

remarkable appearance of the sea, observed by him during a voyage from Johanna to Bombay. About eight o'clock in the evening of the 31st of July, 1785, the sea had a milk-white colour, and was illuminated by a multitude of luminous bodies, greatly resembling the combination of stars known as the milky way, the luminous substances representing the brighter stars of a constellation. The whiteness, he says, was such as to prevent those on board from seeing either the break or swell of the sea, although, from the motion of the ship and the noise, they knew them to be violent, and the light was sufficiently intense to illuminate the ropes and rigging. This singular phenomenon continued until daylight appeared. Several buckets of water were drawn, and in them were found a great number of luminous bodies, from a quarter of an inch to an inch and a half in length, and these were seen to move about as worms in the water. There might be, says Dr. Buchanan, four hundred of these animals in a gallon of water. A similar appearance had been observed before in the same sea by several of the officers, and the gun had seen it off Java Head in a voyage to China.

TEMPERATURE OF THE SEA.

The ocean has not always the same temperature in the same latitude. Within the tropics there is little or no difference between the temperature of the northern and southern hemispheres; but, as we approach the poles, the temperature is less for any degree of latitude in the northern than the southern. In eighty degrees north latitude ice generally melts in the month of May, though it remains all the year round in sixty degrees south latitude. Ice also extends nearly eight degrees farther from the south pole than it does from the north, for icebergs have been found as low as forty-eight degrees south latitude. This greater decrease of temperature in the southern hemisphere has been attributed to the almost entire absence of land in the antarctic circle, whereas the arctic sea is almost surrounded by land. Peron invented an instrument, which he called a thermo-barometer, for the measurement of the temperature of the ocean; and from a great number of experiments, deduced a series of singular results; but some of these have been controverted by Humboldt. Peron states, that in the neighbourhood of islands or continents, the temperature of the water is always higher