

**EVILS AND ABUSES IN THE
NAVAL AND MERCHANT
SERVICE,
EXPOSED; WITH PROPOSALS
FOR THEIR REMEDY AND REDRESS**

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Evils and Abuses in the Naval and Merchant Service, Exposed; With Proposals for Their
Remedy and Redress by William McNally

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WILLIAM MCNALLY

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WILLIAM McNALLY

P R E F A C E .

EVERY citizen has a right to express an opinion on public men and public measures ; and in doing so the author of this work is actuated by no other motive than to improve a class of men of which he forms a part, and who have been so shamefully neglected. He has no personal animosity to gratify, and in giving instances of improprieties and abuses, he does so, from conviction that they were wrong ; and that system which will not bear investigation, must be practically impure.

It is very seldom we hear a word in the councils of the nation, on behalf of seamen. Many members of Congress, no doubt, would be happy to bring their wrongs and grievances to notice, and assist in granting redress, were they aware of their existence ; but futurity is not more carefully hid from our knowledge, than are the wrongs of seamen from the American people. That they are ignorant, cannot be doubted ; but whose fault is it ? No institutions have been erected for them, while their own hard earnings have been squandered and misused, but for what purpose none can tell.— Every one knows that the law has never been put in force which directs hospitals and asylums to be built with the hospital fund. The earth will not yield her increase without cultivation, how then can it be expected that the powers of the human mind can be fully developed without education ?

Nathaniel Bowditch, the most talented of mathematicians, was in early life, a common sailor, without education. If the attention of seamen could be turned to the important subject of mathematics, the benefit would soon be apparent ; for they, more than any other class of men, have opportunities of improving themselves. What would cost a landsman years of hard study, could be accomplished by a seaman in the usual course of his profession.

The following pages are descriptive of evils that actually exist in the naval and merchant service. By a perusal of the work the landsman may obtain more *real* information respecting sea-life, than from all the nautical novels that ever issued from the press.

The author has given real names and characters—bestowed praise and blame, and given his reasons for so doing, and the public can judge how far his statements can be relied on. He has been careful to add no coloring or embellishment, as his object is the good of all, and the injury of none. Much indeed does he regret that seamen have not a better advocate, than one who was raised among them, and of course deprived of the advantages which education must ever give.

With regard to the political allusions that he has indulged in, he wishes to be understood as having imbibed the opinions of no political party, as it is a subject of which he knows but little. The only distinction between the two parties which he can at present perceive is, that one is in office, and wishes to remain there, and the other is out, and wishes to get in. With these explanations, the author submits his first book to the patronage of the public.

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