

mate having proceeded to prepare the passengers' rations for distribution, I sat down upon one of the sacks, from beneath which suddenly issued a groan. I jumped up, quite at a loss to account for the strange sound, and looked at the mate, in order to discover what he thought of it. He seemed somewhat surprised; but in a moment removed two or three sacks; and lo! there was a man crouched up in a corner. As he had not seen him before, the mate at once concluded that he was a "stowaway," so giving him a shake to make him stand upright, he ordered him to mount the ladder, bestowing a kick upon the poor wretch to accelerate his tardy ascent.

The captain was summoned from below, and a council immediately held for the trial of the prisoner, who confessed, that not having enough of money to pay for his passage, he bribed the watchman employed to prevent the possibility of such an occurrence. He had been concealed for three days, but at night made his way into the hold, through a breach in the partition: his presence was therefore known to some of the passengers. He had no clothes but the rags he wore; nor had he any provisions. To decide what was to be done with him was now the consideration, but the captain hastily terminated the deliberation, by swearing that he should be thrown overboard. The wretched creature was quite discomfited by the captain's wrath, and earnestly begged for forgiveness. It was eventually settled that he should be landed upon the first island at which we should touch; with which decision he appeared to be quite satisfied. He said that he was willing to work for his support; but the captain swore determinedly that he should not taste one pound of the