

these climes, I need scarcely apologize for mentioning the novel beauty of the evening of this day. At a quarter past ten the sun set: the sky over-head was of the purest azure, here and there sprinkled with light silvery clouds of the most fantastic forms. At about mid-heaven, in the western sky, a range of purple clouds, edged with vivid gold, formed a delightful contrast with the softened crimson of the setting sun. In opposition to this glowing scene, the eastern heavens were filled with heavy clouds of a brilliant whiteness, and cold appearance, backed by a clear blue sky. The calm sea exhibited, in a softened degree, the beauties above it, and its surface was occasionally ruffled by the rapid motions of large shoals of porpoises, attended by multitudes of birds. The ships lay motionless together, and their bells alone broke the universal stillness. This delightful evening far excelled, in my opinion, any Italian sun set; but the presence of two large ice-bergs reminded us but too well that we were in a far different climate.

On the 17th a heavy gale came on from the southward; during which a sea stove and carried away one of our quarter boats. With but little abatement in the wind we came amongst a quantity of loose ice on the morning of the 18th, and at 9 A. M. in lat. 60°. 53 N. long. 61°. 39 W., we made the pack, or main body of ice, having many large bergs in and near it. As the transport was liable to injury from the ice during this fresh weather, we stood off from it again.

The pack edge was in a straight line, and presented the appearance of a low rugged wall. The morning was gloomy, and the wind which set on to the ice kept it in continual motion: snow fell occasionally, and a slight coating of ice formed on the rigging. Over the pack I observed, for the first time, the luminous appearance called the blink, which, although very white, was not of course to be compared with the body by which it was caused. Flocks of divers and gulls swam with unconcern amongst the rolling masses by which they were surrounded, and occasionally rising to avoid