

of each piece. Our piece de resistance was to open the concert, Recitative for Tenor & Bass & opening chorus of a Cantata 'The ancient Mariner' by Barnett. It is new music but very good and characteristic, though rather ambitious for so scratch a band of amateurs. However Leather proved himself a model conductor in patience & tact, and drilled us over & over again till he began to have hopes of us, more than we had of ourselves. Then there was 'Hark! the Lark' - 'See our oars' - and 'Rule Britannia' - but none of these required the same grind as our first chorus. Of the trios Gubbins Smythe & I were to do 'Drink to me only with thine eyes', which is easy enough - But the old one of 'the wreath' was harder to fit with voices. Mrs Vaile &

Leather were all right for Soprano & Bass: the difficulty was who could take the second. I remembered it in the old days at Glenalmond & had sung the treble at a school concert under Cocky Taylor: But I find I can't sing high enough for the second & won't do it, though they are making me try it now. Miss Wakley has proved herself invaluable at the piano, & with very little trouble has mastered the somewhat difficult but beautiful accompaniment of the Great Mariner chorus. The fine weather luckily continues, so we have the cuddy to ourselves when we want it. They have begun playing rope quoits on deck; at which Mrs Atwood distances all other players in consequence of much practice in her many voyages. At nights there are sometimes