bathroom requesting bathers to limit themselves to 8 minutes apiece. From the lower deck one has to make a determined rush for a vacancy, as the bathroom door is too public for a long siege in a dressing gown or similarly classical garment. Any one greatly exceeding his 8 minutes is sure to be loudly abused by the outside expectants, not to the advantage of those who have cabins in the neighbourhood, & may wish to take a late nap. Mrs Hakley finds she has made a great mistake in taking one of these cabins, & occasionally gives us amusing accounts of the encounters at the bathroom door, of which she is an unwilling hearer. By the way she astonished the whole of us the other day at dinner: we have not a bright lot of stewards at our table; Mrs W. could not get what she wanted, & a late arrival of an enormous but

fleshless back of a goose drove her to desperation. She thought she must look out for herself, & with her plate in her hand, she rose & coolly inspected the other table, astonishing the Captain by holding her plate for saddle of mutton. Her son & daughter were greatly distressed at the old lady's independence & sacrifice for her starving country; but the result has been that we have been better looked after, as the Captain must have fancied that nothing but the desperation of hunger could have urged such a step. I find I was quite right about having a 'town deck cabin; they are much roomier & quieter than those off the saloon, & they may holystone the poop all day long & we are none the wiser down below. One too is much more one's own master. The only disadvantage is the necessity in