

know how stupid people could be about such simple things before. but as our leader has to learn as well, perhaps it is not so wonderful. An effort in the starboard direction has already been started. Smythe suggested to Leather that he should get up something in the way of a concert. & already the suggestion is bearing fruit & getting into shape. Miss Wakley has joined us & Mrs Vaile who sings very nicely & sweetly & is a perfect musician. We mean to get Mr Carnell to sing Contraltos, & Leather the only baritone has a good range of falsetto notes & has undertaken tenor, while Smythe & I do bass. We are busy seeing what Glee & part songs are procurable on board. Leather & Mrs Vaile at all events are good for Solos. At all events whether it will be a successful concert or not, it will

be a pleasant thing for the performers to have the Practising as some definite object for the day. We want it done before the cold weather begins, for as long as most people are induced by the fine weather to sit on deck, we can make whatever we like in the cuddy: otherwise I fear their patience would be worn out by our unlimited practising long before the concert. As it is we haven't any very long interval in the day uninterrupted, as the constant succession of meals keeps the cuddy pretty busy all day long. One can't get people together in the morning much before 11; then lunch at 12 & children's dinner at 1 occupies till 2; & at 3 they begin to lay ~~the~~ cloth for dinner: & of course in the evening some people are always below. Mrs Atwood has started feminine in-