of grace which landmen enjoy. Every means should therefore be taken to provide against the infelicities of such a situation, by encouraging this useful class of men to acquire a taste for reading, and by giving them the means of gratifying it to the best advantage by placing within their reach Bibles, and Tracts, and other publications of a kindred character. And let it not be said that such men have little time for reading. They have much time, both when they sojourn at the different ports to which their business carries them, and when, as often happens, deserted by the breezes of heaven, their sails lie flapping on the shrouds and their lonely bark continues motionless for days on the glassy bosom of the Lake. And would it not be well that this idle time were occupied? Idleness is itself a curse; and that curse our publications might divert from the sailor, if they did him no farther good. But might they not profit him yet more? Might they not at some happy moment, by the blessing of Him at whose command the breezes swell or die away upon the deep, and with whom also is the residue of the Spirit, be the means of teaching him some holy lesson; or if they did not that, might they not save him from the unholy one which sailors often learn when, as their time hangs heavily upon their hands, they sit down to listen to the pernicious tale or the pernicious song, or to take a part in the yet more pernicious conversation?

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