

tastefully ornamented by several bunches of dipt candles ; while the narrow shelves groaned under the weight of, — jars of sugar, preserves, bottled porter, spices and the other usual necessities for a long voyage. I was disturbed in the progress of my portraiture by the mistress, who came down to warm a drink at the stove, for some of the sick folks. The two women who first became ill, were said to show symptoms of bad fever ; and additional cases of illness were reported by the Head committee. The patients begged for an increased allowance of water ; which could not be granted, as the supply was very scanty ; two casks having leaked.

Sunday, June 13th.

The reports from the hold became very alarming ; and the mistress was occupied all day attending the numerous calls upon her. She already regretted having come the voyage ; but her kind heart did not allow her to consult her ease. When she appeared upon deck, she was beset by a crowd of poor creatures, each having some request to make ; often of a most inconsiderate kind, and few of which it was in her power to comply with. The day was cold and cheerless ; and I occupied myself reading in the cabin.

Monday, June 14th.

The Head committee brought a can of water to show it to the captain : it was quite foul, muddy, and bitter from having been in a wine cask. When allowed to settle it became clear, leaving considerable sediment in the bottom of the vessel ; but it retained its bad taste. The mate endeavoured to improve it by trying the effect of charcoal, and of alum ; but some of the casks were beyond remedy,