

if not by fair, speculations however are profitless  
a very different scene was being enacted on board  
the British Empire, viz. the process of shaving by  
Keptune he was admirably personated by the boatman  
a large, broad chested muscular man, he made his  
appearance at the appointed hour, seated in his car  
drawn by the sailor "Tommy" (the captain's son) representing  
young Keptune, by his side, and one of the apprentices  
the wife behind him; the trio certainly looked right  
royal being remarkably well "got up" - Keptune with  
along flowing beard, crowned, breeches and holding  
a tident, the son a counterpart of his father with the  
exception of the beard; they were preceded by two  
musicians, a flageolet & violin playing a lively air  
and followed by the secretary, toll collector, doctor, sailor,  
and private Barber, &c. &c. while the "first victim" (the mate)  
and his wife (one of the assistant stewards) surrounded by  
policemen with staves brought up the rear; the  
procession made the rounds of the Quarter deck  
and came to a halt at the Chero where his Imperial  
Majesty made known the object of his visit in a  
Mentorian voice through a trumpet, deputing his  
secretary to read aloud his proclamation (he himself  
was suffering from a cold, or said he was) the purport  
of which was congratulating us on our hitherto  
prosperous voyage, wishing us equal prosperity in  
the future and intimating that in passing through  
his dominions he expected all to pay toll, & they would  
have to pay the forfeit of the hair of their heads and face  
at the conclusion of this ceremony his Majesty left his  
car, shook hands with each of the passengers as were in his  
path, and made his way to the forecastle where his throne  
had been erected on the bulwarks. Opposite to him on  
a raised platform was placed a chair to hold the poor  
unfortunate wights whom it was his good pleasure  
to shave, behind this was suspended a large sail net,  
which a hose played for the purpose of ducking the  
victims. The first operation was generally to force some  
salt into the mouth, then the tar was plentifully applied  
to the lower part of the face, and sometimes flung over that