

me as before, to the great alarm of Poo-yet-tah, who called to me to return to the same shelter. But I had time for a cool aim; and it immediately fell, on the discharge of both barrels, but not till it was within five yards of me. The sight of his fallen enemy made my companion scream and dance with joy, and on his coming up, it was dead; one ball having passed through the heart, and the other having shattered to pieces the shoulder joint. He was lost in astonishment at the effect of the fire-arms; first carefully examining the holes which the balls had made, and pointing out to me that some of them had passed quite through the animal. But it was the state of the broken shoulder which most surprised him; nor would it be easy to forget his look of horror and amazement, when he looked up in my face and exclaimed "Now-ek-poke!" (it is broken.)

We had now been eighteen hours without any refreshment, and I naturally, therefore, expected that my friend would have lost no time in extracting a dinner out of the ox. I had however done him injustice: his prudence was more powerful than his stomach. He was content with mixing some of the warm blood with snow, thus dissolving as much as he required to quench his thirst, and then immediately proceeded to skin the animal; knowing very well, what I might have recollected, that the operation would shortly become impossible, in consequence of the severity of the cold, which would soon freeze the whole into an impracticable mass. For the same reason, he divided the carcase into four parts; afterwards disposing of the paunch and intestines in the same manner, their contents being previously separated. I did not before know, that they did not eat these as well as the

analogous matters of the reindeer; and could only conjecture, that at this season of the year, the plants on which the musk ox feeds were disagreeable to their taste. In the reindeer, the matters found in their stomachs are considered a great delicacy; and however our own might revolt at a vegetable dish cooked in this manner, this forms a very useful and salutary ingredient among their gross animal diet, since it is scarcely possible for them to collect any eatable vegetables by their own exertions.

As we were unable to carry off our prize, we were obliged to build a snow hut over it, after which, setting up marks to enable us to find it again, we set out on our return to the place where we had left our companions. In the way, we discovered another ox about a quarter of a mile off, under the face of a precipice, but were far too fatigued to think of pursuing it. The guide, however, assured me that this was of no consequence, since it would remain there for some time, and we might easily go after it in the morning.

April 29. We reached the hut that had been built, at five in the morning of the twenty-ninth, hungry and fatigued enough to find a very serious enjoyment in a hot supper and rest. We had brought away some of the beef, and found it exceedingly good, not having, at this season of the year, the least flavour of musk. In August, at Melville island, on a former occasion, this taste was very offensive: and it is only consonant to other experience in many animals, to suppose that this effect takes place in the rutting season. My observations here, made the latitude  $70^{\circ} 35' 49''$ , and the longitude  $0^{\circ} 38' 33''$  west of the ship.

We had not been asleep more than four or five hours, when we were awoken by the shouts of Peo-yet-tah and the barking of the

dogs in full cry. On inquiring of the boy, he informed me that our guide and huntsman had crept out of the hut silently, about an hour before, and was gone in pursuit of the ox which we had seen on the preceding day. In a short time he returned, and told us that he had found the animal grazing on the top of the hill, that he had advanced upon it by the only accessible road, keeping himself in the middle of his dogs, and that he had done this with so much rapidity, that the creature finding no other mode of escape, had thrown itself over the precipice.

On going to the spot, we accordingly found the carcase in the place which he had mentioned, exceedingly mangled by the fall, which had exceeded thirty feet, while the place which it had struck was an irregular block of granite. As far as use was concerned, it was however no worse than if it had been uninjured; and the same operations were therefore repeated: the whole day being afterwards occupied in this work, and in bringing the meat to our hut.

This, however, left me leisure for my observations; and the morning proving fine, I was successful in making them. Among other things, I thus ascertained that our present place was about forty miles from the ship, in a direction north  $19^{\circ}$  west. In the afternoon, there arose a strong breeze with drifting snow; so that we were glad to have recourse to the shelter of our hut, and thus also made our dinner at a much earlier hour than usual: getting into our fur bags shortly after, that we might ensure a good night's rest.

It blew so hard a gale from the north during the whole day, April 30. that we were unable to leave the hut; which gave us an opportunity of some conversation with our guides and companions, and

which I made use of in endeavouring to extract from them a fuller history of the event which had led to our dissensions, and of their feelings and proceedings in consequence.

Poo-yet-tah himself was equally anxious to explain: so that it was scarcely necessary for me to name the subject. Having commenced, he proceeded in his tale with so much rapidity and vehemence, that it at first seemed to me as if he had re-excited his anger on this subject, and that we were now likely to renew a quarrel which had been suspended, not settled. I soon found, however, that all this energy was the result of his anxiety to convince me that his friends were not in reality to blame, that they had acted under what they believed a conviction of our treachery, or wicked interference, and that we ought now to be perfectly reconciled, since we had exculpated ourselves to their satisfaction. The peacemaker was even the more praiseworthy, that I mistook the energy of his eloquence on the amiable side, for a renewal of hostilities and a declaration of war.

In spite, too, of their numbers on that occasion, and of their evident intention to attack, they were impressed with a strong feeling of our superiority; an impression which we were, all, naturally, most desirous of cultivating; since it was not less a ground of respect, as it must ever be among rude nations, than a tower of defence to us under the numerical difference between ourselves and this collected nation. Under this conviction, he thanked me frequently for not killing his father, or breaking his shoulder as I had done that of the musk ox; while he still seemed to fear, that when I returned to the ship I should do him some harm. I endeavoured, of course, to convince him that nothing of this kind could ever

happen, that we were all attached to his people, and desired nothing so much as to continue friends; and with these assurances he seemed satisfied.

If the remainder of our conversation was not highly interesting, it will at least serve to convey some ideas respecting the usages of these people. I was at first surprised to hear my guide Poo-yet-tah call Pow-weet-yah his father; since, to my eye, there were not many years of difference in age. On asking the reason, I was informed that he was only the step-father, and that he was even the second in this relation which Poo-yet-tah had possessed; while both of them were such during the lifetime of his own father, who had taken another wife and left his own to the first of these two. It was, however, an amicable separation. The man had desired to migrate to the westward, and the wife, on the contrary, preferred staying among her own relations; they therefore separated, a short time after his birth, and the woman then married a man called Arg-loo-gah by whom she had four more sons. This husband was drowned; leaving his widow a large fortune in the shape of these five sons, who are here considered a valuable estate, since the maintenance of the parents in old age devolves on them. Thus she easily procured another husband, Pow-weet-yah, the brother of her first one; but by this marriage there were no children. To replace this want, they adopted two grandsons as such; and the boy who had been killed was the eldest of those. The original husband, Ka-na-yoke's true father, had also procured a son by adoption, among the tribe at Oo-geoo-lik, to which he had gone, and he was now living in a small island, called O-wut-ta, three days' journey to the westward of Nci-tyel-le.

The terms husband and wife are words of usage: the ideas are simple, and excite no doubts; the language is smooth, and belongs to good breeding and good morals: and the term marriage is one which equally excites neither reflection nor commentary. It has been the custom, too, however it began, to praise the temper, conduct, and morals of these tribes; but some readers may perhaps question the conjugal system and usages of this people, should they take the trouble to think on the subject; as they may also perhaps suggest that concubinage, and not of a remarkably strict nature, is a more fitting term than marriage, for the species of contract under which the parties in question are united.

They might even be the more inclined to think so, had they heard the further anecdotes which Poo-yet-tah related to me on this subject; of which it must, however, suffice to notice one, as a sort of general result. Among the Esquimaux of Igloolik whom we had formerly visited, it was not uncommon for a man to have two wives; a practice that excites no surprise, wide spread as polygamy is, and has been from all time. But my friend here informed me that he and his half brother had but one wife between them, as, if I rightly also understood, this was held a justifiable system, and, if not very common, merely such because of a general numerical equality between the sexes. Of this custom we had found no instance at Igloolik: and I know not that it is related by travellers of any but certain tribes in India. Others must consider for themselves, of the propriety or delicacy of such a connexion as that of two brothers with a single wife, since I do not set up for the moral commentator on a people, respecting whom every one is now nearly as well informed as myself; so much has been written

respecting them by us, the recent northern navigators, and by many more, foreigners as well as English.

As it was my intention to make an excursion in the direction of Oo-geoo-lik after returning from my present journey, I procured from my informant a list of the names of all those whom I was likely to meet, and was charged at the same time with several messages to them. These I wrote down, as the best letters of introduction that I could have received: and, if aught could now have been wanting, the entire confidence between us was thus perfectly established.

Thus this dreary day was shortened; and a truly dreary one it was. The wind without, howled round our walls of snow, and the drift which it brought sounded against them with a hissing noise, which I was glad to forget in the talk that rendered it for a time inaudible. If our house was but four feet high, so that it kept us constantly in a sitting posture, it was nevertheless warm, and, by contrast, comfortable; a far better one has not often been so acceptable, and has rarely indeed afforded such a sense of thankful security and enjoyment.

The talk of our friends did not, however, prevent them from using their jaws in a very different manner. During the whole day they were employed in removing the meat from the upper half of the ox; cutting it off in long narrow slips, which, in the usual manner, they crammed into their mouths as far as they could push it in; then cutting the morsel from the end of their noses by the means of their sharp knives, they bolted the mouthfuls as a hungry dog would have done. Thus passing the slice from one to the other, alternately, they contrived at length to swallow all the meat

from the neck, backbone, and ribs, of one side of the ox : suspending their motions, however, every now and then, to complain that they could eat no more, and lying back on their beds, but still retaining their knives in one hand, with the unfinished morsel in the other, and again beginning with as much energy as before, as soon as they felt it possible to get down another lump.

Disgusting brutes ! the very hyæna would have filled its belly and gone to sleep : nothing but absolute incapacity to push their food beyond the top of the throat, could check the gormandizing of these specimens of reason and humanity.

By the time that they seemed really incapable of devouring any more, our own soup was ready, and I therefore offered them to partake. Out of politeness, Poo-yet-tah took two or three spoonfuls, and then confessed that he could swallow no more. Placing my hand on his stomach, I was perfectly astonished at the distension which it had undergone, and which, without such an examination, I could not have believed it possible for any human creature to bear ; as, had I not known their habits, I should have expected that nothing but death could be the consequence.

May 1.

This enormous stuffing caused our guides to pass but a restless night : if they had possessed a term for the nightmare, we should probably have heard of it in the morning. In the mean time the gale moderated ; so that, when we rose at five o'clock on the next day, the weather was such as to allow of our proceeding ; though still hazy and somewhat threatening, as the breeze was from the northward, and was accompanied by some drift.

Our sledge was soon loaded, but the guides had not so soon recovered from the effects of their dinner, so that it was past seven



o'clock before we could get them to move. But when ready, Poo-yet-tah said, on my expressing my unwillingness to lose another day, that as we should be obliged to travel over high hills, where the sledges could not go, we must leave all our baggage at the hut, and that we might then proceed to Aw-wuk-too-teak and return to sleep.

We accordingly set out at half-past seven, taking with us our arms and three of the dogs, in case of our falling in with any more of the musk oxen, and leaving Mr. Abernethy and the boy in charge of the baggage. Travelling over a very rugged country covered with deep snow, during two hours, we at length descended on the lake which they call Aw-wuk-too-teak and which will be found in the chart.

This piece of water extends, according to its longest dimensions, from north-east by east to south-west by west, and, in this direction, appeared about four miles in length. In shape, it is very irregular, as it is bounded by five distinct hills, separated from each other by an equal number of ravines, which, during the thaw, are water-courses, supplying the lake. Where it empties itself, the issuing stream is broad, and appeared to be shallow; but its source seemed to be a rapid one, and its termination was in the sea to the northward.

The names of these hills as given by the guide are as follow, distinguishing them by their true bearings, from the centre of the lake: namely, that to the west is called Pood-le-ra-nuk, to the north-west Il-low-nuk, to the north-east Ac-cood-le-ruk-tuk, to the west-south-west Tak-ke-noo-ra-lig, and to the south Il-low-na-lig. Poo-yet-tah further informed me that the lake contained three

different kinds of fish, which remain in it throughout the winter, that it was of great depth, and that in the smaller lake to the eastward, called Ow-weet-te-week, where the party that first saw our ship in the September of 1829, had been encamped, there was also abundance of fish of a large size.

Leaving the water-side, we now ascended the high hill on the north-east side, called Ac-cood-le-ruk-tuk; and, on reaching its summit, which we had surmounted soon after ten o'clock, I could see the high rugged ice extending from the north-north-west to the north-east by east. The hazy state of the weather however limited our view to a distance of four or five miles, so that it was impossible to ascertain the depth of an inlet, of which the entrance seemed to be formed by the separation of the spot on which we stood, from a remarkable cape that we had named the Old Man of Hoy, when on our way to the southward during the preceding autumn, and which I had no difficulty in recognising.

