

we should fare. My wife had requested him to take on board a goat to supply us with fresh milk, which we all found more agreeable than the so-called preserved milk in tins. The preserved meats, however, which he took for us—the salmon, sardines and tunny in oil—were excellent. Of poultry there was a good store, though the ducks pined for want of water to swim in. Fresh butcher's meat of course disappeared after the first few days, and the eggs were no longer new laid: but the broiled ham was plentiful and good; and by living very sparingly on this, on currys, on preserved fish, with pickle and vinegar, I managed to keep off all positive sea sickness, and suffered only from the nasty nausea which I imagine to be inseparable from salt water. Then we had hot rolls, half baked according to the universal practice in America, and corn bread in abundance. This latter was not unpleasant, but too sweet for my palate. I was glad to see that my children liked it. Our dinners were always at two o'clock: our breakfasts we persuaded our host to defer till near eight o'clock: and our teas were at seven.

Fried and cold ham, and lots of omelets ; with hot rolls and corn bread ; with tea and coffee and fried potatoes, made these meals ample for those even of our party to whom the sea breeze gave most appetite. The Captain sat at the head of the table : his first mate next to our boys at the bottom ; and as yet unused to the American plan of bolting their food, we marvelled how the latter could get through his meals and be again on deck before we had well nigh begun ours. The Captain's evident wish to conform to our ways, could not make even him sit what we thought a decent time at the board : and he always stole away on deck and smoked his one segar after every meal before we were ready to rejoin him.

My poor wife, although the only one of the party who had been much at sea, and generally without sickness, suffered greatly on this voyage. She struggled against it at first, but then fairly gave in, and spent most of her mornings in her state room. The children, according to their different constitutions and the thoughtlessness or energy of their characters, suffered or escaped all ailing. The

younger ones generally disregarded the nuisance: they eat, and were ill, and got well again, and played about and enjoyed the novelty of the scenes around them. Our invalid suffered least from sea sickness, and gained strength visibly in the fresh salt breeze. She was always up early on deck before breakfast, and soon acquired a tolerable footing on its heaving floor. She enjoyed carrying cups of tea or coffee to her mother's room, and showing that she could do so without spilling their contents, when, as she said, the ship "raised her bows to allow the wave to pass under her without splashing her face, or figure-head". Our eldest daughter looked after and tended all in their ailings and wants: our little Isabel amused the youngest children, and constituted herself their day nurse: the one and the other were often sick; but silently rushed away and eased themselves, and then returned to their self-appointed duties with good nature and smiles as if nothing had happened. The boys ran wild, and pretended that they were learning navigation. At nightfall, we all collected round the table in the saloon, and studied

together the American books or atlases belonging to the Captain,—in which, to our surprise, America was described first in endless district and county maps, while Europe was left to the end of the volume, and dismissed with scarcely one for each kingdom :—we studied the maps, and fancied a home for our boys in the different states, and sketched and discussed plans of houses to be built for each, with one in the centre of the location for us all to inhabit when we came to visit them, and which should always be transmitted to the head of the colony. Vain dreams, but pleasant! Where are now all those who strove for the unbuilt room which imagination allotted to each! Their lot has been already otherwise cast. But never were more cheerful castles in the air more innocently built: and never did young hearts anticipate the gaities and crowds of a festive capital, as ours looked forward to a patriarchal home in the wildernesses of the back woods!

On—on we went, pleasantly and rapidly too. We were delighted with the behaviour of our vessel, which, in a few hours, overtook and

passed everything that we came in sight of. My wife insisted that the masts were too tall, and that she must fall over on one side: and was scarcely reconciled by Captain Parsons' assurance that American ships were so built for greater speed than Europeans could attain. Young "Go-a-head", indeed, still grumbled to my boys that we did not carry sail enough: but the captain was a prudent man; and greater watchfulness could not be than he evinced in the sailing of his boat. I do not believe that, while the sun was above the horizon, he was ever more than half an hour from the wheel; and when the wind was at all high, he never left it, even during the night.

For the wind was high sometimes; and it was with an unpleasant sensation that we all woke one morning and found ourselves standing up in bed, either on our feet or on our heads, or lying across the portholes in the side, or rolling on the floors of our state-rooms; while towels and looking-glasses, that we had left hanging in all the proprieties of matter well taught to obey the centre of gravity,