

From the N. Y. Daily Advertiser.

WINTER.

THE splendors of Autumn are o'er,
How leafless appear the tall trees!
Fierce tempests obtrude roughly o'er,
The winds how intently they freeze.

On the coast, the poor mariner's tale,
Or is frost-bit, or froze at the helm;
Or mayhap he is wreck'd, or is lost,
Where the ice or the waters o'erwhelm.

In hovels the poor, wretched dwell,
Without comfort from bread or from fire;
A parent's now frosts—a child; sad to tell,
On the breast of its mother expires.

Ah, where are the jessamine bowers,
Beneath which the student repos'd?
Not a relic is left of the flowers,
Whose bloom the morning discolor'd.

See, feather'd from regions above,
The snow in profusion descends;
It enshines each desolate grove,
And thick on the hamlet depends.

Sweet pleasures are banish'd the plains,
The birds like deserters are fled;
The valleys are flooded with rains,
Dark mists on the mountains are spread.

Ye sons of bland opulence, say,
While shut Winter spreads desolate reign,
Can you your donations delay,
That belong to the children of pain?

Say, where shall each pauper repose,
Abash'd by the scorings of pride,
When Hyasus his countenance shows,
Congealing each strong-flowing tide?

Can you fallen your door on his sighs,
Can you turn from his woes with neglect,
While the voice of your God, from the skies,
Loudly bids you the needy protect?

Shall coldness impoverish their blood,
Whilst you are the subjects of ease;
Shall they wander, alas, without food,
And implore death for release?

Can you sit by your fuel so warm,
Encircled by friendship and love,
And find in bleak Winter a charm,
Imparted by goodness above?

Can you move on the carpet so gay?
Can you drain your full goblets of wine?
Can your ears be regal'd by the lay,
Attun'd by a milder divine?

Ah, turn then your eyes to distress,
Oh dry the sad tear of complaint!
And let your good actions confess,
You tread in the steps of a saint!

NASSAU, [N. P.] Dec. 11.

A respectable mercantile house in Nassau, has favoured the proprietor of this Gazette with the following information:

OBSERVATIONS ON THE GULF PASSAGE.

From the Current frequently varying in course, as well as rapidly, and the Eddy Currents. Likewise, various and uncertain, the ablest Navigators and Pilots are frequently deceived after passing the Havana, and getting up as high as the Pan of Matanzas, from which a departure is generally taken.

Vessels not steering to the Eastward, sufficiently, run on the Reefs and Shoals, that extend along the coast of Florida, and many instances have occurred, when a vessel has struck on a reef, she has been reckoned on the Bahama side; the helm immediately put a starboard, which has eventually proved her destruction.

The incoherence of the English charts, operate very much to increase the accidents that annually happen in this passage. Roman's is esteemed the best, and consequently most in use. But it is erroneous. To prove this assertion, allow that the West part of Key-Sat-Bank, the double-headed Shot Key, to be laid down correct in point of Longitude; it appears by this Chart, that a North course from thence will carry a vessel through the passage nearly Mid Channel, but in reality a N. 1-2 E. course will not clear Cape Florida.

This circumstance must certainly account for the loss of vessels whose masters rely on the Charts. N. N. E. or with a scant wind N. E. by N. is the most advisable course, until you are clear of the Southern and South East part of the Reefs and Keys, and well up the passage. The Bahama side being generally a weather shore; in case a weather current which sometimes sets through the Santaren channel, may have carried the vessel farther to windward than reckoned; and danger is easily avoided, the bottom being easily discovered, if any look-out is kept long before a vessel gets into shoal water, and the colour changes.

The tide of flood sets on the Bahama Bank from all parts of the middle, and the ebb sets off from the middle, and the

Cuts of Riding Rocks, Cat Keys, Bimini, &c. runs very rapid.

