

on account of the excessive heat which they suppose to incessantly prevail there; but we as yet have suffered little from the heat. True, at this season of the year the sun is over the tropic of Capricorn; consequently, we are over 20° distant from the vertical rays of the sun, and may therefore expect greater degree of heat yet.

*Monday, January 2nd, 1860. S. Lat. 1° 38'; 28° 55' W. Long.*—Another year, with all its toils, trials, disappointments, joys and pleasures, is no more,—no more for ever. To us it has been one of the most eventful through which we have passed. We rejoice in its toils and trials but we tremble as we contemplate the position in which it has placed us. The decision of the past year is hastening us from that land we love to call our native country, to the scenes where we hope to spend the rest of our probation on earth.—There we are either to bring the frowns of the Divine Countenance upon us through our unfaithfulness, and the disgrace we shall bring upon His name and cause, or we shall gain the approbation of heaven by being instrumental in dispelling moral darkness, destroying the strongholds of Satan's dominions and giving liberty to sin-bound souls, and eternal joy to those who are on the brink of eternal woe. In the position in which the past year has placed us, when viewed in the light of God's glory and the happiness of immortal spirits here and hereafter, there is much—very much, to impress the mind, and to awaken in the bosom the deepest solicitude as to the result. May He whose cause we are going to advance, ever keep before our minds just and large views of the relation we sustain to His glory and this poor, suffering, dying world. And now in entering upon a new year, we would anew consecrate ourselves to the service of our Master, and supplicate the Hearer of prayer, that we may experience His power—enjoy the smiles of his countenance—follow in the steps of His dear Son—and keep what has been entrusted to us “by the Holy Ghost dwelling in us.” during the year that is now before us.

Saturday night, just as the old year expired, we crossed the Equator—rather an uncommon coincidence. We had quite a merry time. I doubt not, but the new year received quite as hearty

and cheery a welcome from our little home on the deep, as it received from your towns and villages. We had fifeing, fiddling, dancing, orations—some splendid pieces well performed. Senatorial, Comic, Aboriginal, and pathetic pieces, Dialogues, Songs, &c. They continued these amusements, until midnight, when with three cheers for the new year, and three for the Captain and mate, they wound up the whole proceedings, and retired to rest. How dark and ungrateful is the carnal mind! What a return for Divine favor and goodness during the past year; and what preparation for the year coming! It was painful to us to see the evening—so calculated to awaken serious reflections, and to call to devotional exercises spent in such a vain, sinful manner. But we had no control over these lovers of pleasure. All that was in our power, was to moan over their folly, and to pray that He would look down in mercy upon those who appear to have no sense of Divine goodness, preservation and justice.

*Saturday, 7th, South Lat. 17° 31'.*—Thermometer 82° in shade—104° in sun. Still in the S. E. trade winds. The winds are mostly directly a-head of our course. Hence we are sailing S. by W. and S. S. W. and S. W. This has brought us quite close to South America. We passed Cape St. Roque at about a distance of 240 miles. The winds are fine and we are making excellent progress.

*Monday, 9th, S. Lat. 20° 38'.*—Fine gales. Sun's altitude at noon 90°. So we are now under the vertical rays of a tropical sun. It appears strange to us, who have lived in high latitudes, to see men walking the decks in the clear sun; and yet making no shadow. Yesterday we saw a water spout at some distance. It was a most splendid one, and came with great rapidity, directly for our ship. As there was scarce a breath of wind, the officers were becoming quite uneasy. But happily, ere it reached us, it broke, dispelling our fears. As you not long since, have been favored, with a minute and accurate description of one of these strange and most magnificent phenomena, it will not be necessary for me to add anything respecting it.

*Tuesday, Crossed the Tropic of Capricorn.* We are now in the South Temperate Zone. We have now got