

Make a Precis and Suggest a Suitable Title:

The situation of Columbus was daily becoming more and more critical. In proportion as he approached the regions where he expected to find land, the impatience of his crews augmented. The favorable signs which increased his confidence were decided by them as delusive; and there was danger of their rebelling and obliging him to turn back, when on the point of realizing the object of all his labors. They beheld themselves with dismay still wafted onward over the boundless wastes of what appeared to them a mere watery desert surrounding the habitable world. What was to become of them should their provisions fall? Their ships were too weak and defective even for the great voyage they had already made, but if they were still to press forward, adding at every moment to the immense expanse behind them, how should they ever be able to return, having no intervening port where they might victual and refit? Were they to sail in until they perished, or until all return became impossible? In such case they would be the authors of their own destruction. On the other hand, should they consult their safety and turn back before too late, who would blame them? Any complaints made by Columbus would be of no weight; he was a foreigner, without friends or influence; his schemes had been condemned by the learned and discountenanced by people of all ranks. He had no party to uphold him, and a host of opponents whose pride of opinion would be gratified by his failure. Or, as an effectual means of preventing his complaints, they might throw him into the seas and give out that he had fallen overboard while busy with his instruments contemplating the stars, a report which no one would have either the inclination or the means to controvert. Columbus was not ignorant of the mutinous disposition of his crew, but he still maintained a serene and steady countenance—soothing some with gentle words, endeavouring to stimulate the pride or avarice of others, and openly menacing the refractory with signal punishment, should they do anything whatever to impede the voyage.

Struggle of Columbus Against his Crew's Mutinous Dispositions

The situation of Columbus was becoming critical because of his crew's impatience and mutiny. Watery desert was also increasing their dismay. Their ship was too weak for a journey they had already made, and if they continued their journey, they feared that they would be the authors of their own destruction. On the other hand, if they turned back, no one would blame them. Columbus being friendless and without influence, his complaints would be of no weight. They might throw him into the sea, giving explanation that he slipped overboard while examining stars. Columbus, aware of these mutinous dispositions, remained calm and warned them about impeding their journey in case of any event.