

and completely deluged everything in it which
fact ^{caused} a sudden rush on everybody's part to close
their portholes to avoid a like catastrophe.

In the evening enjoyed a little reading with
Mrs J. There is little or no twilight in the tropics
and it is quite dark soon after seven now. The day
will continue ~~to~~ shorten till we cross the line. The
moon was beautiful being nearly full, and
far brighter than it could ever appear through a
Soudan atmosphere, it was frequently hidden behind
thick black clouds but would every now & then
appear from out an opening in the dark canopy
and cast its silvery rays on to the troubled waters.

20th The breeze had considerably lessened during the
night and we did not make more than 6 knots an
hour, however it had taken us nearly 400 miles and
the fact of going at such a speed anywhere in the tropics
was something to boast of. Last night the boiler to our
distilling apparatus was allowed to become empty,
and the natural consequence ensued, it rose to a red
heat, and had not the captain observed that all was
not right the consequences might have been terrible
beyond description, but thank God we were mercifully
preserved. The vessel is entirely supplied with distilled
water from this apparatus, though in case of accident
we have 40,000 gallons of Thames water in reserve
but it is far from swab now, however when we reach
colder latitudes it will become drinkable again.

School is held every day on deck in a space railed
off between our portion and that of the emigrants
The school master appears well up to his duties
and the children answer very well especially in
mental arithmetic. One little boy 11 yrs old is going
out all alone! his uncle having sent for him.

21st The breeze getting smaller by degrees & beautifully less,
by midday we were scarcely going one knot an hour.