

der reduced canvas, while we could stand well up to our rogals. We are beginning too to feel a decided change in our weather, as we have been running all this week in colder latitudes, and thick clothes are already at a premium: ~~but~~ then we are already beginning to be making our Easting and are in lat 31°. To counterbalance last week's account of a failure in the matrimonial market, this week we have a real engagement to chronicle, but it is not half so generally amusing. The Doctor and Miss Osborne have arranged matters all right: they make a neat little couple, ornament the deck very much when they promenade together, & appear very quietly happy: & so people have nothing else to do but to wish them a speedy accomplishment

of their hopes & wishes. The concert has been the great event <sup>111</sup> of the week, which gave us plenty to do up to Thursday ~~night~~ & left us little time for anything else. As the time approached the Practices became every day more & more important, & each time we attempted the great chorus increasing doubts arose as we neared the one or two hard places where <sup>we</sup> always had come to grief before & where leather had to stop us with a safe grab of his stick. However he is the best conductor I ever saw, with quite the gifts requisite, firmness & good humor & never allowing his team to see that he fears failure. So we kept reducing our difficulties one by one, to overcome them all before the fatal day, that is if we could be sure