

*lived over that time if they did not get away by some means or other. They were generally in the most deplorable situation, mere walking skeletons, without money, and scarcely clothes to cover their nakedness, and overrun with lice from head to foot. The provisions, Sir, that were served out to us was not more than four or five ounces of meat, and about as much bread, all condemned provisions from their ships of war, which no doubt were supplied with new in their stead, and the new in all probability charged by the commissaries to the Jersey. They, however, know best about that; and however secure they may now feel, they will have to render an account of that business to a Judge who cannot be deceived. This fact, however, I can safely aver, that both the times that I was confined on board the prison-ship, there never were provisions served out to the prisoners that would have been eatable by men that were not literally in a starving situation. The water that we were forced to use was carried from this city; and I positively assert, that I never, after having followed the sea thirty years, had on board of any ship, (and I have been three years on some of my voyages) water so bad as that we were obliged to use on board the old Jersey; when there was, as it were to tantalize us, as fine water, not more than three cables length from us, at the mill in the Wallabout, as was perhaps ever drank.*

*There were hogs kept in pens on the gun-deck by the officers of the prison-ship for their own use; and I have seen the prisoners watch an opportunity, and with a tin pot steal the bran from the hogs' trough, and go into the galley, and when*