

were pillaged of all they possessed, excepting what they had on at the time; and the officers in like manner were plundered on board the *Medway*. The midshipmen, some of them, were completely stripped; others lost their watches, &c. For my own part, I came off with the loss of about half my clothing, and thought myself well off when compared with the losses of my shipmates.

The morning after our capture, we were mustered on the quarter-deck, to undergo a search; the men were then stripped to the skin, and their clothing not returned; so that many of them were left without any thing more than a shirt and trowsers. The next day, Mr. Barton (the first lieutenant of the *Medway*) distributed the clothing he had taken from our men, to his quarter-masters and quarter-gunners, in my presence.

After being on board the *Medway* five weeks, we were landed at Simon-Town, twenty-five miles to the eastward of the Cape of Good Hope; myself and brother officers paroled, and the men marched to Cape-Town under an escort of dragoons; being obliged to ford a lake on the march, where the boys were compelled to go over on the backs of the tall men; this march of twenty-five miles was performed in one day, and without shoes or food; the latter article they were kept without four and twenty hours; their shoes were stolen by the crew of the *Medway* while they were asleep. After remaining in this situation nearly eight months, without bed or bedding, (they were not even furnished with straw, and their hammocks were taken on a plea of their being public property,) we were all embarked in different men-of-war and Indiamen for England; myself, and about sixty officers and men, in the *Cumberland*, seventy-four, Captain Baker, were all put on the lower gun-deck without distinction, among their own crew, and fed on prisoners' allowance; and on my remonstrating with the captain for receiving such treatment, he ordered me off the quarter-deck, with a threat, at the same time, to put me in irons.

We remained in this situation eighteen days, after which Lieut. German, Gordon, and myself, were removed to the *Grampus*, thirty, at St. Helena, admitted to the ward-room mess, and treated with civility.

With respect, I have the honor, &c.,

N. D. NICHOLSON.

CAPT. SAMUEL EVANS.