

May 28th 1883.



Somewhat wearied being ^{accustomed} to a hard bed and a narrow berth. I rose early even before all hands who were schooled along the deck and looked around hardly crediting the fact that I was indeed launched upon the wide wide ocean until nothing but the blue elements met my gaze though during the night this fact was made strikingly manifest in the performance of some hundreds of revolutions.

It was a beautiful morning with a light west wind and for being up betimes I was rewarded by a sight I never before witnessed - a sunrise at sea. Smooth and calm lay the sea stretching on all sides as far as the eye could reach without a single ripple to mar its mirrored surface. All around was silent and tranquil as at the peaceful mind. It was indeed a magnificent scene and when the sun in all its splendor burst forth as it rose from out the mighty waters shedding its mild rays over the smooth surface of the ocean I gazed with the highest feelings of admiration and delight.

But how time seems to fly while we look on such scenes of nature! Even now they change; eight bells are struck and lo! the morning meal is on the table

This consists of salt meat hard bread potatoes and coffee also butter. These while they are to be had generally compose the fare and however wholesome or unwholesome are well relished at sea.

Breakfast being quickly dispatched (skilful in a hurry) one half of the crew that is one watch are on deck until noon and right busy are they or at least those that are able to work for as usual on board of an outward-bounder there are several on the sea sick list and they are told that it will be less severe and of shorter duration if they remain on deck where they can feel the breeze all of which is no doubt true enough but it is at the same time a hard sacrifice to offer when a bunk for the time being is the most comfortable place of rest to be found in a ship and this is saying but little for a persons case until he gets accustomed to it.

There may always be found some who will sacrifice any condition to avoid the most disagreeable of all feelings if by doing so they can hasten the day when they will be rid of it altogether. And so with us some of them remain on deck either standing or lying or with their heads over the rail gazing complacently to the sea. Such is the indifference with which they regard life in this condition that