

forth on her perilous voyage. Many were the "good-byes" and caresses that were given, for each one knew our absence was to be long; and, if a tear of regret on parting was shed, on such an occasion it was excusable, as those farewells so earnestly given might have been the last for ever. With a S.W. wind, we steered for the Orkney Islands, and, at 8 P.M. the next night, passed the Skerries' Lights, and took a pilot on board to take us to Stromness. The wind not being altogether favourable, we anchored at Longhope, where we had for our companions the "Royalist," of Alloa, bound to Quebec, and the "Nell Gwinne," bound for Aden, both large ships. After a few hours delay here, we arrived, on Monday morning, in Stromness bay, where we dropped anchor, and made arrangements for shipping more men. I cannot speak much in praise of this little town, which has neither architectural beauties to recommend it, nor is it in that good sanitary condition it might be. Nevertheless, all kindness was shown us ashore, and a visit I made to the Manse of Harray abounded with interest, the locality possessing very perfect curiosities of our ancestors hundreds of years gone by. I also visited the Hoy (High) Lighthouse, which every one should do that wishes to see a well-kept light, and a greater attraction still for us, perhaps, was that a Peterheadian was then light-keeper. Strong westerly winds delayed us here for a fortnight, for it was not until the fifteenth of April that we had anything like a fair wind. On that day, however, we made a start, having filled up our complement of men from the shore; but I cannot speak much for the seafaring powers of the newly arrived "sailors," nearly all of them had never been to sea, and the greater part of them spent their first twenty-four hours of sea life in the lee scuppers, the motion of the ship acting to them as a capital and safe emetic. Nevertheless, be it said to their praise, that, with a few exceptions, our Orkney men were willing, courageous, and hard workers, and for "green hands," bid fair to become "sons of Neptune" in the course of time; and, ere our voyage was finished, there were few of them but what could "hand reef and steer," and were capital ordinary seamen. Amongst other additions we received on board at Orkney was a pig, who was immediately consigned to the coal hole, where he reigned for nine months "monarch of all he surveyed," until the knife caused him to bid adieu to "the pomps and vanities of this wicked world," to provide us with that luxury in a cold climate—*fat pork*. S.S.W. winds of variable strengths helped us