

thick with snow that we could not see much more than a ship's length, and a heavy gale was blowing. The full power of steam available was employed. Once we had a narrow escape of running into a large berg, passing only just about 100 yards to leeward of it by making a stern board, with all the sails aback, and screwing full speed astern at the same time. The deck was covered with frozen powdery snow, and forward was coated with ice from the shipping of seas.

On February 28th again there were 40 icebergs in sight at noon. It came on to snow thickly at about 4 P.M., and another gale came on. The plan adopted by Captain Sir G. S. Nares, was to lay down the bearings of the adjacent bergs before the weather became too thick for them to be seen, and then steaming with all the power of the ship against the gale, to hang on as long as possible under the lee of a large iceberg, and when driven away from that, to steam rapidly across to the lee of another, the position of which was known by the bearings taken. So we went on steaming backwards and forwards through the whole of a thick dark night.

When it was at all foggy in calm weather, we hove to amongst the bergs during the night.

One evening, when there was a very slight fall of snow at the time that there was a brilliant sunset, a snow-bow was seen arching high up in the sky. It did not show regularly arranged prismatic colours, but only a uniform bright pinkish yellow hazy light. It was brighter at its lower extremities, like a rainbow.

With regard to animals, we saw not a single seal, on the ice or in the water, during our Southern trip. No doubt we did not go far enough south, or sufficiently amongst the pack ice to meet with them. When we were off the pack ice, and especially when we neared the Antarctic Circle, whales were extremely abundant, apparently all of one species, a "Finback," probably the southern "Finner" (*Physalus australis*). I saw no Right Whale amongst them at all.

As these whales moved under water close to the ship, the light reflected from their bodies lighted up the water around, and enabled one to follow their movements. I several times went away in a small boat from the ship, to shoot birds for our collection.

On these occasions the whales sometimes blew quite close to the boat. The appearance of a whale's spout as seen from the level of the sea, is very different from that which it has when seen from the deck of a ship; it appears so much higher and shoots up into the air like a fountain discharged from a very fine rose. The whale of course, in reality, does not dis-