This was the place where I had expected, if any where, to find the way open to the western sea, since it was that which the natives had spoken of to us on several occasions; or thus, at least, we imagined, as it was not very easy to come to a right understanding on this subject. The man called Ib-lu-shee had indeed assured us that the opening at this place was nothing but the mouth of a large bay, and that we must travel many days to the northward before we could find a passage to the westward; an assertion which made me suppose, as I have already observed, that he could mean nothing but Barrow's strait. But as we had not examined the present inlet, since it was filled with fixed ice when we had passed in the preceding year, I thought it indispensable to take the

present opportunity of doing this, that we might at least remove the natural uncertainty which we felt respecting it.

When, however, I came to examine the nature of the ice which now lay between us and the inlet in question, as well as the great distance that it would be necessary to travel for that purpose, I found it impossible to undertake such a work at present. Poo-yet-tah indeed became very anxious that we should return, as he saw that the north wind, with its driving snow, was rapidly increasing; but, as the haze seemed to be partially clearing away, I proposed to him to descend to the beach, as I might hope thus to get a better view.

This, however, he absolutely refused: but, as I felt confident that I could find my way without him, I went off, and left him to follow his own inclinations. In about an hour and a half I reached the beach in question, which was formed of loose fragments of limestone, and found the tide out: while, as far as I could see, the ice consisted entirely of hummocky masses which had been closely packed against the shore at the commencement of the winter.

I had not gained much by my attempt to investigate this piece of ground; for the falling snow, and the thick haze by which it was accompanied, obscured every thing in such a manner that I could never see beyond two miles, if I even saw so far. The weather also became more unpromising, instead of improving; so that I resolved to give up all further pursuit of this object, and turned my face to return to the hut where I had left my companions.

On this, I immediately heard the voice of Poo-yet-tah hallooing from behind a stone, close to me, and was not a little surprised to see him, when I expected that he had been safely

lodged in the hut by this time. I found that he had followed me sily, to watch my proceedings; being desirous to know what could be the object of so long a journey from the ship as that which I had thus undertaken, and probably also conceiving that I had here some object of profit in view, in the finding of game or fish, in which he was desirous of partaking. I had great trouble in trying to persuade him that I had no other pursuit than that of seeing this place among others, yet did not finally succeed in convincing him: since, however possessing that knowledge of geography which is so general among these people, their pursuits and acquisitions of this nature are all directed to the immediate and important end of procuring food.

On further conversation, he told me that he should be at Ow-weet-te-week in the summer, together with his brothers, for the purpose of hunting or fishing, and that they would bring us salmon and venison. Wishing to know the situation of this place, that I might be able to recognise it again from the ship, he agreed, and we set forth together.

After two hours' travelling toward the south-east, we crossed the lake of Ow-weet-te-week to a hill on its eastern shore; and on ascending it, he showed me the spot where his tent had been erected in the preceding summer when we passed by, and where he was to be in the impending one. He also pointed out to me some stores of food which his companions had abandoned on leaving this place; and, opening one of his own, produced some pieces of ironstone which he had wrapped up in a piece of swan's skin; reminding me of what I had forgotten, that he had promised me some on our arrival at Ow-weet-te-week. He said that one of

his brothers had found it, in the preceding summer, on the shores of an islet called Toot-ky-yak, which was a day's journey to the north-west, and that it had been taken from beneath the water, by the washing of which it was probably rendered more obvious to their inexperienced eyes. This substance constitutes their only article of commerce, and they exchange what they have obtained, every three or four years, with the natives of Oo-geoo-lik; getting drift wood in return, and, in a similar way, purchasing the pot-stone of which their kettles are made, from the inhabitants of Repulse bay.

Poo-yet-tah now became anxious to return to the hut; but as we passed the foot of the hill whence I obtained the first view of the sea, I prevailed on him to accompany me to the top. The weather indeed had become even more unfavourable than before, but I could not bear to abandon a spot which seemed to contain the only chance of a passage by which our ship might reach that western sea which I had now seen. My labour was however lost. The snow began to fall thicker, nothing could be seen, and we were glad to descend again in all haste, and make our way back to the hut.

In our progress thither, we put up a pack of six grouse, and I had the good fortune to bring down one with each barrel. These were the first objects that Poo-yet-tah had seen shot on the wing, and his surprise was even greater than it had been at the killing of the musk ox. Shortly after, they rose again at half a mile's distance, when he urged me to fire once more, as he afterwards wished me to follow them to the spot where they had alighted after this flight. But I did not choose to risk my reputation, or rather that of the

gun, which it was important to preserve: while we had also now more game than we could use, or transport to the ship.

We therefore pursued our journey, and arrived at the hut at seven in the evening; being just in time to save ourselves from the commencement of one of the most stormy nights we had ever experienced. The wind blew during the whole of it, in the most violent gusts that can be imagined; descending from the hills around with such squalls of driving snow, that they threatened as much to demolish our little structure as to overwhelm and bury us in a hill of their own making. This indeed they nearly did before the gale moderated: such was the accumulation of snow that was blown up into deep ridges around and above our hut, which was, however, too strong and solid to give way to the force of the wind. We were afterwards surprised to find how very confined this storm was, since there was nothing more than a moderate breeze at the ship, though only forty miles distant.

May 2.

Having been well recruited by a night's rest, I had hopes of inducing Poo-yet-tah to make another excursion to the sea; but we had first to encounter the task of digging ourselves out of the snow. This occupied four hours, since it had attained a depth of six feet above us; and when we were at last freed, we found it still blowing hard, and the air filled with haze, and with snow drift from the surrounding hills. The appearance of the weather was certainly most unfavourable to this or any other travelling; and the guides were very desirous to remain at peace in the hut. To this I should have agreed, if I could have prevailed on them to have gone once more with me to Aw-wuk-too-teak; but this was absolutely refused; so that I was compelled to abandon this project for the present.

I now reflected on the uncertainty of the weather at this season of the year, and being also aware that our absence from the ship had been prolonged beyond the time which had been anticipated, I became fearful lest considerable anxiety should be felt by Captain Ross on our account, and the more so from the circumstances of doubtful friendship with the natives under which we had departed. It was possible, also, that some inconvenience might occur in consequence of our absence; more especially, should that induce Captain Ross to send out an expedition in search of us.

Coupling these reflections, therefore, with the fact that it would require several days to examine the desired inlet in a satisfactory manner, and that these probable inconveniences would be materially increased in consequence, I at length resolved to return to the ship, and to take some better opportunity of completing an examination too important to be slurred over as it must have been under such circumstances as the existing ones. Knowing its exact position, I could also now revisit it without difficulty, and, should that be necessary, without a guide; so that although I had not attained the object in view, I had saved future time by having thus pioneered the way.

We therefore began our journey at eight in the morning; the sledges being heavily laden, and the travelling, in consequence, both difficult and laborious. Often, indeed, where the ground was especially bad, we were obliged to throw off a part of our load, and then, after advancing with the remainder, return to bring it up; then proceeding as best we could, though of course with no great speed.

About noon we saw that Poo-yet-tah was separating from

our own party, and was leading his sledge on to the left shore of the lake. We therefore followed; and, on coming up to him, found his inducement to have been the tracks of some musk oxen which he had seen, and was now tracing. He expressed a strong desire to kill some more, and wished that I would halt here for that purpose; a very natural wish on his part, and one that I would gladly have complied with, not only on his account, but for the sake of ourselves and our crew on board, had there been any use in making such an acquisition. But we had already more meat than we should probably be able to carry to the ship, and the state of the ground was as yet such that we could not contrive to bury it so as to protect it from the wolves and gluttons. It was therefore to kill the poor animal for no end, or rather perhaps to regret that we were in possession of a valuable supply of fresh beef for our people, which we should be compelled to abandon to the beasts of prey whose tracks were every where visible.

I therefore refused to stop here, and tried to persuade them to go on; but in vain. Turning a deaf ear to my representations, Poo-yet-tah immediately began to build a hut, saying that we must sleep in it this night. He evidently believed that we were unable to proceed without his guidance, and that we could not, by ourselves, find the hut in which we had slept on the night of the twenty-seventh, which was the place that we had proposed to reach when we had set out in the morning. I was, indeed, somewhat doubtful of that matter myself; but rather than submit to the loss of another day, I determined to make the attempt, especially as the weather began to improve, and promised to become more favourable every hour.



It was, nevertheless, to the considerable surprise of our two guides when we departed without them; and as we occasionally turned, to see whether they might not change their minds, we saw them abandon their work several times, for the apparent purpose of watching the route which we were taking, and the progress that we made. The former was a subject of some hesitation, and the latter far from rapid; since the recent gales had completely obliterated our former tracks, and the fall of snow had so altered the features of the country in some parts, while others had been bared and rendered black by the storm, that I continued in great uncertainty about the road, till we arrived at the place called Nap-pur-re-uk-ta-lig. Here I immediately recognised the peculiar form of the lake, and thus found that we had not materially deviated from our intended direction.

If our progress was small in proportion to the time and exertion we had spent in reaching this place, so were we exceedingly fatigued, and suffering extremely from thirst. I was therefore obliged to unload the sledge in the middle of the lake, for the purpose of getting at the spirit lamp, that we might melt some snow for drinking; which having done, we were soon refreshed, and fit to continue our journey.

It must appear strange to readers ignorant of these countries, to hear that the people suffer more from thirst, when travelling, than from all the other inconveniences united. By us, at home, where the snow can never be very cold, where it can therefore be easily melted by the ordinary heat of the body, and where it can even be eaten as a substitute for water, the very different temperature of the same substance in that country is easily overlooked, as many persons

are even ignorant of this fact. No great inconvenience can occur as to this matter, where its heat is rarely much below the freezing point, and scarcely ever falls as low as twenty degrees. It is a very different thing, when perhaps the highest temperature of the snow during the winter months, is at zero, and when it often falls to minus fifty or more, or to eighty degrees below the point at which we should attempt to thaw or to eat it in England. Were it not so bad a conductor as it is, we could, in this country, no more take it into the mouth, or hold it in the hands, than if it was so much red-hot iron : but, from that cause, this consequence at least does not follow. The effect nevertheless which it does produce, is that of increasing, instead of removing, the thirst which it is endeavoured to quench : so that the natives prefer enduring the utmost extremity of this feeling, rather than attempt to remove it by the eating of snow. I am not sufficiently acquainted with medical philosophy to explain this, nor am I aware that it has been explained ; and it is, perhaps, as unfounded, as it is, in me, presuming, to suggest that the extreme cold of the material thus swallowed, when the body is heated and exhausted by fatigue, may bring on some inflammatory state of the stomach, so as to cause the suffering in question.

Resuming our journey across the lake, we found the travelling much improved by the late gales ; and, soon after midnight, we arrived at the hut, truly exhausted by fatigue. In this condition, it was an exceeding mortification to find that a wolf had torn off the door with which we had secured its entrance, and that it was filled with snow. We were therefore compelled to commence digging into it, tired as we were ; when, after an hour's hard labour, we contrived to make it habitable for the night, and got into our bags at two in the morning.

May 3.

When we awoke, and began to bethink ourselves of departing, the weather was very unsettled and blowing in squalls from the north; while fresh falling snow added to the obscurity and annoyance caused by that which was drifting before the wind from the faces of the hills. The dogs too were so tired, by the labours of the preceding day, that nothing but my great anxiety to rejoin the ship and relieve the probable fears of Captain Ross and our other shipmates, would have induced me to proceed.

We found the travelling extremely bad: but the worst part of it, by far, was a space of about a mile, crossing the high ridge which separated the next lake from that which we had left. This alone cost us from nine in the morning until two; nor did we accomplish it without making three separate trips with the sledge, so as to bring forward all our matters to the same point.

On the lake, however, the ice was as smooth as glass, for the winds had swept it clean; so that we crossed it very quickly, and at a run all the way, having the additional advantage of a breeze in our rear, which very much diminished our exertions. The river had been laid equally bare; and, though comparatively rough, it was still slippery, so that we got over it easily, with the exception of a few falls in the snow holes which are generally found in ice of this nature.

In the evening, by seven o'clock, we had arrived at that expanded portion which I had formerly named after the Rev. Edward Stanley; and at nine reached the western point of the inlet called An-ne-re-ak-to. The whole length of the Stanley river, from the lake to the sea, I thus found not to exceed ten miles, while its greatest breadth appeared to be about a quarter

of a mile. We had been informed that it abounded with fine salmon in the summer; and we could now see the evidences of this, in the remains of huts scattered about its banks, being the places where the natives are accustomed to secure and conceal their winter stocks of fish.

We were now approaching the huts where our threatening adventure had occurred at our first setting out; and being doubtful of their feelings, or uncertain of what might have occurred during our absence, I was desirous of passing them unobserved, if I could effect this; the more so, as we were now alone, and the absence of our guides might have been a source of new suspicions, or the cause of a renewal of hostility. But as soon as we had reached the level ice of the bay, we saw Ib-lu-she coming toward us, though evidently approaching with much caution, as if not quite secure of his reception. If this proved the existence of very different feelings from that of hostility, the fact that he was unarmed sufficed to remove all doubts, and I therefore greeted him in our usual kind manner, to his infinite delight. Explaining then to him the proceedings and objects of the guides that we had left behind, the chief of whom was his brother, for whom he had at first expressed considerable anxiety, he became quite satisfied, and went off to communicate the news to his party at the huts.

