

We were very busy throughout the evening in preparing two soda-water bottles, hermetically sealed, with little flags stuck on the top of them to attract attention, and surrounded by carefully prepared triangular rafts to enable them to float. Each bottle contained a small roll of paper, on which was written the following inscription :

Yacht *SUNBEAM*, R.Y.S. SIR THOMAS BRASSEY, K.C.B., M.P., Owner and Commander.

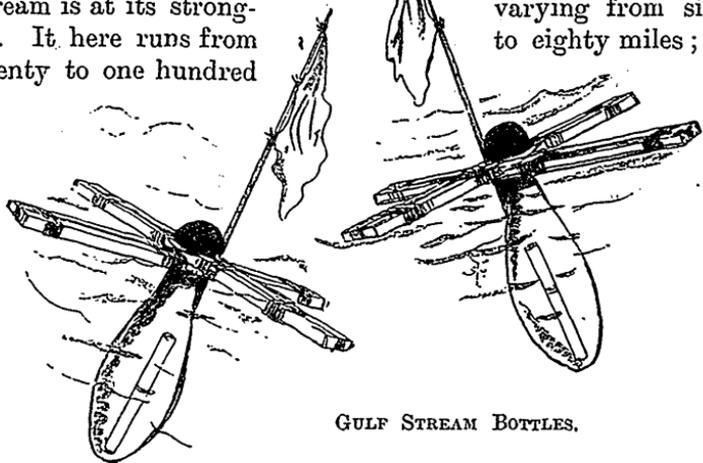
Off Cape Florida, November 18th, 1883. Lat. 25° 4' N.; Long. 30° 10' W.

ALL WELL ON BOARD. FORTY-TWO SOULS; ALL TOLD.

FIVE POUNDS REWARD to any one sending this paper to SIR THOMAS BRASSEY, Civil Lord of the Admiralty, Whitehall, London; with details of latitude and longitude, and date of where picked up.

We propose to throw the bottles over where the current of the Gulf Stream is at its strongest. It here runs from twenty to one hundred

and twenty miles a day; the rate at this time of the year varying from sixty to eighty miles; its



GULF STREAM BOTTLES.

greatest strength being attained in September; its least in May.

*Monday, November 19th.*—At 3.30 a.m. I went on deck to see the Gun Cay lighthouse, another fine, revolving, red light, on a tower eighty feet above the sea, and visible fourteen miles off. Behind it is a favourite shelter for wreckers. From the top of the deck-house we could also see in the sky the gleam of the fixed light on Cape Florida, the southernmost point of North America. From the masthead the light itself could be discerned. The passage between the mainland and the Cay is not very wide—about fifty miles—and there are many rocks and shoals in the intervening space. Just before daybreak we