

*SUGGESTIONS for the extension and further amendment of the Bill for improving the condition of Masters, Mates, and Seamen in the Merchant Service.*

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THERE can be no doubt of the beneficial results to which we may confidently look forward in a few years after this law has come into operation, and when under its provisions a superior class of men, well educated and qualified for their situations, shall be established in the command of our Mercantile Marine.

It is equally certain that its enactments will protect our Merchant Seamen from many abuses and impositions which now weigh heavily upon them ; but there are still two very material points which have been almost entirely overlooked, and which, if not duly attended to, will after all render this measure much less useful and effective than it would otherwise be.

These are, First, the necessity for the promulgation of a distinct and simple code of offences and punishments at sea, following as nearly as the dif-