

the majority adjourn to the deck, I to my cabin
to attend to my birds - &c. &c. then to my writing,
Sunch, at twelve o'clk. on deck till dinner, at half
past two o'clk., reading or chess playing. This
last mentioned meal I usually obtain under
decided difficulties, in the first place the favorite
dish is generally placed before me to carve, in
the second, the carving frequently proves a difficult
task, in the third, when I do obtain ^{a slight} respite from my
arduous labours I have to put up with cold vegetables,
and the far end of a joint, moreover though there
certainly is variety it is by no means pleasing, the
preserved vegetables are despicable, the potatoes any-
thing but good, and the meat either cooked to a
crisp or ^{as if} raw - as if uncooked, and floating
in grease, the ducks are literally burnt to cinders
and are served up in common with the chickens
without sauce or gravy of any description, one
day we had fowls served up in sage & onions, by
this time they are little else than bone, as a sea
voyage does not appear to agree with them, the
pork is not much better, the poor pigs are very
much overcrowded & consequently much bruised
and when killed & hung, present much the appearance
of being grievously afflicted with the measles, or
some kindred disorder, ^{however} the mutton is more passable
and the preserved beef really good, * and the
pastry excellent, with some exceptions, after saying
so much it is scarcely necessary to add that
our cook is of Indian extraction, and as broad
as he is long. after dinner we resumed our amusements
and decks till five on deck till ~~half~~ half past six
o'clk.

* The first few dishes only, were so. 25/9/64