

deck, Shylock and Eugene Aram: both very good. His pronunciation is marvellous for a foreigner; perhaps in the former he had the art to allow his foreign accent to show itself, for he made the Venetian Jew speak much more as modern Jews speak than is usually attempted by English actors on this part. Mrs B is still unable to exert herself; she is a most determined victim to sea sickness. Mrs Davis too is still steady & therefore quiet: her illness however does not proceed from the sea. Miss Jones a great strong girl of 14 also plays the invalid. She is supposed to be under Mrs Atwood's care; if I had charge of her, I should give her a good shaking every morning before breakfast, as she only wants to be made to exert herself to be all right.

On Monday & Tuesday we had 2 visits from Neptune & his suite in honour of crossing the line, which took place on the night of the 19th. The first visit was paid after tea on that evening, being an intimation on the part of the monarch that he meant to overhaul us next morning to see who had never been that way before: and as a return compliment a hat was sent ^{round} for contributions to get his majesty & his retainers a taste of the Somersetshire Grog. New claims got off very easily by a small subscription to this fund. I remember Father Neptune when we visited the 'Evening Star' expected 1000 from all cabin passengers who had never crossed the line: but perhaps so many more now cross his dominions that he can afford to let them off cheaper. Next day the visit was