In no long time we gained sight of our ship, after having now travelled eighteen hours, without rest or refreshment. Unluckily, at this moment, one of the runners of the sledge sank into a deep crack, and stuck so fast that we were unable to extricate the machine by all the force that we could apply. We were therefore

obliged to throw off the load, which we did with much difficulty, as we were both seized with a giddiness that threatened fainting; to have undergone which at this temperature, and with no aid at hand, would probably have been fatal to us. This, however, being effected, and our stores left behind, to be brought on the next day by our comrades of the ship, we got into the sledge, and arrived on board the *Victory* at four in the morning of the fourth of May, exceedingly fatigued, but otherwise in good health.

## CHAPTER XXVI.

REPETITION OF HEAVY SNOW—ANOTHER EXPEDITION BY COMMANDER ROSS—ANOTHER EXPEDITION UNDER MY OWN CHARGE—SUMMARY OF THE MONTH OF APRIL.

1830.  
May 5.

**I**T was colder on this day than on the preceding, and there was a fresh breeze. We were visited by a large party of natives from the northward, bringing some good skins for sale. There came afterwards from the westward, the two who had been Commander Ross's guides on the last journey; but they had not been able to bring in the other musk ox, and had not seen any more. On the following day, another party came from the southward, bringing some seal, and some skins; and, afterwards, an old man whom we had not seen before, but who was father to two of the boys whom we knew. His wife, it seemed, had left her last husband, of three, to live with him; and, as far as we could make out, this was law, or usage equivalent to law. Tikatagin also arriving, on his way southward, I engaged him to remain, that he might accompany me in a tour on the following day.

May 6.

May 7.

A heavy fall of snow rendered this journey impracticable: it would at least have been useless. The guide himself was much more pleased to remain on board than to travel in such weather.

May 8.

It was equally useless to proceed the next day, as every thing was buried in snow; but the guide went away by himself to fetch his

canoe. In the evening we received a visit from the stranger old man, his wife, and two children. The wife was a young one; but we found that he had another, while the two young men had but one between them; the whole party living together. There was also an old woman with two husbands, uniting to form this strange polygamous family; and we were assured that matters went on with perfect harmony. Of course, it required more intimacy than we had yet attained with these tribes, to understand thoroughly their system of matrimonial arrangements; but what we thus already knew, sufficed to render it probable that the history which Cæsar has given of our British ancestors on this subject, is not so untrue as it has been sometimes thought.

A northerly wind, as usual, brought the thermometer from zero up to 18°. Sunday service being performed, the man who had gone for his canoe returned with the frame on his back, having brought it from Shag-a-voke. He was promised a new hoop for it, if he would bring us a seal; and, preferring to travel at night, set off at ten o'clock. A fox was taken in one of the traps. May 9.

The weather continued cold; but when the snow ceased, it was clear. A party went to the great lake to measure the ice, which they found to be eight feet thick, and the water seventeen fathoms deep. They saw no fish, but baited and set some lines. The temperature continued again far lower than was to be expected at this season; giving us some disagreeable anticipations. Some natives brought a skin. The traces of reindeer and hares were seen; and eight snow buntings killed. At the end of our base line, soundings were obtained in 90 fathoms. May 10.

All the power of the sun, with a clear sky, could not raise the May 11.

May 12.

- temperature beyond  $11^{\circ}$ . No fish were found at the lines, but a ptarmigan was shot. Two of our chief friends among the natives
- May 13. arriving, arrangements were made for a new journey. Some more came from the south, on the following day, but brought nothing; they went on to the northern huts; and, finding that this party was gone on an expedition, returned to sleep on board. The thermometer ranged between  $1^{\circ}$  and  $15^{\circ}$ .
- May 14. Nearly the whole of the northern party came to us, and brought the head and skin of the second musk ox; but as it had lost the hind legs, it was spoiled as a specimen. They also brought the remaining quarter, or rather haunch, which weighed forty-three pounds, together with some skins, and a specimen of a greenstone
- May 15. chisel. Our only success in sporting was a single grouse. We had stipulated for a seal, for our dogs, but they did not arrive on the next day: having probably been unsuccessful. Every thing was arranged to-day for the contemplated journey on Monday. The fitting of the ship went on; but the condensing tanks were now removed, as being no longer necessary.
- May 16. Church being held as usual, a large party came from the northward, and another from the southern village; but they brought no seal, nor aught else. The last set informed us that they were to break up the next day, and to divide into two parties; one for hunting the musk oxen, and the other for fishing in the lake. Each promised to bring us supplies before they took leave. The thermometer was about  $10^{\circ}$
- May 17. The men and the leading mate went on with the sledge and the boat, for the purpose of transporting them a stage of ten miles, when the men who were not intended to proceed were to return.



This they did in the evening; on which, Commander Ross and the surgeon proceeded in the small sledge, to join the *maté* and the advanced party. No supplies arrived from the natives, nor did we see any of them. On the following day it became so much warmer May 18. that the thermometer rose to  $30^{\circ}$ , and small pools of water appeared on the rocks, under the influence of the sun. The eyes of the men who had constituted the party of the last expedition had been inflamed by their journey, and they were taken care of accordingly.

The surgeon returned, with the *maté*, from the detached party, May 19. which he had left about twenty miles off, under the care of two Esquimaux; bringing back their sledge and dogs. The *maté*'s eyes were so much affected, that he could not proceed. They had purchased food for the dogs, from the Esquimaux; and their stock of provisions was increased by the return of our two officers. We May 20. were pleased to find, on the following day, that the weather continued to favour their expedition. The different patients were better, and we proceeded to lay gravel round the ship and over the Krusenstern.

The sun could not raise the thermometer beyond  $19^{\circ}$ ; and on May 21. going to the hole which had been made in the lake, it was found covered with ice six inches thick; the ice of the lake itself being seven feet and a half. The baits were untouched; and our other search after game was unsuccessful. On the following day we May 22. ascertained that the ice near us had not increased in thickness, though there were four inches formed in the hole. The track of a musk ox was seen on the ice not far from us. A summer tent was made, and some sails repaired.

This Sunday was the anniversary of our departure from Eng- May 23.

land. The musk ox furnished us with fresh boiled and roast meat for the whole crew. It had no more taste of musk than before; and, having been longer kept, was more tender. During their walk after church, the men tracked a white bear, as well as some hares and grouse. In the evening, Ikmalik, the geographer, with his wife and family, and two other men, arrived, with the intention of attending Commander Ross on his expedition, and were much disappointed to find that he had been so long gone. It appeared that he had miscalculated the day, counting ten instead of five. We therefore engaged them to follow or meet him with provisions, within a week; at which they were much pleased. We also borrowed a dog from them, as our own were all absent, in case we should meet the bear that had been marked. They had been unsuccessful in seal hunting, but had discovered some holes, and hoped shortly to bring us an animal for the dogs. Each of the men received a fish-hook as a present; and the wife a pincushion. One of the men gave proof of his parental affection, by giving his stockings to his boy, who had stepped into a pool of water, and going barefooted home.

May 24. The canvas roof was to-day taken off as far as the mainmast, the sledge prepared, and other work done to the ship. The wind was

May 25. north; but, at midnight, the thermometer was at plus 12°. Both days were clear and fine: the work went on; a ptarmigan was killed, and the tracks of deer and wolves seen. We had a right to conclude that the former were migrating to the north, with their enemies hanging on their rear. It was the highest tide we had yet witnessed; rising to nearly eight feet.

May 26. The first fog we had seen this year came on this morning, and

was followed by a fine day, the thermometer reaching  $25^{\circ}$ . The snow was reported to be melting fast; and a hole being cut in the ice, in a place which had been originally late in freezing, in consequence of a current, it was found to be little more than five feet thick. The temperature continued rising on the following day, yet slowly; and the mean, being the highest we had seen this year, was  $20^{\circ}$ . At the hole just mentioned, I found a current running a mile an hour to the eastward, with ten fathoms water, which was less salt than that near the ship. The footmarks of deer continued to tantalize us: it was difficult to guess how they contrived to pass in this manner, so long, without being seen. May 27.

The weather became so much warmer as to average  $25^{\circ}$ , rising to near the freezing point. I ascertained, from a measured base, that the height of the highest hill near us was 400 feet: that of the island close to us was forty. I obtained five sets of lunar distances, and made some trials with the dipping needle. A brace of ptarmigans was killed. The thermometer rose next day to  $34^{\circ}$ , and I obtained more lunar distances: preparing also for my intended journey on Monday. May 28.

After divine service, we waited in vain for our promised guides, whose appointment had been fixed for this day. I knew that it would take a longer time to convey the provisions to the appointed place without their assistance, and therefore determined to go by ourselves, in advance. The sledge was therefore loaded with five days' provisions for Commander Ross's party, and eight for my own, with the addition of a summer tent; and I departed at seven, with the surgeon, two mates, and one of the fire teasers. An addi- May 29.

tional party was taken to draw our sledge ten miles, when they returned; leaving us at one in the morning.

That I may not interrupt the narrative of this journey, I shall here give the summary of the present month.

The anxiety which naturally attended Commander Ross's absence during the expedition which he had undertaken, terminated in congratulations on account of his safety and success. His guide had conducted him to the narrow channel leading between the two seas, and he had determined its latitude to be such as to give forty-five miles to the north of our position; being in one of those inlets which could not be explored, on account of the ice, situated a little to the northward of Elizabeth harbour. Hence it was probable that Cape Manson would be found to form the north-east point of America, supposing the sea to be continuous to Cape Turnagain.

The exploring of the coast to the northward of Pad-le-ak bay, together with that to the westward of it, had further been the work of the same officer, as had Neitchillee. In his journal, will be found what I need not here repeat, respecting the commencement of this expedition, and the little obstructions which it experienced at the outset. And if I need not notice these and some other matters relating to the outfit, so is it unnecessary to give any summary of our transactions with the natives, during this month, since they included nothing important in addition to the details already given.

The temperature of May was considerably below that mean of the former expeditions with which I have so often compared our own monthly ones, being only plus 15°; while that at Port Bowen was 17° 65', and the mean of the four different places 16°. This augured but ill for our speedy release: but we were willing to

think, that having taken better care of our thermometer, it had only shown a lower temperature because the others had been managed with less attention to a true result.

We had been constructing lee boards for our ship, with the intention of making her more weatherly; and our labours in refitting the rigging were in a state of great forwardness. Many observations, of various kinds, had been made.

As yet there was no appearance of scurvy; but two or three of the men showed just enough of threatening to make us fear that they would not be long exempt, unless we obtained a more ample supply of fresh provisions during the coming summer. The snow blindness was not more common among us than with the natives: and, in other respects, the health of the men was good. We had not succeeded in procuring much game: while, in reality, we were too steadily occupied to allow much time for this pursuit.

But I must not forget, that, in this month, we completed our twelvemonth's absence from England. It had been an eventful year, but far from an unsuccessful one. We had done much by sea; and it must not be forgotten, that even a year of sea in these climates is little better than a month of action, as it cannot well be more, in the value or extent of its results. They who live in our own England, cannot understand how a year, or years, are expended with a progress so small as that which has attended all these northern exploring voyages: if they would translate the word year into month, it would enable them to form juster conceptions of these voyages, and of the actual time expended on the results which have been obtained.

But we had also done somewhat by land; with the prospect of

doing much more, should the sea fail us: and, while there was one view, at least, holding out hopes in which we could scarcely be disappointed, as there was another, which, on the average of chances, might have been equally gratified, if far less promising in the anticipation, we had reason to be content with our present situation and prospects. The year, too, had been passed busily, and with as little discomfort as was well possible: there had been dangers, but neither frequent nor extreme; and, with constant occupations, not well likely to fail us, we had not the day to kill, nor the loss of time to regret. To find that our crew continued in really good health, notwithstanding the trifling evils just mentioned, and that no one had suffered during so long a navigation and so bitter a season, was not the least source of satisfaction: the case of the unfortunate armourer not being a genuine drawback on this state of things, if the loss of the stoker's arm in Scotland ought perhaps to be enumerated among our contingencies.

*Journal of the Voyage*

## CHAPTER XXVII.

EXPEDITION COMMENCED—NARRATIVE OF OUR JOURNEY—RETURN TO THE SHIP—OBSERVATIONS MADE TO OBTAIN THE DIFFERENCE OF THE ELEVATION OF THE EASTERN AND WESTERN SEAS—THE DIP OF THE NEEDLE, AND INTENSITY OF MAGNETIC FORCE.