On approaching the Florida side, the eddy currents and tides setting through the different Channels in the Reefs and Inlets are very variable and frequently extend a greater distance into the gulf, than mariners are aware of, inasmuch that the most expert of the Bahama Pilots are often deceived in the night. Generally a strong S. W. eddy prevails, and the transition from the stream to the eddy is sometimes very visible, by causing what those Pilots call Rip-Raps; at other times it is not to be discovered, a strict look out is about this part particularly recommended, and if beating up on that shore in the night, stand four hours off and two on, and when you can come up with the S. E. corner of the Florida shore, and an E. N. E. wind, stand off until you have day light.

From these observations, it certainly appears most advisable to incline to the Cuba shore, and from the Pan of Matanzas, if the wind be favourable to make the double headed Shot Keys, or if scant to beat up towards Point Jacko, there is no danger hereabouts, before you stretch across to double headed Shot, and from thence shape a course full two points more to the Eastward than laid down by Roman, say N. N. E.

A corroboration of these facts will appear manifest, when it is stated, that for several years past, only three vessels have been lost on the Bahama side, then in violent weather, & there are annually, on an average, not less than eight vessels lost on the Florida side, most of them run ashore in the night, in good weather, and the captains have reckoned themselves on the Bahama side.

A Spanish Chart published by order of the King of Spain, and lately issued to his officers, will also on inspection further corroborate these observations, and put them in a clearer point of view. But that author does not presume to be correct, about the North part of Abaco, and the Reefs which extend from them.

The Maranilla Reef extends nearly 14 miles farther North than laid down by Roman.

The Island of Abaco, Grand Bahama, Great Saacs, and all the chain of keys, which form the East side of the gulf, as far South as Orange Keys, are laid down full thirty miles to the Westward, and the opposite shore of Florida in like proportion erroneous.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE OLD STRAITS.

On running down after passing Port Padre, keep a good look-out for the Macarres Reef, and when you are abreast of Key Savinal, allow those Reefs to lay ten miles to the Southward of what they are laid down by Roman. The principal Reef extends nearly East and West, but there is a ledge of lanken rocks, that runs full ten miles to the Southward; on these rocks, the ship Sarah of Boston, was lost in 1802, and it was proved by two Quadrants, that Roman's Chart which was then on board, was erroneous, and the cause of the loss of this vessel, and supposed to be of several others; very lately the African ship Mary Ellen, captain Jump, run on these rocks, and from the description, it must have been near the spot, the Sarah was lost; but in keeping to the Southward, to avoid this danger, be careful, and not run into the Bay, formed by the Island of Guajava, Cheatfield Key, and Sugar Key, into those Channels, the flood tide set with amazing rapidity, and if a vessel is caught with a North Easter, in this Bay, it will be difficult to beat out of it. Vessels of twelve feet water may anchor under the lee of Sugar Key. To effect an anchorage, a knowledge of the place is necessary.

From the New-York Daily Advertiser of Feb. 1. DESTRUCTIVE HURRICANE AT TONQUIN.

Letters from Tonquin state that coast to have been lately visited by a hurricane, more violent and destructive than was ever remembered in that quarter. Upwards of twenty native vessels foundered in the bay, and between fifty and sixty were dashed to pieces on the shore. The coast for many miles was strewn with dead bodies and fragments of wreck.

Several villages have been totally destroyed—in some instances presenting heaps of ruins, while in others there was scarcely a vestige of them remaining. Upwards of twenty thousand persons are stated to have perished on the occasion.

On the 19th Dec. in the House of Representatives of the state of Ohio, leave was given to bring in a bill for changing the names of the counties of Hamilton, Adams and Ross.

Some curiosity has been excited by the fact that Mr. Burr and Governor Bloomfield of New-Jersey, have both been for several days in town. It is well known that Mr. Burr stands indicted, by a grand

jury of that state, of the crime of murder. It is also known that Governor Bloomfield is the warm personal friend of Mr. Burr. It is further known that Governor Bloomfield possesses the power of screening a culprit from trial in the state of New-Jersey. What connection these facts may have and whether they have had any influence in producing a meeting of these two gentlemen out of the state of New-Jersey, we leave to the conjecture of our readers.—U. States Gazette.

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