

set their eyes ^{on} one, and we are now out of their latitude. However a day seldom passes now but we see some birds such as ~~type~~ pigeons, albatrosses, &c. the former are beautifully variegated with black and white, they afford some amusement to the sportsmen on board, but it is in vain destruction to shoot them down, for it is a pleasant sight to see them flying about the vessel, and what satisfaction can there be in seeing them drop into the sea. By way of creating a little excitement, and to afford matter for the paper, Chess and Draughts tournaments have been organized the championship of either game being awarded to the ultimate winner of five games. In draughts I was pitted against the captain and lost in chess, I vanquished my first opponent, but was conquered by the doctor on my second. Our distilling apparatus has once or twice been out of order, and jeopardized our supply of good wholesome water, it was put together in a villainous manner, in fact little better than glued together, and had not Mr. Monk who a practical engineer feed on board we should have been in a sorry plight, fortunately he has been enabled to rectify all deficiencies for the present and we all owe him a debt of gratitude. It was, for two or three days we had to use brackish water, and one day cast water, which latter bore a strong resemblance to diluted ink, and caused our tea to taste as though it were strongly impregnated with snake which decidedly quickened our appreciation of Mr. Monk's services, and sorry to say however he obtained little thanks from the captain, who is not remarkable for his generosity, some say he is in a measure responsible for our inefficient table but I do not know with how much truth.

25th A dull, damp, cold and dreary day the worst we have had yet, a more comfortless one could scarcely be imagined, a thick sea mist saturating everything; nevertheless the preparations for the theatricals in the evening went on bravely, it all, however the mist which had turned to rain towards evening cleared away in time for the audience to take their places. The actors this time were entirely from among the second class and other passengers, and the "butcher" (or tooke) seemed as pronounced in the course of one of the plays, was decidedly superior to the last occasion. Some of the acting however was fully equal and the majority of the characters especially in the first play (Miriam's home) were admirably