THE weather was foggy during the journey of this day, so that I obtained no good views of any part of the land, except a rock resembling the Bass island off the Firth of Forth. We saw four gulls and an owl; and proceeded along a rocky coast to the south-westward, skirted with large islands, very much resembling some of the shores of Sweden, between Gottenburg and Strömstad. We passed within them all, in a clear channel, wide enough for large ships, and clear of icebergs. At seven in the morning we arrived at the huts, seventeen miles from our vessel: all taking an equal share, officers and men, in the heavy work of drawing the sledge, which, for the last four miles, was considerable, as the snow was mid-leg deep. The men were much fatigued; and the mate, Blanky, could go no further. But having lighted a fire and made some coffee, they were enabled to proceed to the next place, containing the huts, at twenty-two miles from our ship.

1830.  
May 31.

Accordingly, at eight, we set forward; and, the fog having cleared away, I obtained some views of the land. We arrived

before eleven, where we found seven of the natives, who supplied us with water, but had no meat remaining. As we calculated on getting their dogs for a few miles further at least, to assist our labours, we pitched our tent to make our meal, being breakfast and dinner conjoined. We soon, however, discovered that they were going immediately in the same direction as ourselves, and were thus to be so heavily laden that they could give us no assistance; since it would take themselves two days to get to the first place at which they could expect food. They departed accordingly, at one o'clock. I procured some observations at noon, determining the latitude, among other things, at  $69^{\circ} 59'$ , and the longitude at  $92^{\circ} 1'$ .

At five, an old woman whose avarice had procured her the nickname of Old Greedy, passed us to the southward, with three dogs drawing a seal-skin full of blubber, which she was to deposit in advance; but we could not prevail on her to lend us one of her team. Our present position was considerably picturesque, being surrounded by rugged mountains and islands, in every direction except to the north-eastward. The conical hills to the north-west were partially covered with snow; and at the foot of the nearest, was a detached rock not unlike a milestone, on which we found inscribed, by our preceding party, "twenty miles from Victory." All the rocks appeared to be of granite; but we also found fragments of limestone: every thing seemed to be what we had found it since first making this coast. The men being fatigued, they were sent to rest till eight o'clock.

June 1.

We had started at ten o'clock on the preceding night, but we went first to a hut, a mile off, to seek for an axe that had been buried by the



surgeon and the mate, on the former expedition. We searched in vain, as the natives had probably taken it away, and we were thus scarcely under way till midnight. Landing at the bottom of this channel, we proceeded south-westward, and, at the distance of half a mile, reached a lake about forty feet above the level of the sea; following the bed of the river to it, as that was still frozen over. It was only three-quarters of a mile wide, and about two hundred yards in breadth; being surrounded by precipitous cliffs. Following upwards from it, we came to another of similar dimensions, a hundred feet higher, which discharges itself into the one below. Thence proceeding in the same direction till we had attained thirty feet more of elevation, we descended about ninety feet to the sea of the gulf of Shag-a-voke, and about seven miles from its entrance.

By means of a seal-hole, we found the water to be salt, and crossed this part of the bay near an island where the natives deposit their canoes and winter stores. The land here changed its character, though the rocks were the same; the whole surface being covered with fragments of granite and limestone, and thus presenting a most dreary and barren appearance. Reaching the land, we still pursued a south-westerly direction, up the channel of a river, and about a mile onwards, at an elevation of about fifty feet; and at length arrived at a small lake, part of which was covered, above the ice, by water. Here we met the old woman returning with her dogs, having deposited her load. On being questioned about the axe, she confessed that she was of the party that had stolen it, and that it was in possession of two of the men at the eastern huts.

Having passed this lake, we then held our way over another of

the same size and aspect, bounded by lower land, which was, however, equally covered by huge blocks of stone, some of them in very fantastic shapes. This was about twenty feet higher than the former; and, following the windings of the hills for a mile, we came to the north-eastern end of the great lake, which seemed eleven or twelve miles in length. We soon found the huts of the Esquimaux who had left us on the preceding day for the purpose of coming here to fish: they were still built of snow, as before, but were now covered with skins. The people denied all knowledge of the axe, and said it was in possession of the old woman. Proceeding on the lake, after this, we found a ridge of icebergs on it, differing much in aspect from those of the sea: but here we were obliged to stop for rest and refreshment; some of the party being much fatigued.

We set forward again at half-past five, and, soon after eight, arrived at an island in the middle of the lake. The men, however, were so much tired, from the sinking of the sledge into the soft snow, that we were obliged to stop; lighting our fire and cooking our dinner, without pitching our tent. The time required in melting snow for drink, detained us so long, that we did not move again till ten o'clock; the weather being clear, with a gentle breeze. We saw some reindeer, as we had done at our first resting-place on the day before, but had no opportunity of firing at them, from the distance at which they passed us. By midnight, we had reached the end of the lake, not without much labour, as the way was very bad.

We now travelled south-eastward for a mile, and gained what we judged the highest elevation on our track, which I conjectured to

be three hundred feet above the level of the sea. Thence we soon came to a narrow lake tending in the same direction, which brought us in sight of the western sea at Padliak, arriving at it after a descent of a mile. Here we found one of the Esquimaux packing up to proceed to the summer huts about two miles off. I halted to take angles and make observations, while I also measured the height of the lake above the level of the sea: thus, too, allowing the men that rest, of which they were much in need. The land about this bay was very rugged, and generally bare of snow; while numerous stones were set up in several places, as if to represent men; often presenting very grotesque resemblances.

Thus far we had followed the marks of Commander Ross's sledge. Of this we were sure, knowing that, as the natives had none of their own, having eaten those which were made of fish, and having used the bones of the others to make rafters for their tents. These sledge marks, however, now turned off to the north-westward, towards the cape forming the northern boundary of this bay: but it was our business to steer eastward for the island where we had agreed to deposit the provisions, and which was visible, about three miles off. In our way, we met two of our Esquimaux friends, going in the opposite direction, with three dogs drawing a skin; and, being much tired, I offered them a knife if they would assist us with their animals and show us where to catch fish.

This being agreed to, we proceeded to arrange matters, when I found that, among other things, the skin bag contained a fine haunch of venison, which we purchased for a file, without difficulty. Hungry men soon revive, even at the prospect of a good dinner; and, in half an hour, we were at the appointed island. It was a very

small islet, about two hundred feet long, and of half that breadth; being a mile from the shore where the native houses were built. We found it to consist of granite, covered with fragments of limestone, and with large blocks of both kinds of rock; but were better pleased at its offering a very convenient place for our tent, which was pitched without delay. The employment of cooking our venison furnished us with those pleasures of anticipation which they alone feel, who have no fears of any sinister chances between "the cup and the lip;" while it was satisfactory to find that the seller, with his file, seemed fully as happy as we who were regaling on the dinner which it had furnished.

We were informed that Commander Ross had gone toward the north; and they drew, on the ice, the shape of the land to the northward of the cape, called by them, Kingarnick; which I copied, noting all their names of places. This cape had been previously named Isabella, by Commander Ross. The man, Tiagashu, an old friend, soon came, and gave us permission to fish in the hole that he had made in the ice, about two hundred yards from us. Another of them went off in the night, and made another hole, which I bought from him for two hooks: and here we afterwards caught two dozen of small fish, supposed to be cod, in three fathoms water; the native name being Irriktu. This was named Spence Bay, in compliment to my relation of that name.

June 2.

We allowed our people to sleep till six in the morning. Except myself, every one was suffering from sore eyes, and they were therefore kept within the tent; while my work was to fish, cook, draw, and make observations. Our dinner being of fish soup, was an acceptable novelty, since we had not seen such fare for many

months. The weather was warm enough to melt snow, on the rocks, for drinking, without the labour of artificial thawing. I here made some observations on the dip of the magnetic needle. This bay is ten miles wide at this part, and is full of small islets. At three in the morning a party arrived and pitched their tents a little to the south of us; promising to bring us fish, in which, however, they disappointed us, having been unsuccessful. In the evening I repeated the observations on the dip of the magnetic needle and the intensity of its force.

The third of June was a very fine day, and we were employed in fishing. We caught a dozen of fish; which were carelessly deposited in reach of one of the dogs, by which they were, very naturally, devoured. Two of the men were unable to see at all, from the effect of the snow. The chief mate was better. The tide, in a hole furnished with a measuring line, rose only fourteen inches; and we remarked that we caught no fish except during the bright sunshine. It is to be suspected, that in these frozen seas and lakes, they are in a torpid state during the extreme cold: and that they are roused, like the dormouse, on the occasional occurrence of heat. June 3.

The men being blind for the present, from the effects of inflammation, and the native not having brought the promised dogs, I was compelled to remain. I caused a hole to be made in the ice, and found it seven feet and a quarter thick; being very nearly what it was at the ship when we came away: but there being only six feet water in depth, we had a proof of the great irregularity of the bottom. There was nothing left for me to do during this detention, except to make observations and catch fish; but the occurrence of gloomy weather was equally hostile to both.

June 4. I went with the surgeon to the tents, and found that the natives had been unsuccessful in their seal hunting, or fishing, which last is perhaps the more appropriate term. One of them entreated me, with tears, to tell him where he should find one: how were they to suppose that men so superior to themselves in a hundred things, did not know whatever concerned them most? I pointed to a place at hazard, that I might give them hope, at least, to occupy their time and stay their hunger: but it was not a very profound jest, to say that they would certainly take some if they would wait till the animals came.

We now learned that the breach of engagement, by another native, respecting a dog, arose from the circumstance of the animal having been bitten by a glutton: and the lameness of the creature proved this to be true. Finding, however, that they had two other dogs, it was agreed that we should have them harnessed to my sledge, with a guide, to proceed to Neitchillee. This too would be advantageous to the ailing men, who would thus have a longer rest, and might be well enough to return to the ship by the time I had finished my short expedition. The surgeon was well enough to go with me, but I thought it right to leave him, to take care of the rest.

We set out accordingly, at seven o'clock, accompanied by another native, who was to deposit some blubber at Neitchillee. Proceeding to the southward, we passed the mouth of a river named Keteoara, and also two stations called Owhyahriu and Oaheushrek. Six miles further, we came to a fine clear spring of water, called Amitioke, rising through sand, and much warmer than the thawed snow, of course; while we found that it had considerably over-

flowed the surrounding land during the winter: a sufficient proof of its high temperature, which, unluckily, I had no means of ascertaining. Looking from the river in which we now were, the west bank of which was low and flat, we could see the mountain of Neitchillee, and in the reverse direction, other high land, whence a ridge seemed to join the former, taking, after this, a south-west direction.

Proceeding now down the Amitioke, which was still frozen, and a hundred yards wide, we arrived at its entrance into the great lake of Neitchillee; beyond which, at the distance of half a mile, is the exit of the river that leaves this lake; the course of which we could trace in a south-east direction, as far as the eye could discern any thing. On the west side there was a plain; but on the eastern one the land was high, with the two insulated mountains of Neitchillee and Tulluktok.

The name Neitchillee is equally given to the land, the river, the lake, and the village, or settlements, of the natives. There were here houses for both seasons: the usual snow huts, namely, amounting to twenty-one, and the summer houses, some of which had circles of stones nearly three feet high, forming a group of thirty. The largest of these was an oval of fourteen feet by twelve. The surface was here covered by the bones of the animals which the inhabitants had eaten.

I took the Esquimaux who had conducted us hither, to ascend the mountain with me; and, in our way, found a wolf that had been pursuing a large herd of reindeer. It took to flight on seeing us; to the joy of the guide, who was afraid it might have carried off one of his young dogs. The colours, which had been carried up

for that purpose, were placed on the top, with the consent of the natives, and thence I had a most extensive view. The termination of the extensive piece of water beneath us, towards the south-west, was invisible; but it was bounded by flat land on each side, on which I could count hundreds of reindeer. To the northward, the river Amitioke was seen for a long space towards its source, when it was lost among the distant mountains. The land in that direction was higher than that on which we stood; and a stream, running from it through a ravine, formed a cascade, which, presenting nothing but its complicated pendants of icicles instead of falling water, produced a very singular effect. The name of the Viscountess Melville was given to this remarkable scene.

After descending, I measured the breadth of the river opposite to the huts, and found it to be two hundred feet, with a depth of thirty. I was informed that there were many rapids and water-falls between the lake and the eastern sea, and that a canoe could not ascend. The guide said that there was also a river at the other end, which, he believed, was not navigable, and which ran into the western sea; but that it was very far off. The alternate effect of the sunshine and the cold on the face and hands, blistered the skin while I was here employed in sketching the land. Having finally taken a meridian observation, I quitted Neitchillee at one o'clock.

We saw many cranes and plovers; but having unfortunately lost my stock of percussion caps after shooting a snipe, I could fire no more; to the great surprise of the natives, to whom I could only excuse myself by pretending snow blindness; not wishing them to suppose that our fire-arms could ever be disabled or useless. This loss proved still more vexatious, on the passage of a doe and her





fawn, which came within twenty yards of the sledge; at the sight of which temptation, greater perhaps to them than even to a deer-stalker of my own country, they encouraged me to fire, with loud vociferations. This, unfortunately, was impossible; and the dogs, breaking the restraint in which they were held, set off in chace, with the sledge at their heels, but were soon stopped by its becoming entangled among the stones.

