

sun cast a red tint, that barely rendered them visible. The horizon, with this exception, appeared clear and well defined. The spurs or brushes of light frequently reached the zenith, converging to a point near it.

Although no clouds could be seen in the direction of the aurora, before or after its appearance, yet when it was first seen, there appeared clouds, of the form of massive cumuli, tinged with pale yellow, and behind them arose brilliant red, purple, orange, and yellow tints, streaming upwards in innumerable radiations, with all the shades that a combination of these colours could effect. In its most brilliant state it lasted about twenty minutes. The gold-leaf electrometer was tried, but without being affected: the instrument, however, was not very sensitive. Being somewhat surprised at the vast mass of cumuli which appeared during the continuance of the aurora, I watched after its disappearance till daylight, but could see only a few clouds: I am therefore inclined to impute the phenomenon to some deception caused by the light of the aurora. The apparent altitude of these clouds was 8° .

On the 10th we were again favoured by the weather; it gave us a fine sunshine, and an opportunity of airing the ship and drying the clothes. All the sick were improving in health.

Running close along the barrier, which continued of the same character, although more broken than yesterday, we saw an appearance of land, although indistinctly, to the southward. The water was of the same colour here as before, and the wind being from the south-southeast, we made some progress, and found ourselves in longitude $122^{\circ} 35'$ E., latitude $65^{\circ} 27'$ S.: the variation had now increased to $44^{\circ} 30'$ westerly. No aurora was seen this night, although it was looked for anxiously.

11th. The barometer had been stationary at 29.080 in. for the last three days: it now began to fall; the temperature of the air was 31° , of the water 32° . The fall of the barometer was soon followed by snow and thick weather. The trending of the barrier had been south-west-by-west, and a good deal of floe-ice had been met with, which we ran through. The sea was quite smooth, and many icebergs were enclosed in the barrier, which was very compact and composed of flat fields. At 10 P. M., I found it too dark to run, and hove-to.

During the 12th we had pleasant weather, and at 2 A. M. filled away. At 8 A. M., land was reported to the southwest. Keeping along the barrier and increasing our latitude, I again had hopes of getting near the land. We passed through great quantities of large floe-ice until 1