

disappointed in their earlier attempts to procure a fiddler. Of course I was fairly taken by surprise and knowing as I did my inability to satisfy the musical demand of a party who were doubtless inclined to a variety of dances I at first rather declined the service.

But they so earnestly intreated, and assured me that I should have nothing to regret in regard to playing, that they were not so particular as I supposed them to be but only wished to have a good time before the bark sailed which would be in a few days that I could not find it in my heart to deny them any little assistance I might add to the evening's enjoyment. So after a little deliberation as to the propriety of the thing, during which they manifested some impatience I jumped into the boat "with my fiddle under my arm" and was soon alongside of the trader. She lay about a 1/2 of a mile from us.

On deck I found that everything had been prepared with great care for the occasion.

The deck was as white and clean and smooth as marble; the ropes all handsomely laid up in their places and every thing belokened neatness and order throughout. She was indeed a beautiful craft and previous to my going on board had often attracted my attention partly by her fine model and partly by her private signal - an elephant with red ground.

I was ushered into the "ball room"

Between the cabin on deck and the main

mast was the space allotted for the evening's amusement. Over head an awning of canvas was rigged and on either side curtains of the same material these answered the double purpose of keeping out the night breeze and screening the company from outward observers.

This room though not large was deemed sufficiently capacious for our small company to amuse themselves by the general species of infatuation and though the after hatch happened to be located just beneath the mainmast and therefore in the room it was not thought to be a serious obstruction to their movements "on the light fantastic toe". The idea now naturally occurred that the orchestra must have some particular location and as this must otherwise be waste room it was resolved that it should be furnished with a seat and consecrated entirely to the fiddler - and by the way 'tis not always that the player gets so good a seat.

The room came out of the cabin - the ladies - where they had been waiting for the music before making their appearance.

And now it would be impossible for me to describe the surprise and astonishment which I must have shown at the first sight of them. Whether it was because I had been so long deprived of lovely society that "a thing of beauty was a joy forever" or whether it was their real loveliness heightened by the easy grace with which they moved about. But certain it is they appeared to