

safety demands. Although such may be the case, it ought not to lessen the gratitude that navigators owe him for his East India Directory, a contribution to nautical information that cannot well be surpassed, either for general accuracy, or as regards the great number of satisfactory directions that it contains.

On the morning of the 6th, we again got under way, the men exhibiting their joy in taking this first real step on their homeward course, by running up the anchor quickly to the bows, and by the alacrity with which they performed their other duties. With a light wind from the eastward, we stood into the Indian Ocean, between the islands of Pulo Bessy and Crockatoa; the day was a delightful one, and being Sunday, when no unessential duty was performed, there was leisure to enjoy it. After divine service, the wind shifted to the northward and westward, and towards night we experienced severe squalls from that quarter, accompanied by lightning and torrents of rain. In the intervals between the gusts, the wind blew freshly, and on the morning of the 7th we found ourselves fairly launched on the blue waters of the ocean, pursuing rapidly our homeward course.

We were now truly on our route for home, and finding that the brigs detained us by their slower rate of sailing, I determined to part company with them, having some days previously given them directions what course to pursue in such an event: these will be found in Appendix XIV. We accordingly made all the sail that could be carried, and soon left them behind us. As we proceeded to the southward, the wind gradually hauled to the westward, and continued blowing strongly from that quarter until the 10th, on which day we reached the latitude of 14° S., and longitude 100° E.

The 11th was the first fine day since our departure from the straits; and on this day we had some slight indications that we should be favoured with the trades. On trying the temperature of the water, one hundred fathoms deep, we found it to differ from that at the surface only six degrees.

On the 12th, we had reached latitude 17° S., and longitude 98° E. The weather was now delightful, and we experienced the long swells of the ocean from the southward and eastward, together with moderate breezes from the same quarter. I determined now to run on that parallel of latitude; for I believed, judging from my experience in other seas, that steady trade-winds were more likely to prevail on it than farther to the southward.

On the 13th, we overtook an English barque. At this time, the crew began to be affected with catarrhs and influenza, and thirty-