

Sunday July 11

This day has passed off much the same as last Sunday, with the exception of really fine weather & a gloriously blue sea, which was hardly curled into white tops by the moderate to moderate trade wind. We had a similar service on the poop with the abolition of a collection for some Merchant seamen's charity. The singing still a failure. I believe Davis in despair delegated the task to some 2<sup>nd</sup> class passengers; but the result was not successful. Besides their taste had chosen tunes of the fligid old-fashioned sort.

Monday - Saturday July 12 - 17.

The great event of this week was the first appearance of the Somersetshire News. I am afraid it does not promise a great deal as yet. News of course are nil; & invention seems to be as bad; but the opening leader by Smythe is neat & to the purpose. He however still disclaims any share in the editorial committee, which so far as the public is aware, consists solely of the all-enterprising but non-performing Smith. The method of publishing is primitive & simple: it is copied in manuscript & read to all hands 1<sup>st</sup> in the cuddy, next in the 2<sup>nd</sup> class, lastly in the stowage. Tuesday the day of its appearance happened to be the first of our tropical bad weather, so we had to listen to it in a state of stew in the cuddy instead of on the poop: for that is the horrible result of wet in the