

128. further South than which we need hardly go at this Season, & if winds keep fair & allow us to sail a straight course. The Captain is very good about his chart; he generally lets it lie for an hour or two every day in the Cuddy, so that ^{all} who are curious can see our whereabouts. a most unusual civility as generally it is only by favour the chart can be inspected, most Captains ^{thing} being they are very gracious to put up daily the lat. & long. of the ship. we have still some dissipation to keep us alive & more & greater in prospect, Smith having announced that he means to give a ball. The state of the case being that the open hearted man finds himself in the possession of so much champagne that ~~the~~ very sight of it in his Cabin is too much for him.

and fancies a ball to be the only occasion on which justice ¹²⁹ could be done to it without serious consequences. The date is still open, but I trust he will take the clerk of the weather into his confidence & ensure a fine night, as some of those we have had lately would hardly have done for dancing. On Tuesday Mrs. St. Wood gave a supper party in honor of her husband's birthday; which began with an intellectual feast contributed by the Baudmanns, Mrs B. having been a new woman since the concert which little excitement has renovated her dormant energies, & let her feel how much the exertion of a little determination has to do with sea sickness. Her debut as an elocutionist on board the *Sun-Crestshire* was eminently successful, first as Porter to her husband's