

near the entrance to the Cabin and apparently absorbed in interesting conversation the subject of which I did not then know. I was not however long ignorant on this point for soon after I was informed through the medium of several officers that "victuals were up" and found that this was the subject which they had just been discussing so freely. They were indeed expatiating on the merits of the dinner or at least of its probable merits before eating. Well it is natural enough to talk about a good dinner even before it is tasted when one knows of what it consists. especially after having fasted until 2 O'clock P.M. at which time ours was punctually served up by the combined efforts of our most worthy Cook and Steward.

Having a keener appetite the sound of dinner felt agreeably on my ear. I therefore needed no second invitation to induce me to fill a place at the grinning board. And moreover the tribute unwillingly paid to necessity (viz. sickness) was at this time so slight that it tended rather than otherwise to increase my devouring appetite.

Accordingly following in the footsteps of those who had just paved the way I marched at quick time into the spacious and well fitted Cabin of the good bark Southern

Taking a seat on one of the numerous stools placed around for that purpose (Chairs are not mentioned in our catalogue of furniture) I drank in the wonderful scene before me a vision there's no describing.

Here thought I was a dinner a king might envy and that too without depreciating the general value of his own favorite repast. Here upon a table well calculated to support it until relieved by the more demanding appetites of those who sat thereat. were placed in the most approved order of the day sundry dishes which in point of quality and quantity are seldom if ever excelled.

There were fish flesh and fowl (all but the fowl) Beef Steak corn beef and soup with all the vegetables thereunto belonging. There were also pies cakes and puddings with and without plums as different tastes might require besides sundry other things too numerous to mention. Coffee was also to be had in quantities to suit customers.

Altogether it was such a dinner as I cannot with justice describe. Suffice therefore that our worthy patrons declare that it was the best meal they had for a long time tasted and positively asserted that it was a credit to the Cook a recommendation to the Steward and an honor to the Company in general; and