

morning; not that we spent all that time in scrubbing ourselves. I well recollect our great delight was to sit in the ports after we had washed, with our basins in hand, ready to capsize on the first unhappy dockyard matey who came alongside. The mornings were rather chilly (April), and I believe many of us washed and used more soap, merely for the pleasure of lathering these quiet and inoffensive men. I do not know why it was, but we had a great "down on them;" we also used to collect potatoes from the steward's dinner stock, and pelt these men most unmercifully. Once I recollect hitting the coxswain on the thumb of the hand he was steering the boat with; he reported the circumstance; there was an investigation; but, as usual, we were *not* found guilty!

I now read, until the day of our final departure, almost every page of my Journal remarking on the hospitality, kindness, and attention of those by whom we were surrounded during the three months we were preparing and fitting for our long cruise. I would wish to mention the names of several who would be at once recognised by my naval friends; but this I cannot do, as it would do away with my original intention of naming none, then, none can be offended.

It was my good fortune, as well as those around me, to have for a Captain one of the strictest and at the same time one of the most just officers in Her Majesty's navy. We all knew how we had to go "straight." (I think there were fifteen youngsters on board.) We well knew that if we turned to the right or to the left from that straight path, we should "put our foot in it,"