

had probably begun to feel the pangs of sea-sickness, and had already retired to rest; others were still on deck, taking a last look at the shores they loved so well, and thinking of the dear ones from whom they had so lately parted; while others again were looking forward to the long voyage before them, and picturing to themselves the new world for which they were bound. Little did they imagine that ere another sun should rise, many of their number would indeed be in a new world!

At length the passengers go below, and the deck is cleared of all but the watch, pacing slowly up and down. The night is dark and rainy, and in the distance the coast is seen faintly, like a black bank, with a few bright lights on it shining through the misty atmosphere. Around lie many other ships, also riding at anchor for the night, and their tall masts rise up like spectral figures in the gloom.

But look! What is this dark form suddenly looming up through the mist? In vain the watch shout and signal again and again. On it comes, and with a loud cracking noise the sharp bow of the strange steamer drives into the ill-fated "Northfleet," cutting a fearful gash in her side, and laying it right open. And then—then, instead of standing by to render all the assistance in their power, the cowardly perpetrators of the deed clear off and escape in the darkness, leaving the unfortunate people to their awful doom.

It was but the work of a moment, and almost instantly the deck was crowded with half-dressed passengers, wild with fright, already apprehending their fearful fate. Husbands sought their wives; mothers rushed frantically about in search of their little ones; while some, in that dreadful hour, took refuge in prayer, and others, panic-stricken, filled the air with their heartrending shrieks and cries. And above all rose the sound of the alarm-bell incessantly rung, while every few moments a rocket sent up would illuminate the appalling scene with its ghastly light.

But amid all the din and uproar, the captain never lost his presence of mind, and calmly issued orders which his gallant crew faithfully obeyed. Boats were quickly lowered on both sides of the vessel, and the captain taking a last, fond farewell of his young wife, put her into one at the stern, committing her to the care of the boatswain, and commanded that the women should first be saved, at the same time threatening to shoot down any one who disobeyed his orders. But love of life was strong in the hearts of all; the boats on each side of the ship were overcrowded and sunk, and one man, impelled by terror, leaped into the boat at the stern right under the captain's eye, whereupon the latter fired at him twice, the second shot taking effect in his leg.

In the meantime, while these incidents were taking place, the