

THE CHAPTER AFTER THE LAST

The endin' of a v'yage seems like somethin' final till we have to git ready for th' next one. What a ship's for is to sail.—*The Logbook of the Lyddy.*

It may be interesting to those who have been good enough to read what has gone before to hear a hint of what came after. Norah asked for and received from the Captain, as her souvenir of the wreck, the logbook of the *Lydia*. She found it full of entries especially interesting to her because of their references to small events closely connected with her husband's extraordinary voyage; but, besides these entries, she found many more or less original reflections made by the Captain at odd moments, most of them rough in grammar and with mis-spelled words sticking painfully among them here and there—like sore thumbs, he said—but not less indicative, because of this, of the Captain's quaint philosophy and kindly mind. After she had become the owner of this little volume and I had decided that I would tell the story in a book, she gave me permission to use a few of the many entries as chapter headings to begin the various divisions of the narrative, and I have done so. Having secured this privilege, I went further, and asked her if she would not let me make a little volume of such extracts. To this she has consented, and so, before long, I shall offer "The Logbook of the Lyddy," in which will be preserved such comments as the old