

by the advice of Charles Paxton, one of the most experienced men belonging to the Pactolus, and formerly master of a trading schooner; but the navigation and charge of the Post-boy were to be entirely in my hands. At half-past one P.M. I parted company from the frigate and proceeded on my voyage with a strong N.W. wind.

On examining the prize, I found her in great confusion, with so much lumber on deck that the men were employed until dusk stowing it below. The night turned out fine, and when I went to bed, at four o'clock the following morning, the breeze was quite moderate and favourable.

By noon, on the 10th, it was nearly calm. We set up the fore rigging, which was dangerously slack, and did everything in our power to put the vessel in good order. A tolerable observation of the sun's meridian altitude gave latitude 34 deg. 2 min. North, longitude 69 deg. 52 min. West, our run being 98 miles on a S. by E. course. Soon after one o'clock P.M. a light breeze sprung up from S.E. At six o'clock P.M. the wind shifted to S.W.—squally, with heavy rain. It increased rapidly, obliging us, before ten o'clock, to take in all sail, except the reefed foresail, and by midnight it was blowing a gale from S.W. by S.

The weather, on the 11th December, was more moderate till noon, when the wind again increased, with much rain. No observation could be taken for the latitude; but, allowing for the little progress we had made since noon the previous day, Bermuda bore, by my calculation, E. by S. 270 miles distant. At two o'clock P.M. the rain somewhat abated, but the wind still blew excessively hard. Lying-to under the