

22 bins as the reward of my diplomacy - and by great good fortune our table comprised most of the original & amusing talent on board. Others may have originated schemes elsewhere, but they had to come to us to have them carried through, but for social purposes such talents as prevent dullness settling on 18 persons doomed by fate to meet for 60 days at breakfast lunch dinner & tea, never or hardly never changing places, without humming I must say we monopolised ~~the~~ ~~table~~ most of what was among the saloon passengers of the 'Somersetshire'. Ladies we had not many - but those perfectly & readily accepted their position, & only struggled

23 to make themselves jolly under the circumstances. First the Wakleys, mother & daughter, the old lady said to be the widow of Colonel Wakley, whose death I remember why or wherefore I can't say - since then settled in Devonshire where the son Victor, about my own age, has been farming. All three capital sample of their class - English middle class, with a downright purpose & with about everything they say or do which stamps them as genuine. They are going to another son settled in Victoria when Victor has been on a visit. The old lady & daughter have been accustomed to travel, generally taking a trip abroad once a year & without making