

WINDJAMMERS AND SEA TRAMPS

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Windjammers and Sea Tramps by Walter Runciman

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WALTER RUNCIMAN

**WINDJAMMERS
AND SEA TRAMPS**



"THE — RATS HAVE EATEN UP HOLLAND."

[See Page 11.]

WINDJAMMERS AND SEA TRAMPS

By WALTER RUNCIMAN, *Senr.*

Author of "The Shellback's Progress in the Nineteenth Century."

SECOND



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Peabody

THESE EXPERIENCES AND OPINIONS
OF THINGS NAVAL
NEW AND OLD
ARE DEDICATED
WITH EVERY SENTIMENT OF ESTEEM
TO
JOHN DENT AND WILLIAM MILBURN
AND TO THE MEMORY OF
E. H. WATTS

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ILLUSTRATIONS

(After Drawings by THOMAS RUNCIMAN)

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PREFACE

“ I WENT in at the hawse-hole and came out at the cabin window.” It was thus that a certain North Country shipowner once summarised his career while addressing his fellow-townsmen on some public occasion now long past, and the sentence, giving forth the exact truth with all a sailor’s delight in hyperbole, may well be taken to describe the earlier life-stages gone through by the author of this book. The experiences acquired in a field of operations that includes all the seas and continents where commerce may move, live, and have its being, have enhanced in value and completed what came to him in his fore-castle and quarter-deck times. He learned in his youth, from the lips of a race now extinct, what the nature and traditions of seamanship were before he and his contemporaries lived. He has seen that nature and those traditions change and die, whilst he and his generation came gradually under a new order of things, whose practical working he and they have tested in actual practice both on sea and land.

It is on this ground of experience that the author ventures to ask attention to his views in respect of

the likeliest means to raise a desirable set of seamen in the English merchant navy. But he also ventures to hope that the historic incidents and characteristics of a class to which he is proud to belong, as set forth in this book, may cause it to be read with interest and charitable criticism. He claims no literary merit for it: indeed, he feels there may be found many defects in style and description that could be improved by a more skilful penman. But then it must be remembered that a sailor is here writing of sailors, and hence he gives the book to the public as it is, and hopes he has succeeded in making it interesting.