

immediately got under way with the squadron, and succeeded in making an offing. As we opened the land to the southward, my view and thoughts wandered in that direction, hoping that still, and at the last moment, the missing tender might heave in sight. But no white speck was seen, nor any thing that could cause a ray of hope that she might yet be in existence; and my fears foreboded what has since proved too true,—she and her crew had perished.

On the second day after leaving Valparaiso, we had a fresh gale from the northward, accompanied with much sea. During the night, in thick weather, we lost sight of the Peacock and Flying-Fish. On the 9th we got beyond the wind, which blows along the coast from the northward, and our weather improved, exchanging fog, rain, mist, and contrary winds, for clear weather, and winds from the southwest.

The current was found west-by-north, nine miles in twenty-four hours. The wind, however, continued variable. On the 12th, in longitude $74^{\circ} 40' W.$, latitude $28^{\circ} 34' S.$, we took the trades, but they proved very unsteady. They were very strong for a few hours, and then again light and almost calm, with squally appearances all around the horizon. The sea was quite smooth, and the weather pleasant. During the days that the trade-winds were not strong, we usually had the wind to vary to the northward and eastward for a few hours.

On the morning of the 19th, the zodiacal light was quite brilliant, resembling the aurora borealis, but without its radiating, vacillating, and transitory appearance, and having the form of a distinct narrow cone. At its base it was 20° ; the apex could not be ascertained, on account of the intervention of clouds. As the dawn increased, the cone grew broader, until it was lost in the daylight. Its whole duration was about forty-five minutes. The stars were seen through it, as though covered with a transparent veil. On the same day, we found the temperature at bottom, in eighty-three fathoms, 57° , whilst at the surface it was 63° . We were then abreast of Point Sola, and San Lorenzo bore to the north, distant twenty-five miles.

On the 20th, in the evening, we passed through the Bouqueron Passage, having got several casts of the lead in three and a quarter fathoms water; and by the assistance of the lights of the other vessels, anchored near the rest of the squadron at San Lorenzo, after a passage of thirteen days. We found them all well, and proceeding rapidly with their repairs. The Peacock and Flying-Fish arrived two days before us. We found the current generally with us, but not strong. The temperature of the water varied at sea from 58.27° to 66.5° ; that of the air, from 57.3° to 63.04° : a rise of eight degrees in the former and six degrees in the latter, in twenty-one degrees of latitude.