

difficulty in fully satisfying, for each person took such an enormous draught, that ice, which we were now using, could not be melted sufficiently fast. We had so large a number of visitants on board that it would have been inconvenient, as well as imprudent, to have permitted them to remain below during the night, which, moreover, was not necessary to people of such hardy habits; the greater number enwrapped themselves in the spare sails brought on deck for that purpose, and a few stowed themselves in the hammock-nettings, which were capacious, and protected by cloths of tarpaulin, making a very snug resting-place. Our arms were of course kept in readiness, and the pistols loaded; but these precautions, with unfailing vigilance on the part of the watch, were all that was considered necessary.

Ere our guests disposed themselves to rest, much bartering was carried on, besides mutual endeavours at amusement: the fiddle, again put in requisition, was a prolific source of delight; one or two of the strangers evinced some slight practical knowledge of its use, but uniformly produced only a monotonous succession of sounds. Vocal displays of a similar description were also offered; these were given in a low crooning tone, the compass being generally very limited, though occasional notes showed