

smouldering discontent into a flame, and brought about
the committee, and a joking question inadvertently
asked at tea time was the signal for the after explosion.

25. Enjoyed a bath on deck this morning it was fine firm
near increasing, no progress, another child deadening
the fifth since leaving England. Saw a real live shark
conducted by two pilot fish one on each side, he had
managed to remove the bait from my hook during
the night, we tempted him with another but without
success. We saw today for the first time large shoals
of flying fish chased by bonitas it was an interesting
and very pretty sight, they came so close to the vessel
we could see them swallowed ^(ie the flying fish) now & then, in the
course of the afternoon a bonita was caught with
two flying fish in its stomach. It was a beautiful
purple blue when first taken out of the water, and
striped somewhat similar to a croaker but the
hues soon vanished, and nought but a dull brown
remained, the head is very large in proportion to
the body which makes it appear somewhat ungainly.

26. Sunday. Three vessels in sight, and hopes were
entertained that one might prove to be homeward
bound, and every one hastened to prepare letters
but it was too good to be true. There was a little more
wind this morning; during service it began to rain heavily
however, we all kept our seats, as the awning was up
but soon the accumulated water came down on our
heads in torrents, there was a general rush for the cabin
stairs as may be imagined, and the service came
to an untimely end. The changes of the weather are
singularly rapid, during the morning ^{we were going} at a fair average
speed, and during the shower much faster, but before
dinner the sea came out, and we were becalmed;
about was lowered and some half dozen availed themselves
of the opportunity for a row, about six p.m. the rain came
on again, and brought the wind with it, or vice versa, and
only ceased for an hour in the evening it was a genuine tropical rain storm