

beautifully fine, tho' chilly, in spite of our going South - but no motion to touch one up with sea sickness; even the screw works as sweetly as possible. Everything connected with the working of the ship is well run to & first class. deck & rigging splendid, all but the poop which has not recovered from the dirt of the docks & wants holystoning - engines, in spite of their size & power more like the inside of a watch for their brightness & precision - capital donkey engine with steam winches & machinery on deck for hoisting & lowering the large lower sails. & saving labour.

Sunday July 4.

On board ship there is no mistaking Sunday unless the weather is so foul that the sailors have a bad time of it shortening sail or repairing accidents. Most Sundays are peacefully marked by the entire absence of all active work except what is strictly necessary. Breakfast half an hour later than usual - a certain amount of extra smartness in the ladies' dresses to honour the service, held to day & I hope for several more Sundays on the poop - Service at sea is always striking & peculiar in its surroundings in any weather, & often very awful in bad weather. Today it wears unmistakably a peaceful aspect,