Having arrived at our tent at five o'clock, the guide was paid; on which he departed, after being informed that we would call on them in our way homewards. It was satisfactory to find that the people were nearly recovered, and that we had still provisions until Sunday. Another note for Commander Ross was now deposited under a cairn which we erected: informing the natives that it was a mark for the ship, which would hereafter be useful to them as well as to ourselves, and receiving their promise not to pull it down.

At nine o'clock we struck our tent in a thick fog; and, departing at eleven, called at the huts according to promise. We found two pairs of the inmates, each a man and his wife, in their respective beds, with a trough of boiled fish and oil between them, on which they were feeding, much like swine, their faces and hands being bedaubed with this odorous compound. Another native then arrived with a seal: and as it was he whom I had directed where to find those animals, he seemed to think that I should claim a share, but was soon relieved of this fear by my refusal, which produced vociferous thanks.

To turn this gratitude to some account, I desired him to deliver a note to Commander Ross, which I accordingly wrote; informing him, for the third time, of the place of the provisions left for him,

and of other matters; promising also to the Esquimaux, that the delivery of this letter would be rewarded by a fish-hook. We then parted, on the most friendly terms, after I had presented each of the women with a sixpence to hang round their necks; one of them giving us a complimentary convoy along shore, for about two miles.

We had here found the native who had been ill of a sore throat some months before; and the phial of medicine he had received was hanging from his neck, surrounded by other ornaments. It did not seem to have been opened, and had probably been kept as a charm. In return for it, seeing that the surgeon was suffering from toothach and a swelled face, he proceeded instantly to his own mode of cure, by tapping the cheek three times, and blowing as often in the patient's face. That the doctor shortly recovered, is certain; and if it was by means of the charm, it is not the first time that toothach has been cured in the same manner.

June 5.

The men being now quite recovered, we continued our journey with spirit, in fine and clear weather. At seven, we reached the north-east end of the great lake called Teijgriak, and pitched our tent; the sun being very powerful at eight o'clock in the morning. Our breakfast was called supper, because we had inverted the usual order of things by going to bed at nine. The snow had been deep as we came, but it was now just enough frozen at the surface to prevent our light sledge from breaking through it.

This great lake, which is ten miles long, appears to be only a mile wide in some places, because it includes a chain of islands; but, in other parts, it seems three or four miles in breadth, and may indeed be more. The icebergs on it had probably been collected into the ridge which crossed from side to side, by the storms in the

early part of the winter. The flattish lands round it were still much covered by snow.

We departed once more, at seven in the afternoon, having made what was termed our breakfast: the weather being fine and clear. Having crossed two lakes, we arrived at the gulf of Shag-a-voke, which is the upper end of an arm of the eastern sea, extending inward about eight miles. Thus the isthmus is reduced to seventeen or eighteen miles in breadth; while twelve of these are fresh water: so that there are in reality but five miles of land between the eastern and the western seas.

As the gulf, inlets, and strait of Shag-a-voke had not yet been regularly examined, I now changed our course to the south-eastward; and, after travelling two miles through a very deep snow, we came to the strait which separates the gulf, or upper part, from the sound. Here, on each side, there are precipices of nearly three hundred feet high, the general breadth of it being three-quarters of a mile; while a flat boggy tract, under the northern cliff, reduces the breadth of the water, in that part, to less than two hundred feet.

We could not make this Sunday a day of rest; and I continued my examination of this inlet. About the middle, it was half a mile wide, and bounded by high mountains. Our progress was rendered very tedious and laborious by the depth of the snow; so that we did not arrive at the second strait, which separates the middle of the inlet from the lower part, or bay, till three o'clock. A point of land here projecting from the north side, seems to block out the sea; looking like an island, but connected with the shore by an isthmus, and leaving the breadth of the water, in this place, about

June 6.

a hundred feet. There were many rocks in the middle of it: and the ice being now partially broken up, the tide was running up at the rate of four miles an hour; while we calculated, from the old high water-mark, that it would still flow for two hours. This would be five o'clock, and it was the day of full moon.

Below this peninsula, the channel of this strait bends to the southward, and a part of it runs into a gulf formed by a second peninsula, resembling the first, but projecting at various points, so as to produce a very intricate passage. At this division of the water, there is a reef of large stones, resembling a mill-dam, being placed diagonally, and probably a work of the natives for the purpose of directing the water to the southern shore, where the principal channel lies; while, on the opposite side, that forms a spacious bay backed by high land. The isthmus was covered with circles of stones, being the remains of native houses; and we saw a singular square mound, smooth, and covered with vegetation, resembling the two faces of a bastion, which proved, on examination, to be an alluvium deposited at the meeting of two streams. How often such deposits have been mistaken for Roman and other encampments, in our own country, is well known.

The great inlet near this place measured about two thousand feet at the narrowest part; and, from this position, we saw the entrance of the bay, three miles off, being the outer part of Shag-a-voke. The north side of this opening descended gradually to a low point projecting eastward; the southern one continuing four miles more in the same direction, and then trending to the south-east. This side appeared clear of rocks and islets; but off the other, there was a rock, very remarkable, which, with two other islands, were named

after my friend, T. Tilson, Esq., and his daughters, as seen in the plate; while, further north, there were three islets, taking an easterly direction, which seem nearly joined to the main at low water.

We arrived at the southernmost of these islands at seven in the morning; and at this time the action of the sun on the snow had rendered travelling very difficult: the proper time, in reality, being the night; whence our inversion of day and night for the purposes of rest and sleep. The tent was here therefore pitched, and the men allowed to rest and eat, while I made some necessary observations for the latitude, but was obliged to refer those for the longitude to a future comparison with the ship's place, as my chronometer had met with an accident. A hare and a brace of ptarmigans were killed, and I saw many gulls and small birds.

At five in the afternoon, the men being rested, we proceeded with our package, and departed at seven. The labour in this part of the journey was very severe, as we were obliged to draw the sledge over hummocky ice for eight miles; sinking up to our knees at every step, and often being obliged to lift it over the obstructions. This piece occupied us six hours. The weather was fortunately very clear, and the snow had wasted away very much from the land.

At half-past one we had reached Cape Keppel, where we hoisted our colours, and halted for refreshment: after which, resuming our journey, we found the ice smoother, and got on very well, making a drawing of that rock which resembles the Bass, and giving it the name of Adolphus Dalrymple, on account of its similarity to the crest of that family. Two miles further off, we saw a flag flying, and thus knew that a party from the ship had been sent in search of

June 7.

us. Arriving at it, we found a note from Mr. Thom, who, fearing that we might want provisions, had caused some to be deposited in a place indicated, where we accordingly found them. We did not happen, however, to be in want; having husbanded our own, by means of fish and venison. We saw, about the precipices to-day, many gulls and owls, with numerous seals in the pools which now lined the shore.

At seven, we arrived at the ship, after an absence of nearly nine days, and found every thing right, and all in good health. If it is but justice to the men to say that they exerted themselves to the utmost, they deserve even more praise for a very different display of obedience and self-devotedness. As I was the only one who drank no spirits, and was also the only person who had not inflamed eyes, I represented that the use of grog was the cause, and therefore proposed that they should abandon this indulgence: showing further, that although I was very much the oldest of the party, I bore fatigue better than any of them. There was no hesitation in acquiescing; and the merit was the greater, since, independently of the surrender of a seaman's fixed habits, they had always considered this the chief part of their support. Thus we brought back all of this stock which had not been consumed the first day.

It is difficult to persuade men, even though they should not be habitual drinkers of spirits, that the use of these liquors is debilitating instead of the reverse. The immediate stimulus gives a temporary courage, and its effect is mistaken for an infusion of new strength. But the slightest attention will show how exactly the result is the reverse. It is sufficient to give men, under hard and steady labour, a draught of the usual grog, or a dram, to

perceive, that, often in a few minutes, they become languid, and, as they generally term it, faint; losing their strength, in reality, while they attribute that to the continuance of the fatiguing exertions. He who will make the corresponding experiments on two equal boats' crews, rowing in a heavy sea, will soon be convinced that the water drinkers will far outdo the others: while no better testimony to this is required than the experience of the men who work in the iron foundries. That is the hardest work which falls to a man to do: and so well do the labourers in this department know that they cannot perform it, if they drink even beer, that their sole beverage during all the hours of this hot and heavy labour, is water. If London draymen and coalheavers are of a different opinion, every one knows the result; as the self-indulgence which leads to this luxurious and profligate practice is not less known.

It is not that I am declaring myself an advocate for temperance societies, whatever may be their advantages, nor that I am desirous of copying a practice lately introduced into some ships, under whatever motives: but were it in my power, as commanding a vessel, I would exclude the use of grog, on the mere grounds of its debilitating effects, and independently of any ulterior injury which it may do: reserving it for those cases alone in which its use may be deemed medicinal, or, for any special reasons, useful.

Such is the account of this journey: but as it contains no register of the proceedings at the ship for so many days, I must resume that once more from the first of June, the records having been made, in my absence, by Mr. Thom.



## CHAPTER XXVIII.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE SHIP FROM THE FIRST OF JUNE—COMMANDER  
ROSS'S RETURN.

1830.  
June 1. **THE** men were at work at the leeboards. The thermometer at 27°, with a fog.
- June 2. On the following day the caulking proceeded, and the dead eyes were preparing for the mainmast. Three grouse were shot, and
- June 3. the thermometer rose to 29°. On the third there was little change in the heat; the work in the ship still going on.
- June 4. On the fourth much of the snow was dissolved round the ship; the sun now having great power. A party of natives came to it, including the wooden-legged man, who, having broken his new leg, was drawn by dogs, on a seal-skin, their fish sledges having been eaten. He was repaired by the carpenter, and departed. The thermometer was 27° at midnight. The usual work about the ship
- June 5. occupied the following day as well as the present, and the temperature did not materially change.
- June 6. Being Sunday, the church service was read, as it had been during my presence on board. A party of seven men, with the carpenter, was afterwards sent to the southward, with directions for depositing a supply of provisions at the flagstaff, where we found it; and also in the hopes of meeting me, should they be able to extend their

walk far enough. They returned, after travelling seven miles to no purpose as far as that was concerned.

This was the day on which we rejoined the ship, after an absence of eight days and a half, and I may here resume my own journal. June 7.

I found the thermometer to-day at  $32^{\circ}$ , and the work on the ship going on. June 8.

The snow was rapidly and steadily melting during the day, and the appearance of the land was, in consequence, greatly changed. The rigging of the main and fore masts was fast advancing; and the heat rose as high as  $55^{\circ}$ , falling to  $31^{\circ}$  in the night of the following day, which found the foretopmast got up, and the bowsprit better secured, by new work. June 9.

In addition to the progress of our other work, we cut a hole in the ice above the Krusenstern, but could not get a sight of her, such was the depth under which she was for the present buried. June 10.

A hare and four grouse having been killed, were found to have acquired their summer plumage and coating. The ice became more and more covered with water, daily; though the thermometer had rather sunk for the last three days. June 11.

The canvas roof was entirely removed this day, and a summer awning spread. It was cloudy; and the first rain of this season fell in the evening. The torrents were seen running down the hills, and numbers of ducks and brent geese made their appearance for the first time. The several kinds of animals, I need scarcely now say, form a calendar of the year in this country, as the flowering of plants does in our own; where the emigrations of birds, if I except the swallow, nightingale, and cuckoo, are little noticed in comparison. June 12.

On Sunday, a heavy fall of snow came on, early in the morning; June 13.

and, lasting till night, the ground was once more covered. At eight p. m., Commander Ross and his party returned, all in good health. They had travelled along the coast that led westward, a hundred miles west of Neitchillee; establishing the continuity of the continent as far as the  $99^{\circ}$  of longitude, and in latitude  $70^{\circ}$ ; being about a hundred and fifty miles to the westward of our present position. They had also travelled along the coast about twenty miles to the westward, north of the inlet which enters on the westward of the isthmus. In returning, they found that my deposit of provisions for them had been partly eaten and partly destroyed by the natives; but they still found as much as they required, visiting the south-west river of Neitchillee before returning homeward. The country which they traversed was barren, and formed of limestone; they saw no deer nor any other animal except the willow partridge. But they found that the ice in the small lakes at Padliak had given way, and that the same was the case in the bay of Shag-a-voke. I must however now, as I have done before, refer to Commander Ross's own narrative.



GRANDES VALLEY.

Illustration by J. H. P. Jones.

