

to drink as it has a bitter, sickish taste. Every time the sun comes out the ship is covered with wet clothes as everything is wet from so much bad weather. I have four hours below and will occupy part of the time in reading my prayer-book. We have two men sick in our watch.

*April 26.* Cold rain with frequent squalls of wind. I wear a thick canvas southwester and two waterproof coats with which I keep dry and comfortable. When it is my watch on deck, I keep employed at something, and when I get below, I know how to enjoy my time much more comfortably than if I were on shore. I have got accustomed to go aloft and do not mind having to feel my way up to the topgallant mast-head of a dark night to furl the royal. I think I am a useful hand on board now and unless it is working on the rigging, I think I am not far behind half of the crew in usefulness. The clouds look dark to windward and there is every appearance of a squall. The watch are standing by the royal and topgallant halliards ready to let them run the moment the order is given. Altho' it is calm and raining now, the ship will be nearly on her beam end in a few minutes. Such is the state of a sailor's life.

*April 27.* Night cold and rainy; reefed top sails and main sail. The wind is on our quarter. Our course is South-east, half-east.