

After passing longitude 140° E., or to the westward of it, we experienced fine weather, with southeast winds and occasional snow-squalls, lasting but ten or fifteen minutes, and a dry healthy atmosphere.

The barometer, during our stay on the coast, was always indicative of wind by its depression, and was a true guide. Its mean standing was 28 in. The temperature surprised me: we seldom, if ever, had it above 30°, even in the sun at mid-day, and I do not think that three times it was found above 35°.

Gales come on very suddenly, and are always attended with snow, sleet, and thick fogs, rendering it extremely hazardous; for one must be found, when they do come, more or less surrounded with ice-islands. They sometimes last for thirty-six hours. After they set in, you may calculate that they will blow strong for at least half that time. The nearer you are to the land, the more violent they are, though not of such long duration. Fine weather usually precedes them, and we found them to happen and the weather to be more changeable near the full and change, although I am no believer in the lunar influences upon the weather.

CURRENTS.—During the whole of our stay along the icy coast, we found no perceptible current by the reckoning and current log. During a gale of wind I was induced to believe that some existed, from the short sea that was formed, thinking there was more than was to be expected. *Tides* on such an extent of coast there undoubtedly must be, but of little strength, or we should have perceived them.

In many of the icy bays we were stationary for a sufficient time to perceive them if they had been of any magnitude, and where the current was repeatedly tried.

The winds have their effect upon the loose drift-ice, or that which is detached from the icy barrier. Owing to a change of wind from southeast to north, with a fresh breeze, the Peacock became embayed, and the ice forced in upon her, which brought about the accident. The northerly winds are always accompanied with a heavy swell, and her escape is attributable to a rare exercise of good seamanship and perseverance. If Captain Hudson's ship had been as strong as adamant itself, he is of opinion she would have been ground to atoms by a longer exposure; her stem was abraded to within an inch and a half of the wood-ends.

There are places in which the barrier is within the floe-ice several miles. I enclose you the mean temperature during the summer months.

You will see there is but little chance of the ice melting or disap-