## CHAPTER XXIX.

## COMMANDER ROSS'S NARRATIVE.

ON the present expedition I was accompanied by Mr. Macdiarmid as far as Graham's Valley: the object of his attendance being that I might point out to him a spot to which provisions might be carried to await us on our return. Following the track of our party, we found them encamped four or five miles to the north of Too-nood-leed; and on inquiry we found that one of them had been so affected by cramps, soon after setting out, that the rest were obliged to carry him in the boat as far as they were able to do this; the additional load thus produced, together with the loss of one hand out of their small number, having prevented them from making any further progress. Some of the men were also suffering from inflammation of the eyes, by which the mate Blanky, in particular, was especially affected.

1830.  
May 17.

The sun's rays now became so powerful at noon, that, added to this evil, already commenced, but too soon, I resolved to resume the plan of travelling by night: we therefore commenced the present day's journey at three in the afternoon; but the snow was so soft that we were three hours in reaching Too-nood-leed, whence Blanky's increased inflammation prevented us from proceeding for two or three hours. We at length found it necessary to leave him behind

May 18.

under the care of the surgeon, however inconvenient such a loss was to our small party: as it was also easy to procure a sledge from the Esquimaux to carry him back to the ship. Thus also we unfortunately were unable to carry on the surgeon to the intended spot; since it was necessary that he should return with a man whose future services we could not afford to hazard; and hence, unable now to calculate on the depot of provisions which we had intended to make at Pad-le-ak, I was obliged to limit materially the period which I had intended for my absence on this expedition.

Leaving them comfortably placed in the hut which we had formerly occupied, together with a quantity of provisions in case of detention, we proceeded on our journey. Our force was thus reduced to four men, including Abernethy; and though assisted by eight dogs in a second sledge, our load was quite as great as we could manage, since it consisted of three week's provisions, besides instruments and clothes, and a skin boat.

Ascending the hill from the bay of Too-nood-leed, and on the first lake, we noticed the tracks of a deer, with those of two wolves in pursuit, accompanied by fragments of hair and skin which the latter had torn from its sides; finding, not long after, the animal itself, partly devoured by its enemies. Our approach had probably frightened them away, and our dogs thus came in for a share of the prize.

A fall of snow, with a fog, at midnight, rendered it very difficult for us to find our way across the great Middle Lake, and we were therefore obliged to guide ourselves chiefly by the direction of the wind until three in the morning, when we encamped for rest. But a serene afternoon followed; and, recommencing our exertions at

six in the evening, we arrived in sight of the sea at eleven o'clock. Here, a view from the hill on our right enabled me to determine our future route; and hence I could discern the low land of the opposite shore, stretching across the bay from Nei-tyel-le to within fifteen or twenty degrees of Cape Isabella. To this cape I then determined to proceed, because I could there obtain a more commanding view of the inlet, on account of its greater elevation.

The party which I had thus quitted for a short time, had announced their arrival on the shores of the western sea by three cheers: it was to me, as well as to them, and still more indeed to the leader than to his followers, a moment of interest well deserving the usual "hail" of a seaman; for it was the ocean that we had pursued, the object of our hopes and exertions; the free space which, as we once had hoped, was to have carried us round the American continent, which ought to have given us the triumph for which we and all our predecessors had laboured so long and so hard. It would have done all this, had not nature forbidden; it might have done all this had our chain of lakes been an inlet, had this valley formed a free communication between the eastern and western seas; but we had at least ascertained the impossibility; the desired sea was at our feet, we were soon to be travelling along its surface; and, in our final disappointment, we had at least the consolation of having removed all doubts and quenched all anxiety, of feeling that where God had said No, it was for man to submit, and to be thankful for what had been granted. It was a solemn moment, never to be forgotten; and never was the cheering of a seaman so impressive, breaking as it did on the stillness of the night, amid this dreary waste of ice and snow, where there was not an

object to remind us of life, and not a sound seemed ever to have been heard.

May 20. At midnight we proceeded over the level of the sea ice, and, passing some hummocks, arrived at the desired cape, at six in the morning. Our encampment here was of a novel nature; being formed by excavating, in a ridge of snow, a burrow, large enough to contain the party, which was then roofed by the skin boat; securing afterwards its sides to the surface, by means of the snow that had been removed. An opening being made on the lee side, it was stopped up by a block of snow for a door, and, by means of the blanket bags, we contrived to make our beds both warm and soft. A spirit lamp served to melt sufficient snow for drink; while thus, for many subsequent nights, we enjoyed a sounder sleep than we had often done under circumstances far more comfortable and promising.

Cape Isabella rises abruptly, and often precipitously, to about five hundred feet above the level of the sea, and is formed of grey granite, presenting patches of vegetation, which, for this climate, seemed to have been unusually luxuriant in the past summer. The tracks of grouse, hares, and foxes, were the only indications of animal life that were seen.

From the accounts of the Esquimaux, I had expected to see a narrow entrance to this inlet, beyond the cape, to which they had given the name of Ik-ke-rush-yuk; as they had also described it to be formed by a low point to the westward, and some islands. But, instead of this, the land on which I stood, still preserved its westerly trending, while the opposite shore diverged; and I thence concluded that the reported inlet was on the side opposed to my



present place, where several small islands skirted the northern part of it to the south-west. Under these circumstances, I considered that my best plan was to continue along this coast as far as the entrance of the inlet; the boundary of which would be determined by the hummocky ice of the ocean. The needful observations for this cape were then made; but, in returning to the party, I had the misfortune to break my only compass by a fall; an accident which prevented me from making any further observations on the variation of the needle, and thus causes a blank which I must regret, pervading the remainder of this journey.

Our labour hitherto had exceeded our strength; and it was therefore regulated thenceforward, that we should rise at four in the afternoon; and, after our meal, with the necessary stowage and arrangements, proceed on our daily, or rather nightly, journey between six and seven: limiting the length of it to ten hours. The labour of encamping, the evening (being truly a morning) meal, repairs of clothes, and other matters, then occupied three or four hours, so that the seven or eight remaining were left for sleep.

Under this new arrangement we set out at six in the evening; pursuing our route close along shore, under the projecting point of limestone which skirts Cape Isabella, and extends along this shore for some miles, where it is broken into capes and inlets by means of long ridges of that rock. The direction, here, of the coast, for about ten miles, is west-north-west, after which it becomes more northerly: and it became necessary to examine the whole of the bays and inlets thus formed, because I understood from the natives that the entrance of the expected inlet was narrow. They, however, proved shallow; and being light in comparison with the

loaded party, I was enabled to search the whole accurately, while the rest skirted the coast between the several points.

May 21.

After a fatiguing day's journey of twenty miles, we halted soon after four in the morning; and, in this as in the preceding, we passed several canoes covered with stones, and some *cachées* of provisions belonging to the Esquimaux, which, of course, we took care not to disturb. The occasional discovery of seaweed, shrimps, and shellfish, also served to confirm us in the belief that we were really on the shores of the ocean, and not of any freshwater lake, supposing that there could have been, here, one of such magnitude as to occupy the great flat space of ice before us. This, indeed, had been at one time imagined by some of the party, in consequence of the want of a tide-mark on the shore, and of there being no hummocky ice in the offing.

For the last four or five miles of this journey, the coast was formed of granite, containing large crystals of felspar, with garnets; the hills, at a short distance from the sea attaining the height of six or seven hundred feet.

Our present encampment was on the shore of a small inlet; and, on examining it, I found a good harbour, but of no great extent, at its end, well protected by two small islands. Meeting the party at the further point of this sinuosity, a snow hut was found; and this we believed to have been occupied by the natives, who had arrived at the ship shortly before our departure. Here, from a lofty point, I gained a very extensive view of a considerable inlet to the westward of the cape, which seemed to promise the desired opening to the polar ocean, as I judged from the very different characters of the two shores. That on which I stood was formed of granite,

high and rugged, deeply intersected by ravines, and skirted by numerous rocky islets; while the opposite one was very low, and consisted of limestone.

In order to save time, I proceeded immediately, in company with Abernethy, to examine this inlet; taking, to aid us, the sledge, with five dogs, so as to assist us alternately, and thus diminish that fatigue by which we should have been inconveniently retarded. We thus passed many islets along the eastern shore, presenting abundant traces of Esquimaux; and, after an hour's travelling toward the north-west, arrived at the entrance of an arm of the sea, or perhaps of the mouth of a river, about half a mile in breadth. Here the hills on each side were of granite, rising, in some places, perpendicularly, to the height of three hundred feet. The glassy surface of the ice, here at least, indicated its freshwater origin; and this, with other puzzling circumstances, rendered a minute examination necessary.

We therefore continued our journey; and after travelling five or six miles to the north-north-east, reached the termination of the inlet, and there found the estuary of a river; the banks being contracted at the exit to a few hundred feet, so as to produce a rapid; while, a little higher up, it was a quarter of a mile in breadth. The number of canoes that we found buried on the western bank, proved it to be a principal fishing station of the Esquimaux; as we might equally have judged from the numerous landmarks and *cachées*.

The weather being very fine, I ascended a hill about a thousand feet high, whence I obtained an extensive view of a chain of lakes, leading to the north-east through a limestone country, while the

granite hills took a north-north-westerly direction. In descending, the party came in sight near the bottom of this inlet; and being directed onwards to the further point, I completed the survey of this bay, and rejoined them at their encampment. The river thus discovered was named after Nicholas Garry, Esq.

May 22. A fresh breeze made our burrow colder than was agreeable, though the thermometer was still above zero. The drift and haze which accompanied, prevented us also from starting till eight in the evening, when we continued our journey along the coast, which soon began to trend to the northward of west; and, shortly after, the cheering sight of the sea, covered with hummocks of ice, convinced me that we had at length arrived at the strait called Ik-ke-rush-yuk by the Esquimaux. Continuing to follow the coast, we found it turn quickly round to the north-west; while the heavy-washed sea ice on our left removed all doubt of the course now to be pursued.

I therefore resolved to reach the opposite coast, should this attempt prove to be practicable; and finding a favourable tract of smooth ice, we left that on which we were, before midnight. In proceeding, we came to a ridge of hummocky ice thirty feet high, running across our path, which we had great difficulty in surmounting; it being necessary to carry the luggage over it, and to cut a passage for the sledge with axes. This occupied more than an hour; when, observing some islets to the south-west that had previously been concealed by this ridge, we steered for them, and after passing several lower ones, nearly on a level with the flat ice, were obliged by a supervening haze, to encamp on the east side of an extensive island, at five on the morning of the twenty-third;

May 23.

having travelled about sixteen miles. This, being the anniversary of our departure from England, was distinguished by a dinner of frozen roast beef, and, what was now rare with us, a glass of grog.

The group of islets to the north-west was named Beverly, and the land on which we encamped Matty Island, in compliment to the fair donors of the beautiful silk colours which we then displayed, in honour of the day, and on the usual formalities of taking possession of this hitherto undiscovered spot.

Towards noon, the clearing away of the haze allowed me to obtain a good view, disclosing the north end of this island, about two miles off, with a great extent of ocean, terminating in heavy packed ice. Here, also, seeing that the land to the south-west was low, and apparently broken into islands, I resolved to keep along the north shore of Matty island, where the hummocky ice assured me that we were on the boundary of the great northern ocean.

We therefore pursued our journey at the usual time, but found the way extremely laborious among this rough ice; while our toils were much increased by a thick fog, which froze on our clothes so as to render us nearly incapable of moving under their weight and stiffness. It was even with great difficulty, so much were the men exhausted, that we could form our encampment at six in the morning, when we halted. The place we chose was under the west point of Matty island, formed, like the Beverly islets, of small ridges of limestone, rising to a considerable height, which have a west-south-westerly direction. We had coasted along it about twelve miles; but all else that we had seen consisted in a few tracks of partridges, together with some footsteps of bears, hares, and foxes, which appeared quite recent.

We were in a miserable plight, from the fatigues of this day, and passed a comfortless night. To resume our hard and frozen dresses, was also a most difficult and painful operation; but the evening proved fine, and a little courage and exertion soon put us in motion once more. From the place which we, thus, shortly attained, the opposed shore of the island which we had left, appeared divided into numerous islets; while the ridge of hummocky ice which we had crossed on the day before, was elevated above the heavy pack that filled the inlet, and stretched out in an unbroken line as far as the eye could reach, in a direction toward the north-north-west.

After three hours of hard labour, we succeeded in crossing from Matty island to a low point of the mainland to which I gave Mr. Abernethy, our mate's name; conferring that of Cape Sabine on a cape to the northwest which we shortly afterwards rounded. We thence found the coast trending directly to the westward; and here  
May 25. finding level ice as well as fine weather, we made a rapid progress along the shore; halting at six on the morning of the twenty-fifth of May, after a smart day's journey of twenty miles, and encamping, or burrowing, on a point which I named Cape Young, after the member for Tynemouth.

A reef extending from this point north-westward, for two miles and a half, so as to meet the north point of Tennent island, protects an excellent harbour, could such a harbour ever be of any use: and its entrance, which is two miles wide, is divided in the middle by an islet that would effectually cover it from the invasion of heavy ice. As the island was named after Mr. Emerson Tennent, so has this, by the title of Port Emerson.

