

*hatchways, which gave a pretty free circulation of air through the ship; whereas the John being a merchant ship, and with small hatchways, and no ports, and the hatches laid down every night, and no man allowed during the night to go on deck, all exonerations were of course made below; the effluvia arising from these, together with the already contaminated air occasioned by the breath of so many people so pent up together, was enough to destroy men of the most healthy and robust constitutions. All the time I was on board this ship not a prisoner eat his allowance, bad as it was, cooked, more than three or four times; but eat it raw as it came out of the barrel. These, Sir, are stubborn facts that cannot be controverted.*

In the middle of this ship, between decks, was raised a platform of boards about two and a half feet high, for those prisoners to sleep on who had no hammocks. On this they used frequently to sit and play at cards to pass the time. One night in particular, several of us sat to see them play till about ten o'clock, and then retired to our hammocks, and left them playing; about one A. M. we were called and told that one *Bird* was dying; we turned out and went to where he lay, and found him just expiring. Thus, at ten P. M. this young man was apparently as well as any of us, and at one A. M. had paid the debt to nature. Many others went off in the same way. It will perhaps be said that men may die suddenly any where. True; but do they die suddenly any where from the same cause? After all these things, it is, I think, impossible for the mind to form any other conclusion than that there was