

dances, other nights popular concerts, which show such a low taste in music that we are beginning to fear that ours when it comes off will fall flat, from the want of an audience worthy of real music. I suppose people are beginning to have read all their own books, as there is a decidedly loose code of morality about in the matter of borrowing other people's. It is not safe to leave a book out for a moment. I have not many, nor just now much time to read, but the other night I left out the new Edition of *Clarissa Harlowe* which I got at Plymouth in a cheap form. I left it in the dining tray behind me when at tea, & to my surprise afterwards found it gone. It is a great nuisance, as I much wanted to

read it. However plenty others have gone the same mysterious road. Some people abuse the middies, but I don't think they have any other evidence against them than the presumption that a mid-dy would bore anything. They certainly have plenty of time on their hands in this ship where ^{they} really are treated like 'young gentlemen', and are not put to all the odd dirty jobs, which is generally the fate of merchant midships. They are nice young fellows and mess by themselves at a table 'tween decks: and judging by the officers we have on board, Money Brigpam's plan of treating middies as such & not as cabin boys evidently can produce good officers as well as gentlemen.

On Wednesday the great Bandmann gave us a reading on