

south-east direction. Fortunately at the time the wind allowed us to back out again, and we hove-to for daylight, when a beautiful sight was presented, for we were close to the edge of the pack, which from the masthead appeared to be perfectly solid, without any opening in either direction. The north-west wind of the previous day had apparently forced all this mass together. Some hours were spent dredging in 1675 fathoms (bottom greenish mud). A small number of starfish, some small shrimps, and a few curious crustacea and diatomaceæ were obtained. After dredging, we stood on a westerly course under sail. The novelty of being surrounded with icebergs (for they were now so numerous that we had to alter course occasionally so as to clear them), and having on one side of the horizon a boundless field of ice, with calm weather, and a totally new set of sea-birds, amongst which was the elegant, pure white little petrel (which became more numerous), gave us intense delight. Experiments were now carried out relative to the temperature of the sea. At the surface it was found to be 30° , and at a depth of 1600 fathoms 26° . Snow and sleet came on, accompanied with an easterly breeze, and the temperature of the air fell to 28° .

Feb. 15th.—The day was dull and cold, temperature of air down to 28° ; wind light and sea calm, so made but little progress under sail. There are several large “bergs” in sight, and an extensive