During the aurora, a single squall of light hail passed over the ship.

After a rough and boisterous passage north, we anchored within the Heads at Sydney, on the night of the 21st of February.

The officers and crew have all enjoyed good health, indeed, we have been for some days past without a man on the sick-list; and it affords me great pleasure again to bear testimony to the zeal and efficiency of the officers and men in the performance of their various duties.

I feel quite confident we shall have completed our repairs, and be ready to leave Sydney, in about three weeks.

<div style="text-align:center">I am, sir, most respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed)   Wm. L. Hudson,
Commander.</div>

To J. K. Paulding, Esq.,
  Secretary of the Navy.

<div style="text-align:right">U. S. Ship Peacock,
Sydney, New South Wales,
March 12th, 1840.</div>

Sir,—

The foregoing report was prepared for the Honourable Secretary of the Navy, immediately after my arrival in port, but no conveyance having offered, I take leave to address it to you as commander of the squadron; availing myself of the occasion to add, that we fell in with the first ice, on our passage south, in the latitude of 61° 32' S., longitude 161° E., and made the barrier on the 15th of January, in the latitude of 65° 53' S., longitude 159° E., and followed its trendings as far as 67° S., and 150° E.

Our compasses were at the time exceedingly sluggish, and gave no evidence of the ship changing her position, unless kept in continual agitation by shaking.

Immediately after my arrival at this port, I commenced the repairs of the Peacock, which are now so far advanced that I shall be ready for such duties as you may assign me by the 25th of the present month.

The Peacock, as you have seen, has been considerably strained; and we have found on examination while repairing, that after her gripe was beaten off, the ice had chafed the stem to within one inch and a half of the wood-ends of the planking.

I trust my efforts to carry out your orders, and the course I have pursued in returning to Sydney, and expediting the repairs of the ship,