

masts or sails ; still he must carry sail through these variables in order to get across the Equator.

Rain falls sometimes in torrents, and now is the time to save water for washing and drinking. Awnings are spread for this purpose, and we soon fill up our water casks with good, pure rain-water. But at length we get fairly out of the calms and variables, and reach the south-east trade winds. These winds invariably blow from the south-east all the year round, extending from a few degrees south of the equator to the 30th parallel of south latitude. They are much steadier than the north-east trades, seldom veering more than two or three points of the compass. We are now what is called close-hauled, being obliged to stand across the trades instead of making a fair wind of them, as we have to go considerably to the westward out of our track.

As we dash through the water stretching towards the coast of Brazil, the weather still keeps mild and warm, but getting further south every day, we soon begin to feel the nights colder, although the weather continues clear and fine. At length we reach the limits or southern edge of the trades, and have made enough of south latitude to fetch the Coast of Africa. We tack to the eastward and make for our desired