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Practical Navigation
Introduction

Navigation is the art of conducting a ship from one port to another through the wide trackless ocean with the greatest safety in the shortest time possible and to find her position on the globe at any given time.

Practical Navigation, relates to two methods, independent of each other viz the first is that usually called Dead Reckoning, the other by Astronomical Observations, but in practice they are generally carried on together as a check upon each other.

The first of these methods requires a knowledge of the imaginary lines, and Circles on the surface of the globe or Earth, which we inhabit, and which turns round once in 24 hours, the line round which it revolves is called the Polar Axis and drawn between the North and South Poles.

90° from the Pole is the Great Circle, called the Equator passing around the Earth, and dividing it into two equal parts or hemispheres, at all places on this Circle the sun rises and sets at 6 o'clock, all the year round and the days and nights equal being divided into 12 hours each.

A Meridian is a Circle passing through both Poles and cutting the equator at right angles, places situated on this circle is said to be on the same meridian North or South of each other.

Latitude is the distance from the Equator measured North or South, on a meridian and named according