Setting out at eight o'clock, we passed along the reef and by the southern end of Tennent island, gaining the opposite shore of the

harbour at eleven o'clock. Here the land trended to the west-north-west till we came to the last point of an extensive inlet, or bay, to which was given the name of Bannerman, in compliment to the member for Aberdeen. To cross this was a very laborious task, and occupied us three hours; the ice being extremely rugged and hummocky, and also covered with loose snow, which lay very deep among the crevices. After this, the land trended more to the northward; when, following it during three more hours not less laborious, we at length rested at five in the morning, in one of our usual burrows; a house, which with a little pardon for the want of precision in the term, might be called subterranean. May 26.

I here began to doubt what our actual position might be, when I now considered all the indentations of the coast that we had seen or passed. The question with me was, whether we were in reality skirting a continent, or whether all this irregular land might not be a chain of islands. Those unacquainted with frozen climates like the present, must recollect that when all is ice, and all one dazzling mass of white, when the surface of the sea itself is tossed up and fixed into rocks, while the land is on the contrary, very often flat, if not level; when, in short, there is neither water nor land to be seen, or when both are equally indiscriminated, as well by shape as by colour, it is not always so easy a problem as it might seem on a superficial view, to determine a fact which appears, in words to be extremely simple.

At any rate, I could not satisfy myself, in our present position: and thence one disagreeable consequence, which, trifling as it may seem to a reader when compared to an essential geographical fact, was of no small moment to us, and indeed to the progress and

success of the expedition itself. Had we been sure that we were on the continent, we might have left in concealment a large portion of our provisions, and this would have enabled us to proceed with much more ease and rapidity. But in case that it proved but a chain of islands, these would have been left behind, to our unspeakable inconvenience, or rather perhaps to our destruction, in case I should do what was really essential, in returning by the continental shore; while, if not daring to attempt this for such a reason, a principal object of our journey would have been abandoned. I was therefore at length determined to take the safest resolution; and thus consent to be still encumbered with the heavy load that so much augmented our labours, and so disadvantageously contracted our time.

And, indeed, diminished as the weight was by the consumption which our provisions had already undergone, that load was not only still a heavy one, but was relatively to our strength, even more troublesome than it had hitherto been. The dogs had become worse than useless, from the continued labour which they had exerted, and which we could not diminish by giving them an occasional rest for a day or two, since we could not afford to hazard the loss of that fine weather, of which the term was fast approaching. Lest readers may have forgotten it, I ought perhaps to say that the height of summer in these climates renders travelling as impracticable as does the depth of winter. It is not that the heat is more intolerable than the cold, though it is sufficiently tormenting and hurtful, but that the frozen surface becomes at first so loose and wet as to be nearly impassable; while, as the ground is laid hard on shore, and the water opens at sea, it becomes utterly impossible



to travel either by land or water, or rather, as I might safely say, by that which is both or neither. Latterly, indeed, we had but two of these animals in a serviceable state, and one of the poor creatures died at our present encampment.

I here contrived to shoot two partridges, which not only gave us what was now rare, a warm meal, but enabled us to save our provisions; a most important matter, as we were now situated. No one will be surprised to hear how often during all these years we had formed the idle wish that men could live without food; a wish, idle and nonsensical as we felt it, that was ever intruding, since the necessity of eating was the ever-recurring obstacle to all our endeavours.

Three low islands, situated about ten miles to the northward of our present position, were named Beaufort islands, after the well-known hydrographer to the Admiralty. A dense haze prevented us from moving till nine o'clock on this evening, when, continuing our journey, we arrived at the eastern point of an extensive bay, and held along down its eastern shore, in a south-westerly direction, for two hours. From different places, I obtained a complete view of it, and afterwards rejoined the party on the opposite side. The western side being steep, we had great difficulty in dragging our sledges up the bank; but, having surmounted it, proceeded across the country in a north-west direction, till we were compelled, by a thick fog, to halt on the margin of an extensive lake, at six in the evening. We had gained but eight miles, owing to the time expended in examining the bay just mentioned, to which I gave the appellation of Parry, in gratitude to an officer whose name is here a sufficient distinction.

May 27.

The projecting point in the centre of this bay was named Stanley, from him who is sufficiently known by his travels in Iceland; and we here found several stone huts which appeared to have been occupied by the natives not long before.

The weather being fine, we could hence distinguish the coast still trending to the north-west; and thence, as for other reasons, I was desirous to continue our journey for another day or two, in hopes that the sea line would shortly take the direction of point Turnagain, which, could we have attained it, would have been an object of first-rate importance; since we might thus have also completed this line of coast, and, here at least, have left nothing remaining for future investigators. Will it be believed that I was not anxious to complete the survey of the north coast of America, that with so important an object almost within my very reach, I was not desirous to attain this great triumph?

But my men were not less so; and it would be doing them great injustice, did I not here record their spirit and ambition. For such an attempt, it was necessary to make a still further reduction in the allowance of provisions; and whatever they who are well fed and at ease may think, such sacrifices are not small to him who is already under fed and hard worked, who must exert himself every hour beyond his strength, who feels that food would enable him to go through his task, and who, independently of this reasoning, is actually suffering under the instinctive and irrepressible cravings of animal nature. Yet on mentioning my wishes to the mate Abernethy, he informed me that the men had intended, themselves, to make the same proposal to me, and were only waiting for the proper opportunity of transmitting their wishes through him.

It may be believed that I rejoiced in this generous feeling on their parts; and the necessary reduction was therefore immediately announced.

Under this alteration, which enabled us to advance for two days longer, we set out at eight in the evening, and, after passing over some small lakes, reached the sea at eleven. We then continued our course along the coast, in a north-westerly direction till midnight, much annoyed by thick fogs for a time, but finally reaching a point, at two o'clock on the twenty-eighth of May, which formed one side of an extensive bay. This was named after Dr. Richardson: and as it was a convenient spot for a depôt, since by it we should be obliged to return, we resolved here to disburden ourselves of part of our encumbrances. May 28.

We therefore left behind every thing which we could spare, and taking four days' provision in the sledges, set out at three in the morning, crossing Richardson's bay, and encamping at six. Departing again at six in the evening, we found the land to trend toward the north-west till midnight, when we reached a point that was then named Cape Felix, after the founder of our expedition; at the back of which was an accumulation of hummocky ice. This point is the south-west cape of the gulf of Boothia, named after the same singularly generous and spirited individual, whose fame and deeds will go down to posterity among the first of those whose characters and conduct have conferred honour on the very name of a British merchant. May 29.

Here we found the land trend to the south-west, while the vast extent of ocean then before our eyes, assured us that we had at length reached the northern point of that portion of the continent

which I had already ascertained with so much satisfaction to be trending towards Cape Turnagain. The pack of ice which had, in the autumn of the last year, been pressed against that shore, consisted of the heaviest masses that I had ever seen in such a situation. With this, the lighter floes had been thrown up, on some parts of the coast, in a most extraordinary and incredible manner; turning up large quantities of the shingle before them, and, in some places, having travelled as much as half a mile beyond the limits of the highest tide-mark.

Continuing hence to the south-westward, till about two in the morning, we arrived at the north point of a bay, across which we passed, over much hummocky ice, gaining its southern point after two hours of hard labour. Hence the coast continued to trend about south-west by south, till we halted about six o'clock, after a journey of twenty miles, though with much fatigue to the whole party. The latitude here was  $69^{\circ} 46' 19''$ , and the longitude  $98^{\circ} 32' 49''$ .

The reflection that we had now rounded the northernmost point of this part of the continent, and that we had found the coast trending in the desired direction, could not fail to give us the greatest satisfaction. The great extent of sea also which was now seen from Cape Felix, free from all appearance of land served to raise our expectations as to the further success of the ensuing season, when we might hope, now that we knew what was before us, to succeed entirely in completing the survey of the north shore of America, since we could now make our arrangements accurately to meet what was still to be done and endured.

Additionally desirous, therefore, to be quite sure of the facts as

far as they could here be ascertained, and that I was not deceived by some large indentation of the coast, I devoted the day to a still more accurate examination of the circumstances. How extremely unwilling I was to return at all, from this point, with the main object of the expedition almost, it may be said, within our reach, may well be imagined; but others must be in the same situation before they can conceive the intensity of this regret and the severity of this disappointment. Our distance from Cape Turnagain was now not greater than the space which we had already travelled; as many more spare days at our command would have enabled us to do all that was remaining, to return triumphant to the Victory, and to carry to England a truly worthy fruit of our long and hard labours.

But these days were not in our power; for it was not days of time, but of the very means of existence that were wanting to us. We had brought twenty-one days' provision from the ship; and much more than the half was already consumed, notwithstanding the reductions which had been made, without which we should have even stopped far short of our present point; to reach which had occupied thirteen days, when we had provided ourselves for no more than eleven outwards. There was nothing therefore left to us but to submit; and thus, however mortified at the necessity of such a resolution, I was compelled to settle finally for our return to the ship, after we had advanced one other day. By the shortest route back, our distance from her was computed at two hundred miles; and, even on a very scanty allowance, we could not reckon on provisions for more than ten days.

As some of the party were now suffering in their feet, I took this

opportunity of giving them a day's rest, and left our station, with Abernethy, at eight in the evening. Being light, we now travelled quickly along the land, to the south-westward, till midnight, when, from a stranded mass of ice about forty feet high, we saw a point of land bearing south-west about fifteen miles distant, and could also trace its continuity with that in which we stood; the line forming an extensive bay, occupied by very heavy packed ice. A little examination, however, led us to doubt whether the remote point might not be an island, as there was an intermediate one about eight miles off. But to make an actual examination was now impossible; since our time was nearly expended, and the ruggedness of the ice between these points would have demanded a very tedious and laborious journey.

We now therefore unfurled our flag for the usual ceremony, and took possession of what we saw as far as the distant point, while that on which we stood was named Victory point; being the "ne plus ultra" of our labour, as it afterwards proved, while it will remain a standing record of the exertions of that ship's crew. The point to the south-west was also named Cape Franklin: and if that be a name which has now been conferred on more places than one, these honours, not in fact very solid when so widely shared, are beyond all thought less than the merits of that officer deserve.

On Victory point we erected a cairn of stones six feet high, and we enclosed in it a canister containing a brief account of the proceedings of the expedition since its departure from England. Such has been the custom, and to that it was our business to conform; though I must say, that we did not entertain the most remote hope that our little history would ever meet an European's eye;

even had it escaped the accident of falling into the hands of the Esquimaux. Yet we should have gone about our work with something like hope, if not confidence, had we then known that we were reputed as lost men, if even still alive, and that our ancient and tried friend Back was about to seek for us, and to restore us once more to society and home. And if it is not impossible that the course of his present investigations from Cape Turnagain eastward may lead him to this very spot, that he may find the record and proof of our own "turnagain," we have known what it is for the wanderer in these solitudes to alight upon such traces of friends and of home, and can almost envy him the imagined happiness; while we shall rejoice to hear that he has done that in which we failed, and perhaps not less than if we had ourselves succeeded in completing this long pursued and perilous work.

It was at one in the morning of the thirtieth of May that we turned our backs on this last and furthest point of our journey, arriving at our former encampment at six. We had here found a single piece of drift wood, the only one that we had seen since we left the ship; but were far better pleased to have augmented our slender store of provisions by a hare and two grouse. Every thing thus united to render this a marked day: and, such animals are we, in spite of ourselves, that the rare occurrence of a hot supper and a glass of grog made us for a moment forget all our disappointments, and rather caused us to feel pleasure that we were now returning home, than regret that, in so doing, we were renouncing the very object of our long anxiety and hard pursuit. May 30.

The longitude of the point on which we were encamped, and which I named Point Culgruff, was determined by a pocket chro-

nometer, in preference to that which might have been deduced from our sets of lunar distances, because we found, on our return to the ship, that its rate of going had been remarkably steady. The hard trials which this watch underwent, united to its wonderful regularity, form a compliment to the makers, Parkinson and Frödsham, which it would be superfluous to state in other terms.

The longitude of this point, thus ascertained, is  $98^{\circ} 32' 49''$  west, and the latitude  $69^{\circ} 46' 19''$ . The time of high water was three o'clock, and the rise and fall but seventeen inches. Victory point lies in latitude  $69^{\circ} 37' 49''$ , and longitude  $98^{\circ} 40' 49''$ : while of Point Franklin, as near as those could be determined from an estimated distance, the latitude is  $96^{\circ} 31' 13''$ , and the longitude  $99^{\circ} 17' 58''$ .

May 31. At seven in the evening we commenced our journey homeward, steering across the country direct for the point of our depot. We were thus enabled to cut off a considerable distance; and as we thus also contrived to cross several lakes where the travelling was easy, we reached our store at six in the morning of the thirty-first, very much fatigued however by the exertions which we could not, nevertheless, have slackened or delayed, as we had nothing in the shape of provisions left.

