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ten bears of the largest size could not deter Maturin from what he thought right. And I do assure you ~~you~~ [my] lord that we have some people on the sick-list in a very parlous state.'

'How do you mean, *parlous*?'

'Well, my lord, nip and tuck as you might say, or touch and go. And it is my impression that as soon as his assistant, Dr. Jacob, comes aboard he means to operate on a strangled hernia.'

'A twisting of the guts, my lord. The poor soul, swelling above because his shipmates feed him twice at every meal, and he shrinks below: the patient is a sailmaker's mate.'

'Well. I am sorry for him, but I am sure to have nothing to recommend but a double handful of small-shot followed by a pint of castor oil. Yet it really is a medice's business & I shall certainly leave it to them. Would it be a very bloody affair?'

'Shockingly so, I fear: though with clips and swabs we shall try to diminish the flow.'

'I might mention it to Miller. He walking miles to see the castrating of lamb and bullock -- geldings, for that matter.' The Admiral gazed up at the taut sails with unmoved pleasure. 'Now with it getting something like the full Trades, clear of the land and its turbulences,' said the Admiral, and presently he formed the whole South African squadron into the sailing order, sending his guests back to their ships in the kindest manner.

Truly, once they had sunk the land it was the purest sailing: nearly 300 miles in the first day, never touching tack nor sheet, and even the *Suffolk* kept in splendidly. How this minded them [of their] keenest navigators Hansen and Daniel, who would so have loved