

river it makes its appearance among the crew, two of them being attacked with this fearful disease as we anchor at one part of the river, and it gives me considerable anxiety, in order to prevent its spreading among such a large crew, getting them separate from the rest of the crew. I allow no one to attend them except myself or mates, and as we get down the Bay of Bengal, the weather keeping fine fortunately, the disease is kept from spreading and is confined only to these two, one of whom, a lad of fifteen, soon recovers, but the other is completely blind, and does not recover until long after we arrived in Muscat.

The usual routine of duty in a ship manned with Lascars is much the same as with any other crew. The pipe calls all hands to wash decks at five in the morning, when with sand and coir scrubbers every portion of the decks and bulwarks are cleaned fore and aft; our brass work, after decks are washed, is then polished. At 8 o'clock, or when the bell is struck eight, all hands are piped to breakfast, the cooks filling large earthenware dishes with the rice which, placed on deck, are surrounded by as many as eight or ten men who need no knives, forks, or spoons, but their hands dip into the rice and curried fish, busily conveying it to their mouths. In this strange fashion thus squatted on deck they form gipse-