

## STORM AT SEA

A terrible crash took place in the front of the ship, accompanied by a tremendous explosion and stench of sulphur; deep groans followed,- sixteen men upon the main deck were knocked down, some were apparently dead, and others groaning; relief was instantly afforded, and in about four hours after all were well again. A lightning ball had struck the fore topmast, passed into the pigsty, and through the galley [kitchen] into the waist [below decks], where it burst and overthrew seventeen men; eleven pigs in the sty before the mast were killed, belonging to the Captain; the silver buckles in the shoes of the gunner were melted into wire, and himself was knocked out of the roundhouse forward.

**Jeffrey Raigersfeld**



A scene showing shipping in a storm of Sheerness. What has happened to the sails? Why is this dangerous for the safety of the ship?

National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London

In the West Indies, the fuel made use of on board a ship is wood, among which varieties of insects are brought, such as scorpions, centipedes, and tarantulas, with now and then a few snakes; these soon begin to crawl up and down the ship, even into the hammocks, and the men frequently get stung and bit by them.

**Jeffrey Raigersfeld**