

tantalizing dreadfully us in the background who could not see & could
 only imagine the absurd appearance. One of the curtained alleys
 between the cabins was our theatre & a board fixed across waist high
 for a stage. Over this Leather's head & shoulders grotesquely costumed
 & under his elbows he'll got his arms to the front, while Leathers,
 own arms through the sleeves of a dressing gown & with silk stockings
 & shoes on his hands made the figure complete. A second curtain
 falling so as to conceal all but Leathers. The ship was rolling heav-
 ily all the time & it was very hard work for me to keep the two
 then entangled on their feet, in spite of rehearsals in the afternoon.
 Another night we victimized old Harrold, who without invitation
 came & sat down at the head of our table at tea. And as he is

by no means a favourite, we insisted on a forfeit, & fined him¹³³
 a bowl of punch to be consumed the same evening. So that he
 has taken the hint & not favoured us again. We were so elated
 by the success of our concert. we have agreed to have another, but
 after allowing some days of illness to recruit our energies nothing
 further has been done. We all enjoyed the practising, so much that
 it will be a pity if it does not ^{come off} but the saloon is now so crowded
 all day that it will not be so easy to manage. I don't know
 what has come over Gubbins; he has not expanded as most men
 would have done, under the general influences of our hithertofore
 saut voyage. In fact the moment jollity began to get general
 he all the more drew into his shell. As I remarked at first he
 looks as if he had a sad history, & people whisper he has just