

denly becalmed, but the current carried us, as we found the next day, with the velocity of $48\frac{1}{2}$ miles in 12 hours to 72° north.

On the 17th, lat. $32^{\circ} 40'$, long. $325^{\circ} 36'$, we were assailed by a violent gust of wind, which nearly threw our masts over-board, accompanied by thunder, lightning, and rain.

On the 30th, the weather having been stormy for several days, we entered Table-bay, and came to anchor. During the night we had so violent a storm, that we were obliged to throw out a second anchor. A pilot brought us now to anchor at the usual place, and I immediately went on-shore to pay my respects to Lord Amherst, but who was then in the country.

On the 1st of April, I went on-shore to visit Lord Somerset, at his country-seat. In the evening a storm began, which became so violent that it was impossible to return to the ships, although they lay only fifty fathoms from shore.

On the 3rd, the storm still continued; and it was impossible to go out in the street. My boat in the harbour was carried away, and great damage done to the shipping. When the storm was over, I went on-board, and found the ship covered with sand, which the spray of the sea had entirely crystallized. The barometer, which here never indicates a S.E. storm, stood, when this began, upon $31^{\circ} 00'$, and during the height rose to $31^{\circ} 10'$.

On the 4th, the weather being very fine again, I visited the corvette l'Uranie, Capt. Freycenet, who lay here outward-bound, on a voyage of discovery. He had an engine on-board for distilling sea-water, to qualify it for drinking. This engine, which takes up a space of twenty feet in breadth, and ten feet in width and height, was placed in the fore-part of the hold; it produces, in one day, water enough for 130 men, during three days, and consumes but a trifling quantity of coal.

On the 5th, I dined with Lord Somerset, at his country-seat, where I became acquainted with the worthy Colonel Warre; with whom I rode the next day to Constantia. On our return, I noticed many small pretty birds, resembling the humming-bird, of which the colonel told me the following peculiarity, which he had frequently witnessed himself in his journeys to the interior. When the Hottentots follow a bee for the purpose of discovering their hive, this bird, which seems to know their intention, assists them in the chase, and indicates to them, by whistling, when he has found the hive; the Hottentots, when they have taken out the honey, regularly give the bird (which they call the honey-eater) his share of the booty.

The 15th.—On the 8th we had left Cape Town. On the