

rent tube is left still united to the cloud that rose from the sea. This, however, is at last broken, and the phenomenon disappears.

The Honourable Captain Napier has made some remarks, in the Philosophical Journal, upon a phenomenon of the same kind which he observed, and upon the probable cause of the appearance. On the 6th of September, 1814, in latitude $30^{\circ} 47'$ north, and longitude by chronometer $62^{\circ} 40'$ west, at half past one, P. M., the wind being variable between W. N. W. and N. N. E, the ship steering S. E., an extraordinary sort of whirlwind was observed to form about three cables' length from the starboard bow of H. M. ship Erne. It carried the water up along with it in a cylindrical form, in diameter to appearance like a water-butt, gradually rising in height, increasing in bulk, advancing in a southerly direction, and when at the distance of a mile from the ship it continued stationary for several minutes, boiling and foaming at the base, discharging an immense column of water, with a rushing or hissing noise, into the overhanging clouds, turning itself with a quick spiral motion, constantly bending and straightening, according as it was affected by the variable winds, which now prevailed alternately from all points of the compass. It next returned to the northward, in direct opposition to the then prevailing wind, and right upon the ship's starboard beam, whose course was altered to east, in hopes of letting it pass astern. Its approach, however, was so rapid, that we were obliged to resort to the usual expedient of a broadside, for the purpose of averting any danger that might be apprehended, when, after firing several shots, and one in particular having passed right through it at the distance of one third from its base, it appeared for a minute as if cut horizontally in two parts, the divisions waving to and fro in different directions, as agitated by opposite winds, till they again joined for a time, and at last dissipated in an immense dark cloud and shower of rain. At the time of its being separated by the effect of the shot, or, more probably, by the agitation occasioned in the air by the discharge of several guns, its base was considerably within half a mile of the ship, covering a portion of the surface of the water at least half a furlong, or even three hundred feet, in diameter, from one extreme circumference of ebullition to the other; and the neck of the cloud into which it discharged itself appeared