

attention which could not have been exceeded by any medical man in the service, administered to their several cases, and, in most instances, with success. During a calm of some hours continuance he had been enabled to procure a few medicines from the head-quarter ship, and these were appropriated to their respective uses, with a skill and anticipation of their effects, which would not have disgraced the oldest and ablest practitioner. The severest trial of his judgment and patience was on a female, the wife of my servant. This young woman had been some time suffering from a cancer in her breast, which from recent neglect had assumed an alarming appearance, at the moment, when Lieutenant C—— undertook to supply the absence of a regular medical attendant. His attention was now principally devoted to this poor sufferer, and notwithstanding the unpleasant exhalations arising from a wound, to which he never devoted less than half an hour both morning and evening, and in so close a situation as that between decks, he never once shrank from the self-imposed task, and was finally rewarded in the conviction that he had wrought a favorable change in the disease—Of this I am aware, that although his patient fell a victim to fever shortly after our arrival in Barbadoes, her breast had some time in a state of convalescence. I have mentioned this circumstance because I conceive it but fair to render testimony to the excellent heart and feelings of a man who, without any other prospect than much trouble and responsibility, thus generally undertook what few other officers would under similar circumstances, from a dislike to make the sacrifice of their immediate comfort and ease, and although there was not a single officer on board the transport who did not fully applaud and esteem him for his conduct, there was also perhaps not one who would have profited by the example, or made that conduct his guide—neither was his care and attention confined to the seriously ill. During our tossing in the Bay of Biscay, and for some days subsequent, most of the officers were compelled to keep their beds, where they were visited by the new surgeon, not with senna, rhubarb, and black draughts, but with such delicious mulled wine, as would have stayed the spirit of one struggling in his last agony—Sad execution was made with the wine during this period, and such as threatened a speedy annihilation of our stock, but like true soldiers, we thought not of to-morrow while there was a probability of obtaining any thing to-day, and although our more prudent friend frequently hinted at the fact, as he handed the generous beverage around, such medicine from such hands was not to be rejected.

After having committed the body of a soldier to the deep with the ceremony or, more properly speaking, want of economy usual on such occasions at sea, we came within sight of the Island of Madeira, which much to our regret we passed without stopping, although the full and distinct view obtained of the white and dazzling edifices of Fanchal proclaimed our little squadron to be at no great distance from that place. The disappointment experienced by the Officers of our transport was great indeed, for we had fully calculated on repairing at Madeira the serious breach which had been so very imprudently made in our wine cellar. But after having long and vainly watched for some propitious signal from the Agent-Commodore, who pursued his course past this Bacchus-favor'd spot, with a steadiness indicative of no want of incense to sacrifice to the Deity himself, we were even compelled to call in the aid of philosophy, and consent to a reduction in our daily consumption.

As we crossed the line the usual filthy and disgusting operation of shaving was practised on the younger and more untravelled portion of the men, who in many instances proved refractory, and in some inflicted severe chastisement on the brutal Neptune and his satellites. From a conviction that the practice tends in a great degree to the subversion of military discipline I had decidedly opposed the thing from the commencement, but as there was an officer Senior to myself on board as decidedly in favor of the ceremony, I was of course compelled to submit to his decision. A plot had in the interim been formed by a part of the crew at the head of which was the carpenter who personated Neptune, the object of which was to not only force me but Lieutenant M—— of my Regiment, who had been equally hostile to the measure, to undergo the customary

shaving and ablution—Of this however we were apprised in time, when disgusted and enraged at so much insolence, we loaded our pistols and intimated to the Master that if any one of his crew dared to lay hands on us we should shoot them without hesitation on the spot. This threat, which by the way would not have proved a mere threat, had they proceeded to extremities, had the desired effect, and the affair passed off without other incidents, than those produced by the application of some heavy and well directed blows from the infuriated men on their tormentors, nor was it without deep exultation that I beheld the filthy God himself prostrated on the deck by a blow from the vigorous arm of one of the men of my detachment, the instant he was liberated from the ordeal. The vessel on this day presented the highest possible scene of confusion. Every thing like order and discipline were at an end, and the officers were obliged to mount half naked into the highest part of the rigging, in order to escape the deluge of water poured from the main yards and shrouds on the deck, and inundating even many parts of the cabin. With these consequences of the observance of a foolish and ridiculous custom, simply because it is a custom, it can only be a source of surprise that officers in the command either of Regiments or Detachments should suffer the continuance of a practice which, is I maintain subversive, at least for a time, of that good order and discipline which should at no moment suffer the slightest relaxation or diminution.

At day break on the 6th of Dec. the cry of land was heard from the morning watch, and we arose with the sun to witness that which is ever a source of true pleasure and gratification to the eye long used to fix its gaze on vacancy, for such may almost be called that dull and monotonous expanse of sky and water, with its eternal boundray of horizon which every where surrounds the impatient voyager. It was a beautiful morning, and the heat of a tropical sun was tempered by the light trade wind which swelled our sails with undulating motion, and bore us gradually nearer to the land, which proved to be Barbadoes. Nothing could exceed the beauty of this island which, as we approached sufficiently near to distinguish trees and plantations, appeared to rise like a bed of emerald, from the deep bosom of the waters. Much of that beauty moreover arose from the association of idea, for having left England at a moment when the bleak winds of autumn had robbed the fields of their green and the forests of their foliage, to be thus, as it were, transported suddenly into a new and luxuriant season, excited a sentiment of delight which was rendered even more piquant, by reason of the long imprisonment we had undergone in our confined cabin at sea. Alas! how few reflected that in that island so fair to the eye, lurked the seeds of death, and that in the light atmosphere which crowned its ever-green summits played those exhalations which are fraught with subtlest poison to the health of the European.

The sun was darting his meridian beams as we entered Carlisle bay, from the shores of which several boats put off with fruits and refreshments for the vessel of our little squadron. Being anxious to deliver the despatches with which I was charged for my Colonel, I landed soon after we had dropped our anchor, and after toiling some distance along the beach, followed by a hundred naked black urchins who greeted me at every step with the appellation of "Johnny Newcome," a length succeeded in gaining the high road to the barracks. It was insufferably hot, and already I began to curse the climate and wish myself in England. I had dressed myself in the light summer trowsers usually worn in the country, but notwithstanding this I was literally overcome with lassitude on reaching the quarters of my Commanding Officer, who after having received the documents which I presented, kindly relieved me from further trouble and fatigue by directing the Adjutant to superintend the disembarkation of the detachment.

ANIMAL SAGACITY AND RELATION.—At Wobersh, near Guildford, the seat of Lord Grantly, a fawn was drinking in the lake, when one of the swans suddenly flew upon it, and pulled the poor animal into the water, where it held it till it was drowned. This act of atrocity was noticed by the other deer in the park, and they took care to revenge it the first opportunity. A few days after, the swan happened to be on land, was surrounded and attacked by the whole herd and presently killed.