

across the trackless Atlantic without encountering a little of the rage and fury of its deceitful bosom. On the evening of the 10th, the day we saw the icebergs the atmosphere became overclouded and the wind after shifting round to the north-west began to blow rather stormy.

There was now every appearance of bad weather approaching and indeed before morning the wind from blowing hard increased to a regular gale, and for the space of eighteen days we scarcely did anything else than beat about against contrary winds, and a most tremendous sea running "mountains high." I have known the winds to blow pretty hard on land sometimes, but here out on the open sea with nothing to break its force, it came with tenfold the power it has on land. Several times we were obliged to have every sail furled and even then the naked masts would bend like reeds.

On the 28th April it blew a most tremendous gale, with thunder and lightning and very heavy hail, but our vessel rode it out in gallant style, hardly shipping any water except in the evening through the fault of the man at the helm, who contrived to run the head of the vessel into an immense wave which overflowed the whole of the deck, set the water casks afloat, and sent a few hogsheads down the fore hatch which happened to be left open, frightening and drenching some of the steerage people. In the evening of this day I beheld a very beautiful meteor in the south-east. It was of a bright blue colour at first and after running a short course in the heavens gradually faded into red and then vanished. We constantly had the bird called the Stormy Petrel, by the sailors Mother Carey's Chicken, following in the wake of our ship; sometimes making short trips on the ocean skimming up and down the surface of the water, rising and sinking with the waves, and then returning back again to the stern of the vessel. This bird had a great resemblance to the martin and might easily be mistaken for that bird. Their manner of flying is very much the same. They are of a dark brown color, shaded with black on the back and wings, and a pure white on the rump. They follow in the wake of the vessel for the purpose of picking up any bits of bread or biscuit or any grease that may be thrown overboard. They are very easily caught with a piece of dark coloured string and a small hook baited with a piece of pork, or another way is merely to tie a small piece of wood at the end of a black thread and let it drag after the vessel. The birds come flying around the wood to see what it is doing; they fly against the thread and entangle their wings and you have only to pull them in, but they are harmless little creatures and no use after you get them, so that catching them would not do for me. According to the sailors they are the constant forerunners of a storm but we had them more or less the greater part of the voyage, and for two or three days

*(To be continued).*