

The passengers' fire-places, upon either side of the fore-deck, furnished endless scenes, sometimes of noisy merriment, at others of quarrels. The fire was contained in a large wooden case, lined with bricks and shaped something like an old-fashioned settee; the coals being confined by two or three iron bars in front. From morning till evening they were surrounded by groups of men, women and children; some making "stirabout," in all kinds of vessels, and others baking cakes upon extemporary griddles. These cakes were generally about two inches thick, and when baked were encased in a burnt crust coated with smoke, being actually raw in the centre. Such was the unvaried food of the greater number of these poor creatures. A few of them, who seemed to be better off, had herrings, or bacon. The meal with which they were provided was of very bad quality;—this they had five days; and biscuit, which was good, two days in the week.

Friday, June 4th.

The sailors and apprentices were (as the mate expressed it in his log) variously employed,—mending sails, tarring ropes, spinning yarns, &c. Sailors sit and sew very differently from tailors; instead of doubling up their legs under them, they stretch them out straight before them as they sit upon the deck. Their thimble is also peculiar, not being worn on the top of the finger, but upon the ball of the thumb, to which it is fastened by a leather strap, buckled round the wrist. I was surprised at the expedition and neatness with which they sewed, with their coarse needles and long threads.

Jack created some diversion by daubing a "gossoon's"