

or violet, and a crimson or magenta, the hue constantly  
varying, occasionally dying away, and then bursting  
out with renewed splendour, of all the beauties of nature  
there is none so spirit stirring as a glorious sunset, it  
seems to carry one away for a season from the world's  
vanities, and gives one a foretaste of the glories that shall be  
revealed.

11<sup>th</sup> Ventured this evening after tea to climb the Dragoon  
mast, i. e. the one nearest the stern, as far as the top yard  
but one and enjoyed the extended view of the horizon  
and the bird's eye view of the vessel, it gave me a good  
idea of its great length (250 ~~ft~~ <sup>ft</sup>). I have forgotten to  
mention a fact in connection with climbing the mast  
for the first time, and will take <sup>the opportunity</sup> to do so now. It is  
the custom among sailors when any novice attempts to  
climb the mast to lash him to the top ladders, and leave  
him so exposed for a season, or in the case of a passenger  
to exact a ransom in the shape of a bottle of whiskey to pay  
for their footing as the term goes, and they are <sup>then</sup> free to go  
where they like. During the first week it occasioned much  
amusement as one unfortunate "land lubber" after another  
was caught, after various ineffectual attempts to escape;  
I was one of the earliest captured, it was the day before we  
left Gravesend, I had reached the Dragoon top, i. e. (the landing  
place one third of the way up the Dragoon mast), and was quietly  
surveying the decks below, when I perceived I was an  
object of pursuit, so hastened down the opposite side to that  
by which my pursuer was mounting, but owing my speed  
I was soon in his clutches, but not before I had come down  
in a somewhat unceremonious manner on to the shoulders  
of a fellow passenger who was also hard and fast in the  
friendly embraces of two sailors, he poor fellow was rather  
frightened, and my manner of approach did not tend to  
allay his fears, I was allowed my freedom for the small sum  
of one shilling, and proceeded to my explorations, <sup>as usual</sup>  
as I afterwards heard my fellow prisoner was let in for 4/6.