

hoisted on deck; and in a short time the Polly presented a trim and sea-going appearance, considering the rough usage she had encountered.

The steward made a report of the quantity and condition of the provisions in the commissariat department, which the captain considered satisfactory; and after a long conference with the officers, the elders, the schoolmaster and the agent, he decided to continue the voyage. The agent as usual was factious. He disagreed with all the others, and maintained that the only safe and reasonable course was to go back to Scotland. He was tired of the sea, and he feared the consequences of a prolonged voyage. The rations were not to be increased, and he knew full well that fresh murmurs would soon break out among the passengers, who would reflect on him as the cause of their privations. Nor did his fears prove groundless. The vessel was scarcely well under way and the passengers well recovered from sickness induced by the storm, when complaints and murmurings were heard on every side.

The agent was again blamed for persuading them to leave their homes in the Highlands—to starve or drown them in the Atlantic.

A second deputation to the cabin was resolved on, consisting of the same quorum who formerly waited on the Captain. This time the document did not contain as much Latin as formerly, and the agent was the chief spokesman.

After this memorial had been presented words ran high between the Captain and our friend Sandy. The latter used defiant language, and even insulted the Captain to his face. Of course the Captain was beaten in the argument that took place; but he was resolved to maintain his authority. He accordingly called the mate, who approached with a pair of handcuffs, and slipped them upon the agent's wrists, but not without a hard struggle. The piper attempted to take the agent's part, and began laying about him in true Highland style; but one or two of the watch being called, he was quickly reduced to submission. The agent was then conducted to his stateroom, where not only his hands but his feet were firmly secured in irons.

In this condition he was left to reflect on his conduct, and was fed on bread and water. But instead of learning wisdom by experience, and rendering due submission to authority, he brooded over his fancied wrongs, and meditated a scheme of revenge which he carried out in due time.

On the intercession of the elders, the piper, whose disposition was generally peaceful, was spared and allowed to go to his berth among the passengers, and he gave no further trouble.