

sufficient for our whole consumption, had there been any occasion to limit the expense of an article so conducive to health and comfort.

In the account of the preceding voyage, it has been stated that a serious annoyance arose, during the winter, from the accumulation of moisture and ice produced by the condensation of the breath and other vapours in the ships' companies' bed-places. It was determined, therefore, on the present occasion, to do away with these both for the officers and men, substituting for the former cots, and hammocks for the latter. This change proved extremely beneficial, by increasing the ventilation, and promoting the more uniform circulation of warm air, which had before been materially impeded by the number and closeness of the bulkheads.

In the victualling of the ships several alterations were likewise made, which the experience of the last voyage suggested. The principal object being to stow as much as possible, a considerably larger supply than before of the meat preserved in tin cases by Messrs. Gamble and Co., was now furnished, amounting to two pounds per week a man, together with a quart of vegetable or concentrated-meat soups, for a period of three years. For the same reason, the spirits were supplied at thirty-five per cent. above proof, to be reduced, when issued, by means of a hydrometer, to the strength of that usually furnished to the navy; by which expedient the stowage was economized in the proportion of an increase of forty gallons on every hundred. For one-half of the proposed supply of biscuit, kiln-dried flour of the best quality was substituted, to be baked into bread during the winters; three hundred-weight of flour occupying only the same space as one hundred-weight of biscuit. A considerable portion of the fore-hold was also partitioned off into two large binns or bread-rooms, for