

Peacock was made out on the southern board, showing no disposition to communicate; showed our colours, and hauled to the westward.

24th. The day was remarkably fine, such as is seldom experienced in this region. The water appeared much discoloured and of a dirty olive-green colour. At meridian, they again made the field-ice, and tacked to the northward, passing through large quantities of ice-islands; weather looking bad, with occasional light snow-storms.

25th. Part of this day was clear and pleasant, though snow fell at intervals; the field-ice was in sight several times, and many ice-islands of great size and beauty. Penguins were swimming round, and also several shoals of black-fish; a black albatross was shot; towards night the weather became very thick; they were in longitude 150° E., latitude $65^{\circ} 56'$ S.

26th. Fresh winds blowing from the eastward; during the first few hours, a thick snow-storm; at 4 A. M. it cleared; at six o'clock made a sail; the strange sail fired a gun and made signal, when we bore down and spoke her; she proved to be the Vincennes; compared chronometers, and received rate; bore off to the westward under all sail; found the drift and floe-ice very thick, and were with great difficulty enabled to navigate through it; wind fresh, with a long swell from the southwest; at 5^h 30^m, the ice increasing in quantity, found it was necessary to haul off. Lost sight of the Vincennes; weather very threatening. The course during the day proved a very tortuous one; many penguins resting on the ice; their gait is an awkward kind of strut.

Received orders to-day by signal to meet the Vincennes along the icy barrier between the 20th and 28th of next month.

27th. This day proved clear and cold; wind from the southwest; ice forming rapidly on the vessel; at meridian, lost sight of the Vincennes; very many ice-islands in sight; latitude $65^{\circ} 41'$ S., longitude $142^{\circ} 31'$ E. On this day, Lieutenant-Commandant Ringgold determined with the fair wind to pass to the extreme limit of his orders, longitude 105° E.; being of opinion he would thereby save time, and be enabled more effectually to examine the barrier with what he thought would be found the prevailing wind, viz.: that from the westward; in this, however, he was mistaken.

The 28th set in with a light breeze from east-northeast; made all sail; at 5 A. M., wind increasing rapidly, snow falling fast, and weather becoming thick; at six o'clock, made the floe and drift-ice; shortened sail, and hauled off to the northwest, it becoming so thick as to render any advance unsafe; until meridian, very strong winds from the east-