

As we were getting under way, it became evident that many of the seamen had obtained supplies of grog from the shore, in spite of all the precautionary measures that had been taken. One, in consequence, fell from the main-top, but, fortunately for him, while falling, struck a portion of the rigging, and was thus canted into the sea, from which he was picked up uninjured. When the anchor was up we bore away to the northward, under all sail, with a favourable breeze.

As we passed through the tropics, many opportunities were afforded us for viewing the zodiacal light, both in the morning and the evening. Its general appearance was that of a well-defined cone, whose height, as marked by the stars, remained nearly constant at 40° elevation, and at the base 15° . Its first appearance after sunset was like a broad semicircular band of light, the brightness of which increased as the evening closed in, when its shape became that of a well-defined cone. The light was sometimes equally diffused, and at others appeared as if radiating through the cone. Its intensity varied from a light equal to that given by a bright aurora to that of a comet, the centre of the cone being often the least brilliant; and during a partially cloudy evening it was sometimes so bright as to obscure stars of the second magnitude. Its appearance in the morning was better defined than in the evening, and the light was more of a blue than a yellow tint; the altitude of the cone was greater, and its base of less extent. As we changed our latitude, the position of the apex of the cone remained stationary, but its inclination varied. For further information on these phenomena, I must refer the reader to the volume on Physics.

On the 9th of May, we crossed the magnetic equator in latitude $9^{\circ} 20' S.$, and in longitude $16^{\circ} 40' W.$

I had been led to expect in approaching the equator that we should encounter strong currents setting to the north and westward, but our observations showed that the current was slight and flowing to the south and westward. On the 10th of May we were set forty-five miles N. $85^{\circ} W.$; the difference of temperature between the surface water and that at one hundred fathoms depth, was fifteen degrees. On the 11th we experienced no current, neither had we any on the 12th or 13th. On the 14th, the current set us S. $72^{\circ} W.$, thirty two miles; and on reading the deep-sea thermometer, I thought that some mistake must have been made, as it had fallen since the last observation eight degrees. A second trial was therefore made; but the result was the same, making the difference between the surface temperature and that at one hundred fathoms, nearly twenty-four degrees.