shoal water, or danger of any kind. Here we experienced westerly winds, and took advantage of them to make easting. After we had lost the trades, in latitude 12° N., I observed, when the upper stratum of clouds could be seen, that they were passing from east-northeast, with rapidity to the westward.

We now ran for the French Shoal, in latitude 4° 5′ N., longitude 20° 35′ W. Here the wind inclined to the southward, and we proceeded as far east as longitude 13° W., passing over the two positions laid down by the French and English hydrographers, but saw nothing of it.

We now tacked to the southward, to cross the equator in longitude 17° W. The weather had changed, the rains which we had experienced at night ceased, and the extremely indistinct atmosphere which at times had prevailed for the last fortnight, disappeared. It is difficult to describe the peculiar effect this haziness produced. It seemed to me an effect the opposite of that of looming, apparently diminishing all objects. Although the horizon was seen, yet the sea and sky were so blended together, that it was difficult for the eye to fix upon or define it at any moment. It was impossible to use the dip sector. At the same time it was perfectly clear over head, with a bright sun, and the upper cirrus clouds, when seen, were in rapid motion to the westward.

The quantity of rain that fell between 9° 30′ and 5° north latitude, was 6·15 inches during ten days. The greatest fall in twenty-four hours was 1·95 inches. The temperature of the rain on several trials varied from 69° to 72°, that of the air being at the time 77°.

The nights were now beautiful until near morning, when it generally clouded over, and remained overcast with flying clouds until evening. The zodiacal light was once or twice observed, but the presence of these clouds for the most part prevented it from being seen.

On the 29th, in latitude 3° 40′ N., our observations gave a current of ten miles in twenty-four hours, to the north. Until the 3d of November we had light winds; the upper stratum of clouds was now seen moving from the east. On the 4th we had a cry of breakers from the masthead. We immediately changed our course and ran for the appearance, but it proved on nearing it to have been one of the many optical illusions seen at sea, from the effect of light and shadow.

On board the Peacock, on the 30th of October, in latitude 1° 30′ N., longitude 18° W., they witnessed a remarkable appearance, resembling the aurora borealis, radiating from the northwest point of the horizon in different directions, and extending from southwest round by the north to the eastward, at an altitude of from 10° to 50°; afterwards