

sea: it is delightful prospect of a quantity of land to prove that the ships are here near Cape Verd, and the deck; one struck his nose

and long. 20° under change-together, with is. Notwithstanding none on the

we saw three fell in the water and lost themselves. on the ship. wishing how so may conclude near land from

we had the real that we were

had driven us engaged its direct. We also to be situated, which makes me the East-Indies. Two official longitudes of the English be little vari-

we crossed the preparations for after the ship order, she was themselves in the sphere into the stroke of eight, saluted with gun in our best

wine, and the sailors in good punch. This being done, Neptune bade us welcome in the south, and baptized every one who had touched the equator for the first time, myself being the only one exempt from this ceremony. The merry-making was kept up till a late hour. Half a degree to the north, and even under the equator, we found the current to the N.W. 86° 47' in twenty-four hours.

On the 1st of December, in lat. 14° 40'.5, long. 33° 30', we lost the trade-wind; a fresh breeze, accompanied by rain and frequent squalls, blowing from the north. Our second lieutenant, *Zacharin*, having been sickly since we left Teneriffe, I fear that the voyage will prove injurious to him.

On the 3d, lat. 18° 10", long. 35° 22", we lanced three bonitos, which were very acceptable, having for some time past been without fresh provisions. To complete the treat, I had a cask of sour-cROUT opened, with which we had been provided by the American Company in St. Petersburg, and which we yet found in a perfectly good state. In the evening, we had a play: at noon a bill was posted up on the head-mast, in which the Country Wedding was announced. The sailors had composed the play among themselves, and performed it to the general satisfaction of the spectators; the performance was concluded by a Ballet, with general applause. Some may think such amusements ridiculous in a discovery-ship; I, however, am of opinion that on-board every thing ought to be done to keep the crew in a cheerful disposition, and to make them thus pass over the difficulties of such a wearisome service; besides, cheerfulness will have its salutary effect upon the bodily frame, since a cheerful man is, generally speaking, the healthiest. On Sunday we had regularly something particular before us: the sailors amused themselves for some days previously with their plans and preparations, and afterwards they had a rich stock for conversation and amusement. On that day their table was also better served, and the allowance of spirit was doubled.

On the 6th, we were in the vicinity of *Cape Frio*, the latitude of which I was to have determined, according to my instructions; but, the continued dull weather rendering this impossible, we steered toward the island of St. Catherine. The next day we noticed upon the water a serpentine line of a dark-brown colour, of the breadth of a couple of fathoms, and extending as far as the eye could reach. At first sight, I took it for a shallow; yet, when a boat was let down, from which it was examined by Mr. Wormskloid, who brought some of this water on-board, we found that the line was formed by an innumerable multitude of small crabs, and the seed of a plant,