

old plates both cracked, a broken case knife, a fork with only one prong, and a part of a saucer which answered for the salt, was all the table furniture the mansion could afford. The captain sent one of his crew to the boat for the provision basket; and to soothe the hardships of our situation (to do which he left no means untried,) he ordered some pork to be brought from his own sea-store, to answer as a relish for the potatoes. Within as short a space of time as could be expected, from a slow moving girl washing them and a good fire cooking them, the potatoes were prepared, the pork fried and all the other etceteras for supper ready. The contents of Mr. S.'s basket answered the expectation which might have been formed of it, from the careful hand who prepared it. A pair of cold roast fowels, an excellent piece of ham, a loaf of delicious bread and a bottle of brandy to wash down the whole, all neatly wrapped up in a cloth which in whiteness might rival the snow, left us no room to complain of our fare. View us now, gentle reader, all prepared and ready to commence operations, and you will agree with me that the whole picture, (albiet it was somewhat sombred with the wreathing smoke) formed a piece not totally destitute of interest. In one corner sat a groupe composed of those before mentioned round Mr. S.'s provision basket. In the centre of the floor was placed the potatoe pot smoking hot from the fire, and flank'd by a frying pan full of pork swimming in its own fat, and surrounded by a parcel of chubby cheek'd urchins, whose timidity had been overcome by the savory smell of the meat, doubly grateful to unsophisticated stomachs; and who had ventured to creep some distance from their mother's side. The back ground of the picture was made up of the parents and elder members of the party, who sauntered about the apartment—many of them with a hot potatoe in one hand and a morcel of pork in the other;—of each of which they took an alterate bite, while their figures magnified as seen through the smoky atmosphere of the potatoe pot looked as if exhibited in a phantasmagorical illusion or through the medium of a magic lantern.

Custom and necessity go hand in hand in reconciling men to existing circumstances. To the captain and his crew it was no unusual thing to be thrown into such a dilemma as that in which we now were. Habit of course made it easy for them to bear with their present privations; and as a succedaneum to the rest, in came necessity which made it for them endurable because they could not meliorate their then-situation by any change. Under the influence of these two powerful causes an air of cheerfulness began to be diffused over the whole party; even the captious looking landlord whose visage was habitually shortened into a species of grin, was now diffused over with a hypocritical laugh. He spoke little but French; and the rest of his family seemed equally ignorant of every other language, except that of the eyes, which his daughters appeared to understand perfectly. The old gentleman, (for so he must be termed in this free country, where our gracious Sovereign, liberally makes every man an owner of the soil when he wishes to become so,) made his first advances in a colloquial form to a son of the Emerald isle, who sat perched in the corner upon a billet of fire-wood; with the question, "Vat part of de