

118 aged seamen's fund; which is no doubt a very good object
& deserving of the worthy woman's patronage, but why did
she wait till the eleventh hour & raise difficulties then? It
seems too the the piano belongs to her & not to the ship, so she thinks
she has another pull over our us. But if she had only set about
her purpose straight forwardly at once when the concert was first
talked of, I have no doubt it would have been as she wished,
but now after announcing a free concert, it is absurd to try to
get us to change our plans a few hours before it ought to begin.
But by this time she had got some of the ladies' backs up, &
they declare they won't sing for money to please Mrs Atwood: so
here's a nice kettle of fish. I keep as clear of it as I can, for
when women are squabbling a great deal more is said than ever

is meant, & it is much better to keep out of it all till they come to 119
themselves. And so I do until I am seized by Mrs B. & made to
listen to a long tirade against Mrs Atwood. Meanwhile Scatters
among them all gets nearly frantic, & really at dinner time
I don't feel certain whether there will be a concert after all.
However after dinner Mrs Atwood surrenders at discretion &
puts her piano at our disposal: Mr O'Callaghan gets his
orders to have the cuddy arranged & decked with flags. But
then Bandmann wakes & hears about the 'wearing of the green'
difficulty & declares his wife shan't sing at all to such
beasts &c &c. quarrels with Scatters & matters are as bad as
ever. However I see the Scatters abate, show him that Mrs B
must do as she or her husband like, but as she does not sing