

day was occupied: at night the scene was strange indeed. Being late in application we had most inferior accommodation. We had but two cabins with four berths between seven, the two little girls and our two female servants occupied one, my wife and myself the other. William had a mattress under the table of the dining saloon. The table itself was occupied from one end to the other by sleeping men, the seats also; every six feet had a sleeper, and beneath the floor was similarly covered. This was immediately before the door of our cabin. Outside in a narrow passage immediately under our window (a borrowed light) was a mass of human creatures by night and day, huddled together, filthy and offensive to the sight and smell. These were Chinese, of whom one would now and then rise up and present his dirty visage to darken away the little light we had. The poor steerage and second-class passengers were much worse off. On the open deck at night were rows of living forms wrapped up in blankets, without mattress or pillow or cover from the rain and snow. As an instance of suffering, a young man in the former steamer which we met, the *Pacific*, was frost-bitten, and left at Portland, crippled perhaps for life. We brought him on towards San Francisco again from Portland.

AN AMERICAN STEAMBOAT—TREATED AS CATTLE.

But the wretchedness of the provision at night for the mass of human beings was nothing to the disagreeable trials of the day-time. Bad enough as the case was for an experienced traveller, it was simply distressing to a lady. The company had so arranged the fares that all who could scrape up the money came first class to avoid the actual suffering of the only other alternative. There is no second class, so we were surrounded on all sides by the gold-miner class. There are many worthy members of this body, but it is well-known that the most reckless, vicious, and unrestrained of mankind also belong to it, if not forming a large proportion. The crowd was so great that a seat was scrambled for the moment vacated. My wife and I constantly sat out in the cold, unable to get seats within the saloon, and dreading also the close and confined atmosphere. But when out in the cold there were many around us; almost every one chews tobacco, and is constantly freeing his mouth from the horrible saliva this operation creates. The whole floor, the carpet, matting, as well as the deck, was one continued scene of this filthy custom. My wife constantly had to get up and go to her cabin, disgusted and sickened.

Then oaths, low language, and disgusting talk were to be heard on all sides. Card-playing going on all day and in the evening. Then at meals there was a rush and a scramble for seats; the food was constantly too ill-cooked to be touched, and for several days the water was of a ferruginous colour; the attendance was bad and the servants rude. Added to all this, we had several days a head wind against us and much rolling and pitching, so that sea-sickness was prevalent. As the ship groaned and creaked in the night under the strain of the weather, it was indeed an awful reflection that 600 souls should be