

command of captain Bagot. The squadron of the fleet employed with us is commanded by commodore Parr, and consists of the Malabar of 50 guns, La Pique, Le Babet, and the Undaunted frigates—to which are added, the Grenada armed transport, with several sloops and schooners.

‘At the time we were sailing from Carlisle bay on the morning of the 15th, an alarm was fired, and the signal hoisted, denoting the approach of a fleet; but it was too distant, and the weather too hazy for us to ascertain distinctly what fleet it was—perhaps the long expected convoy; or possibly only another severed division of it. Even should it prove to have been the body of the fleet, bringing in the great bulk of the armament, it still is an extraordinary instance of delay, from adverse weather, that a convoy which sailed from Spithead early in November, should only reach Barbadoes on the 15th of April following, and it must stand as a striking example of the incalculable uncertainty of all maritime expeditions.

‘I must not forget to note to you that I am now addressing you from the opposite side of the sun. This day in latitude 9 deg. 17 min. we passed immediately under that burning orb, receiving his perpendicular rays directly upon our heads. I have nothing further to tell you on this occasion. His southern face seems neither hotter, nor colder, brighter nor darker, than his northern. The only striking peculiarity arises from the novelty of looking to the north at noon, to take our meridian, and habit will be required to reconcile this seeming inconsistency.’

Having thus conducted our intelligent and amusing author to the shores of Guiana, we will resume his lively narrative in the succeeding volume.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.