

great South Seas, which, even in summer, it is difficult to navigate with the largest vessels. All through, the health of the crew seemed to be an object of his attention. During this severe season, no ardent spirits were used on board." He says:—

'6th month, 21st (their shortest winter's day, our midsummer). Still 'lying to,' in heavy gales from the south-west, with frequent squalls, still more heavy, with rain and forked lightning; at the same time, the weather extremely cold and penetrating.—6th month, 22d. "Lying to," as yesterday, the storm still raging with unabated violence; squalls, heavy rain, and lightning through the night. The sea having risen to a fearful height, has frequently inundated the deck of the vessel; and from the continual working of her whole frame, our bed-places have been unfit to sleep in, the water clearing its way through numerous chinks. This morning early, a heavy sea broke into us, bringing a larger quantity of water upon deck than at any time before.—7th month, 7th. Still "lying to," the storm has continued all night, and the sea makes very heavy upon us. The mercury in the marine barometer has sunk to 29. 30, then rose a little and again sank lower in the tube. As the night advanced, the storm increased with awful violence. The strength of the wind was incredible, and the lightning appalling, with a fall of rain and sleet; the sea broke in upon our little ship in an alarming manner. The poor men were lashed upon deck with ropes, to prevent their being washed away; benumbed with cold, and at times floating with the vast load of water upon the deck, their sufferings are not easily described. The bulwark on the larboard side was damaged, and the spray reached more than two thirds up the main mast. Next morning, on looking round at the ravages of the storm, I was surprised to find that so little damage was done and the increase of pumping had been comparatively trifling to what might have been expected from the violent and frequent strokes of the sea, and the floods of water that had rolled over the deck of the vessel.' [Here follows a detail of similar sufferings for several weeks.]

'8th month, 8th. It is now more than ten weeks since we sailed from Rio de Janeiro; we are still more than 3000 miles from our desired port, and yet the winds have mostly blown from favourable quarters, but often with such violence as to render them un-availing on account of the tremendous seas they have occasioned.—8th month, 16th. To-day the sea was considered the most lofty and appalling that had yet been permitted to assail our poor fragile bark. The wind shifted several points in the course of the gale, causing the white-crested foaming billows to run one against another in fearful heaps, and, breaking as they met in every direction, exhibited one vast ocean of white foam, in confused agitation, not to be described. As the principal weight of this mighty tempest came from the southward and westward, there was nothing to break, in any degree, the sweeping range of the seas between us and the neighbourhood of the Pole; and the wind coming from off such vast bodies of ice, brought with it most chilling cold, and heavy falls of hail and sleet, which added much to the already accu-

mulated sufferings of our poor drenched and benumbed seamen.'

In a letter, dated 10th month, 21st, from Hobart Town, Van Dieman's Land, when speaking of the men not having any thing stronger than water to drink, for months together, he says:—Again, 'It is a little remarkable, that although they have been sometimes wet, and in wet clothes, not for a day or two, but for a week together—when their teeth have chattered with the cold, with no warm food, the sea having put out the fires even below the deck, and the water filtering through the deck on their beds below, and not a dry garment to change—yet not a single instance of cramp has occurred amongst them, nor the slightest appearance of the scurvy, even in those who have been before afflicted with it, and still bear the marks about them; and, with the solitary instance of one man, who was forced to quit the deck for two hours during his watch, from being taken unwell, every man and boy has stood, throughout the whole, in a remarkable manner.'

From Sydney he thus writes:—'1st month, 21st, 1835. It is so common a thing for the shipping to lose their men here, that a few days ago, the question was put to me by General Bourke, the governor, "Have you lost any of your men?" And it is satisfactory to know, that some of the strangers who have attended our meeting on board, have, in more than one instance, expressed, as if of rare occurrence, that our sailors look more like healthy, fresh-faced farmers, than men come off a long voyage: the generality of those we see daily have a thin and worn-down appearance, particularly when they belong to ships that supply them daily with ardent spirits.

After a voyage of ten weeks from Sydney, Daniel Wheeler arrived at Tahiti, one of the Sandwich Islands. He thus writes:—

'4th month, 30th. Just as we were ready to go on shore, to take tea at George Bignal's (to whom, as deputy consul, the mail brought from New South Wales had been delivered), the young king (or, perhaps, it is more correct to say the husband of the queen) came on board, with his younger brother and uncle, and several others. They behaved with great openness and cheerfulness, and seemed highly pleased to see us. Our captain was personally known to them already. They soon looked round the vessel, apparently delighted, left us a basket of oranges, and said they would come again to-morrow. To my great rejoicing, the pilot soon after coming on board, informed us (officially) of the disuse of ardent spirits altogether, by saying, 'Rum no good for us here.'—*Chamber's Ed. Jour.*

THE GIN PALACES.

The extensive scale on which the gin palaces (that is splendid shops for the sale of intoxicating liquors) are established in London, and the ostentatious manner in which the business of even the smallest among them is divided into branches, is most amusing. A handsome plate of ground glass in one door directs you to the "Counting-house;" another to the "Bottle Department;" a third, to the "Wholesale Department;" a fourth, to the "Wine Promenade," and so forth, until we are in daily expectation of