

It was my intention to pass within or to the north of the Hermit Islands into Nassau Bay, but the wind did not permit our doing so. This bay forms a large indenture in the southern coast of Terra del Fuego, a few miles to the northward of Cape Horn; it is about thirty miles east and west, by eight miles north and south, and is somewhat protected from the heavy seas by the Hermit Islands. Around the bay are found some harbours sheltered by small islands, and surrounded by precipitous rocky shores, with occasionally a small ravine forming a cove, into which streams of pure water discharge themselves, affording a safe and convenient landing-place for boats.

On the morning of the 16th, on board the *Porpoise*, Lieutenant Dale observed a remarkable parhelion, of which he made the annexed sketch.



PARHELION.

The upper is the true sun, the lower the mock sun. They were of equal size, and nearly of the same brightness. The latter was about a diameter below the former. The sun's altitude was 8° . At the same altitude, and $21^{\circ} 40'$ south of it, was another mock sun, showing prismatic colours towards the sun, and with a brush of light in opposition. No halo or arc was seen. The whole disappeared in about fifteen minutes. The masthead temperature was not noted on board the *Porpoise*; but according to that of the *Vincennes*, there was a difference of five degrees in temperature at the time between the deck and the masthead, showing a state of atmosphere favourable to this phenomenon. Barometer 29.55 in., temperature 42° .

In passing the cape, the weather was delightful. We sailed within two miles of this dreaded promontory, and could not but admire its