

opportunity of settling the origin of this plant, which is spread over the whole ocean; but my time did not permit me to make this deviation from our direct course, and I hoped on my return to have ample leisure for its exploration.

On the 29th of September, we passed into discoloured water, as green in appearance as that of fifty fathoms depth. On entering it the thermometer fell one and a half to two degrees. The distance run in it was about four hundred and fifty miles. Repeated casts of the deep sea lead were had in from two to three hundred fathoms, but no bottom found. The water was particularly examined for animalculæ, but none were detected. On leaving it a rise of temperature took place of two degrees; and much phosphorescence was seen when we had passed out of it.

The first shoal searched for was the Maria Rock, said to be in latitude $19^{\circ} 45' N.$, and longitude $20^{\circ} 50' W.$ In its neighbourhood our position was carefully ascertained. The vessels were then spread in open order, and a course sailed to pass directly over the spot. The surface of the ocean visible was not less than twenty miles in latitude with every opportunity which clear weather could afford. Good look-outs were kept at the masthead, and there was a sufficient swell to cause breakers on any shoal within fifteen feet of the surface. We ran over the locality without perceiving any thing that indicated a shoal.

The situation of the Bom Felix Shoal, laid down about ten leagues to the south of the above, was passed over in the same manner, sounding repeatedly for bottom with three hundred fathoms of line, but no appearance of a shoal was observed.

The reported position of the Bonetta Rocks next claimed our attention, in latitude $16^{\circ} 32' N.$, and longitude $20^{\circ} 57' W.$ After this locality had been well examined, a course was steered over its supposed bearing from Bonavista, one of the Cape de Verde Islands. The vessels of the squadron sounding every half hour during the night, which was clear and bright moonlight.*

On the night of the 6th of October, we hove to off the island of St. Jago. Seldom have we seen the sea exhibit so much phospho-

* Since our examination, I have seen a letter from the American consul at Porto Praya, F. Gardiner, Esq., detailing the wreck of the British ship Charlotte in 1841, and placing this shoal in latitude $16^{\circ} 17' N.$, longitude $22^{\circ} 21' W.$, 84' in longitude and 15' in latitude from the position I searched for it in; whence it appears that it is the same reef on which the Magdelaine was lost. I have no kind of doubt but that they ought all to be referred to the Hartwell Reef. The same gentleman was confident at the time I saw him that the Magdelaine had been lost on the reef of that name.