

We next sailed for a *vigia* laid down on the chart.

On the 7th November at noon we were in longitude  $18^{\circ} 20'$  W., and latitude  $3^{\circ} 30'$  N. Here we first experienced the influence of the equatorial current, and found it setting west by north at the rate of half a mile per hour. This *vigia* was not seen. I then stood for Bouvet's Sandy Isle, or its reported position. We saw nothing of it whatever. I was very desirous of continuing my search farther to the west, from the report I had seen of various vessels having experienced shocks of earthquakes, and the belief having been entertained that shoals might have been formed by them. The equatorial current having been felt, I was aware that in getting farther to the west, I should lose the opportunity of examining the locality where that distinguished navigator, Admiral Krusenstern, supposed he saw a volcano. I therefore gave up proceeding farther to the westward in this latitude, and hauled up for its position.

It was now the 9th of November; we had delightful weather; and moderate breezes from the south and east.

An amusing circumstance occurred this night. In our course we passed very near a large sail, which from the night being dark, the officer of the deck of the Porpoise mistook for the Vincennes, although sailing on a different course. He immediately, agreeably to his orders, followed the vessel, and continued after her until morning, when, to his surprise, he discovered that it was a large Dutch ship. Fortunately, I had perceived the ship pass, and conjectured, when we found the Porpoise was not in sight at daylight, the nature of the mistake. I therefore retraced my steps, and in an hour or two we again came in sight of her, then tacked and proceeded on our course. On the next day, the time being very favourable, we hove-to, to get a deep-sea sounding with the wire line, and ran out one thousand six hundred fathoms of it. On reeling it up, the wire parted, and we lost nine hundred and sixty fathoms of line, with our sounding apparatus, including one of Six's self-registering thermometers. The wire was badly prepared and ill adapted to the purpose.

On the 11th we found ourselves near the location of Krusenstern's supposed shoal, ran over the position in parallel lines, and satisfied ourselves of its non-existence.

Having now examined all the localities which were designated in my instructions, I made all sail for Rio de Janeiro.

We now found ourselves in the equatorial current, setting us west twenty-five miles in twenty-four hours.

On the nights of the 11th, 12th, and 13th, we kept a watch for the periodical showers of stars. About thirty were seen in the mid-watch