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towards the south by a great arch somewhat resembling a Gothic window. The sloping platform was strewn with blocks of ice, fragments, probably, of its surrounding walls. As it was in the direction in which we intended or expected to proceed, we hoped to get a nearer view of it. The crew amused themselves this afternoon with jumping-matches on the snow, and dancing reels on the ice, to which I added darting at a mark with the gaffs, till the captain put a stop to that part of it by begging us not to spoil any more of his gaffs. By an amplitude observed at sunset this evening with my prismatic compass, I found the variation to be as nearly 38° as possible. The sunset was clear and beautiful, lighting up the icebergs with hues of liquid gold and rose colour; and at night the aurora was very fine, having, in addition to the appearance I have already described, a diffused yellow light over the whole heavens, except the south. On looking at the zenith there appeared to be a slight radiation from, or rather an apparent convergence to it, produced by perspective.

April 2nd.—A most lovely morning, with a light breeze from the west. Unmoored and