

colours were traced along its edges. Bright streams of light frequently darted upward from the clouds to the zenith, forming coronæ, and exhibiting brilliant flashes of all the prismatic colours. Several whales and numerous sea-birds were in sight.

Feb. 19th.—From the great quantities of ice found drifting along our course, it appears evident we are not far from extensive fields, and as many as eighty magnificent icebergs were in sight at one time; thus for days we sail on a straight course, bounded with ice islands from a quarter of a mile to five miles in length. The question naturally arises, how and where are these masses formed? * That they are commenced on the land seems to be considered conclusive from the fact that earth and stones are frequently seen on them. After a time they are probably detached from their original place of formation by some violent storm, and the prevailing winds drive them to the north and west, where they are met with in every stage. Those that had been recently detached were easily detected by their beautiful stratified appearance, while others of older date had lost their original form by the sea constantly washing over them. There is a great variety of opinions as to the time required for the formation of these immense masses of ice, for those met with farthest south, and seemingly showing but little signs of decay, averaged 200 to 250 feet in height above the water. The

* 'United States Exploring Expedition.'