

an immense wooden razor, about 18 in. long, was next used then some disgusting stuff such as Castor oil, Machine oil, &c. &c. was forced into the mouth, after that a piece of rusty iron was employed as a razor, finally by way of a climax came the ducking, the ship's one kept fast to the rail only too glad to be out of the hands of his tormentors he was however forcibly detained for a season while the hose was played upon him, one young man proved obstreperous and would not be ducked; such is a faithful description of some of the barbarities connected with sea life and the miseries incident to those who cross the line for the first time in the capacity of a sailor. In the evening the toll ^{was} collected from the passengers and between £5-6- was obtained, some slight ceremony of presentation was gone through on the Quarter deck amidst much cheering, the sailors then formed themselves into a ring & quatted on the deck with a light in the centre when one and another struck up a song, the boatwain was the first to favour the company with a comic song relative to the miseries of joining the Channel fleet (he had been in the way). he looked a worthy representative of the time even without his paraffin, owing to his muscular frame and naturally large beard altogether it was an interesting scene, a heavy shower however put an untimely end to the concert. It appears the captain retains possession of the money collected and the sailors are to have it out in grog, and one man cannot dispose of his share to another as it has to be drunk on delivery.

5th the auction was held to day after dinner, Mr. Delamain acting as auctioneer he made an excellent one and disposed of most of the things given to him, to advantage he was not able to finish the sale owing to the appearance of a large bird which caused a general rush for guns &c. it was a Booby or some such creature, but a rapid all rounder's intent.

6th the breeze freshened a little, and there were one or two showers, the waves were a beautiful sight, and I enjoyed watching them from the bows, we were meeting them at an angle of 45° and the waves caused by our motion through the water would meet them again direct, the result being a clash the spray of sea rising many feet and occasionally