

ball; and the being able to have it on that night was the greatest proof of the comparative sturdiness of the big ship, for as it was it was almost too much for us. The preparations had been great; ladies had not expected such a thing on the occasion of the voyage, & had to get boxes up from below, & look out ball dresses: and the half open doors of the cabins early in the day let one see glimpses of muslins & all sorts of finery laid out in the bunks. It was not too safe to display them in this rickety way, as a sea bigger than the rest hit her on the starboard quarter, & came into 2 cabins & did a deal of damage. One a gentleman's cabin was

regularly swimming, & the unfortunate owners had their portmanteaus completely swamped, & were driven to appear in borrowed plumage. In the other belonging to 2 young ladies Miss Woolfield & Miss Jones enough water came in to wet their muslin dresses; which shortly were to be seen lashed to the spankerboom, & luckily soon dried & not much the worse. You see by my programme card how we got over that difficulty: old fashioned lady's visiting cards did very well, & Mrs Bushaw & Miss McLaren, worthy Puritans, actually relaxed so far as to undertake the writing them & executed the job ⁱⁿ a regular copperplate hand. N.B. This was a signal proof of her