June 1. The unlucky dogs had been unable to continue their work for some days past: they were consequently unharnessed, and one of them died in the course of the day, while another was missing when we rose at six in the evening to continue our journey. Proceeding, we traced the coast line between this station and Port Parry, and at length reached the encampment of the twenty-sixth of last month, at four in the morning of the first of June. I here com-



pleted the examination of the bay, which I had then left unfinished; and, after this, we arrived at Point Young about six in the morning of the second. A brace of grouse and a fox were here shot; and we found many circles of stones, marking the former summer residences of the Esquimaux.

June 2.

Setting out again in the evening, we arrived at Cape Sabine at three on the following morning; and here we obtained water to drink, without the trouble of melting the snow. A small pool was open, and it was the first indication of a thaw which we had seen. At six we reached Cape Abernethy; and being desirous, if possible, to survey the whole coast line of the continent towards Nei-tyel-le, we proceeded in a south-south-easterly direction along the west shore of the strait which separates Matty island from the mainland; encamping at half past six. The latitude here was  $69^{\circ} 30' 42''$ , and the longitude  $96^{\circ} 8' 26''$  west.

June 3.

A strong westerly breeze prevented our departure till nine o'clock, from which time we continued the examination of the coast to the southward till five; having made a journey of but nine miles during this night. The snow was deep, and the party now much weakened, so that we found it impossible to travel faster. For some time past, indeed, we had found the usual march of ten hours too much for the strength of the men, reduced as their allowance of provisions now was; but this part of the arrangement could not be altered, though we could not succeed in surmounting more than ten or twelve miles in the day. We were still eighty miles from the ship, and the remaining provisions amounted only to five days' consumption; while we were by no means sure that we might not meet with many impediments in our way back to Nei-tyel-le.

June 4.

This also served to alter my plans, or at least to throw a doubt over their accomplishment; since I saw that unless the coast should assume an easterly direction the next day, I must abandon the intention of completing this whole line of shore, as I had hoped.

Soon after recommencing our journey in the evening, we arrived at the entrance of a considerable inlet, but the haziness of the weather prevented me from gaining a distinct view of its termination. I therefore crossed to the southern point, and thus obtained such a sight of it from a high hill, as to trace the continuity of the land round a small bay to the south, and afterwards joined the party at the eastern extreme point at three in the afternoon, giving to it the name of Captain W. H. Smyth, of the Royal Navy. This journey proved so difficult, from the quantity of hummocky ice to be passed, and the depth of the snow in the intervals, that we suffered great fatigue, and two of the dogs were left behind.

June 5.

As the coast still trended to the south-south-east, I determined now to steer direct for Nei-tyel-le, as our provisions would no longer permit any further examination of the shore in this quarter. We therefore left Point Smyth at four, and directed our course to the southernmost of a group of islets, nearly east of us, where we arrived at seven in the morning. This islet, of which the latitude is  $69^{\circ} 59' 32''$ , and the longitude  $95^{\circ} 45' 50''$ , is high, and afforded an extensive view of the neighbouring islands, with much more of the continental shore than I had seen from Point Smyth; but a thin haze which covered the land prevented me from tracing it very distinctly to the south-eastward. The snow was now separated into patches in different places; and we found three snow huts, which had been occupied in the preceding winter by the

family of Kan-ny-yoke, whose route towards the ship by the Stanley river could be traced for a certain distance, by the marks of the sledges. The number of the traces of the Esquimaux found about here, showed also that this was one of their steady places of resort; while, further finding the landmarks in great numbers, as they had been described to us, I had no hesitation in giving to this islet the native name of O-wut-ta, since by this it had been indicated to us.

Though the evening was foggy, the sun's place could be occasionally seen through the haze, and enabled us to proceed at nine. We travelled over very level ice, though sometimes passing hummocks that appeared to have been formed in the preceding year. At four in the morning of the sixth, we obtained a sight of the high land of Cape Isabella: it was like that of an old friend; and as it gave us a no distant prospect of the termination of our present toils, it excited our party to exert themselves with a spirit which had for some time been flagging.

June 6.

Halting for the day, at six, in latitude  $69^{\circ} 15' 46''$ , and in longitude  $95^{\circ} 13' 6''$ , we had some difficulty in finding snow deep enough to form our burrow; while the hardness of the ice beneath, on which we were thus compelled to lie, was sufficiently uncomfortable, contrasted with the soft bed which the snow had formerly afforded.

We set out again on a very fine evening, meeting now, at every fresh step, with well-known land, and thence gaining, hourly, fresh spirit to work our way onwards to our home: a temporary and not a very comfortable one, it is true, but, where every thing is comparative, a home to our hopes and feelings, such as even

England would be whenever it should be our fate to leave this land of cold and misery, and to find that every degree of latitude was bringing us to rest and peace, as far as there are in this world peace or rest.

Our path was also good; and, under all these advantages, we proceeded with unusual speed: since there was here no appearance of a thaw, nor the least yielding in the crust of snow which covered the ice of this inlet. We were soon made aware of the presence of Esquimaux in our neighbourhood, by tracing the marks of a man dragging a seal; and this also was an acceptable circumstance, since it promised us a supply of provisions. Here, also, we saw gulls, together with some seals, basking in the sun with their young. A laborious journey of fourteen miles at length brought us to our encampment for the day, in latitude  $69^{\circ} 20' 37''$ , and longitude  $94^{\circ} 31' 55''$ , near a low point formerly seen from Cape Isabella. Several small islets at this place were named Catherine, and the point itself Margaret.

June 7.

A reef stretches out from the northernmost end of Point Margaret nearly a mile to the south-west, and the heavy masses of ice that were grounded on it, indicated the force by which they had been brought into that position. From the same point the shore of the continent was seen trending away to the south-west, and could be distinctly traced to the distance of seven or eight miles. The extreme point in sight was named Point Scott. The islets, as well as the mainland, were here formed of limestone, like the rest of the coast to the westward. We here saw innumerable tracks of reindeer, directed hence to the high land of the opposite coast, and had the good fortune to kill a fox and a brace of grouse.

It blew hard at eight, when we set out; and, steering direct for Nei-tyel-le, we passed within two miles of Cape Isabella. On one of the islets we found a small pool of water, but we afterwards understood that the thaw had commenced at the ship some days earlier. After a fatiguing journey, we again encamped on the ice at seven in the morning of the eighth of June, about seven miles from Nei-tyel-le.

June 8.

At noon it blew a strong gale; and, for the first time since leaving the ship, I was unable to obtain any observations for latitude. It was an occurrence that reminded us how highly we had been favoured on this journey, by a long tract of good weather.

Early in the evening I set off alone in search of the Esquimaux, whose footsteps were every where visible; directing the party to follow at the usual hour. After tracing these marks for two hours, I reached the islet where I had requested Captain Ross to send a supply of provisions, but could discover no mark of the visit of our own people. I soon, however, heard the shouts of the Esquimaux: and a young man shortly after joined me, with a welcome expressive of the highest satisfaction. A set of dogs was immediately harnessed by them and sent off to assist our party in coming up.

Atayaraktak now led me to a cairn of stones where I found a note from Captain Ross, informing me that he had there waited for my return till the fourth, and had deposited some provisions for our use at a short distance from the cairn. The dogs of the natives had however discovered the prize, and Mil-luk-ta had that morning carried it home. I immediately therefore went to his tent, when his mother brought out all that was left, acknowledging that they had made use of the rest. All

that we thus saved consisted in eight pounds of meat and some bread; but most of this was unfit for use, though even the little that remained was very acceptable. They had emptied the canister of rum and lemon-juice, which they called very dirty water: and then pointed out a stream where we could supply ourselves with what was clean.

They now presented us with some fish that seemed to be a small species of cod, promising to catch more for us; and I therefore determined to halt the party at this spot, for rest and refreshment. We encamped near them, in consequence; but having now no snow, were obliged to build a stone shelter, in which they gave us their assistance. Of the eight dogs that we had brought from the ship, there were now but two remaining; and these were so exhausted, that another day's work would probably have killed them also. Yet this was a selection from the very best of those which the Esquimaux possessed: while the whole of them had become unserviceable after eight days travelling, so that they were cast off from the sledges and suffered to do as they pleased. It was plain that we had overworked them; and we now found that, had it indeed been possible, we ought to have followed the system of the natives, who never drive these animals for more than four days at a time, seldom so much, and then give them one or two for rest. We had travelled, on the contrary, twenty-three consecutive days: a rare occurrence in that climate, and for which we were indebted to the very uncommon serenity of the weather.

Our encampment was completed by four in the afternoon, and we at last enjoyed one good dinner out of the fish which had been given to us. The natives, in the mean time, collected round us to

ask questions respecting our journey and our objects: matters much more easy to ask of than to answer; but they were above all desirous to know whether we had been at Oo-geoo-lik. The strangers were formally introduced to us by some of our old friends: and we were afterwards entertained by a history of their own adventures during our absence, in which we could not help imagining that they were indulging some wit at our expense, from the bursts of laughter which followed these anecdotes. Still, every thing was in good humour; nor could we be otherwise than gratified by the union of this mirth with their kindness towards us. The length of our beards, which had not been shaved since we left the Victory, was, among other things, a source of great amusement; while one of them, a stranger, whose beard was of unusual size among this tribe, claimed consanguinity with us on that ground.

This man, called Ow-wen-yoo-ah, was a very intelligent person, and a great traveller. He told me that he had passed the winter with Kan-ny-yoke, and immediately recognised a piece of deer's horn which I had found at the huts in O-wut-ta island. He also informed me that Oo-geoo-lik was many days' journey beyond that place; there being first an inlet to be entered, after which there were three days' journey on lakes, across some low land; having passed which, they again arrived at salt water, and were obliged to travel many days along the sea-coast. His wife and son were now packing up their tent; and on our retiring to rest, they all departed, informing us that we should find them at Tar-rio-nit-yoke. The day having been very fine, I obtained observations at this place, the name of which is E-nook-sha-lig.

In the morning, two of the women brought us some seal blubber

for our fire ; and another, who had fished for us while we slept, presented us with about thirty of the same fishes, being all that she had taken. As I was desirous to know whether these presents were tokens of gratitude for our former favours, or were brought in the hopes of a reward, I desired the men not to make any return for them. Notwithstanding this, the women who had brought the fuel, which seemed their most valued article, informed us whose turn it would be to bring the next supply ; and thus in rotation, every three hours, we received from some of them a fresh stock, which proved much more than we required. The fish were also furnished abundantly, in a similar manner, but not with the same regularity : even our two dogs were not neglected, being regularly fed twice a day, while they took care to keep off their own, lest they should interfere with those which were most in want. For all this we offered nothing in return, nor did they seem once to expect it ; so that whatever avarice or keenness in dealing we might have suspected them of on other occasions, we had here ample proof of their hospitality, if not of aught so refined as gratitude ; on the want of which virtue, however, our limited acquaintance with them could never have enabled us to pronounce.

Anxious to ascertain where the river which I had discovered on the eighth of April discharged its waters into the sea, I prevailed on the native called Atayaraktak to take me to the entrance of the inlet. He informed me that he had been there some days before, for the purpose of making a fishing hole in the ice ; that he would willingly conduct me thus far, but that if I chose to proceed further, he must remain behind to fish ; a reason which seemed abundantly solid, since I could not but perceive that our consumption had materially reduced their store.



Leaving the party, therefore, to work at such repairs of various articles as were now wanted, I set out with this man, and after travelling about five miles to the south-south-westward, we arrived at the entrance of an inlet somewhat less than a quarter of a mile in breadth, but enlarging considerably in its progress. This strait he called Ik-ke-rush-yuk, a name derived from the rapidity with which the water rushes out in the summer; the stream being fresh and good for drinking, as he said, though at this point, where I tasted it, I found it very salt. I obtained no sounding here in six fathoms, which was the length of my companion's line.

While he remained to fish, I proceeded along the left shore of the inlet, about four or five miles; and ascending an elevated ground, gained a commanding view of the inlet, though I could not be quite sure of the continuity of the opposed and remote shore. My conclusion, however, from the report of the Esquimaux, was, that the west branch of the river in question must fall into the sea somewhere to the southward of Point Scott. June 9.

The shore on which I stood had gradually changed its trending from south to south-east by east; and at two or three miles beyond, the inlet appeared to be not more than half a mile broad, whence it turned more to the north-east: and here I could see the spot I had visited on my first journey to this place. But as I could pursue the present examination no further, I returned to my fishing friend, whose patience was nearly exhausted. He had caught about thirty fish, and was ready to go back to his party. We reached E-nook-sha-lig at six in the morning; much exhausted, in consequence of the laborious walking through the soft snow

Mr. Abernethy here informed me that during our absence the natives had given them a feast; each family having cooked a kettleful of fish. They were consequently first invited to one of the tents, where the contents of the kettle having been despatched, the next family treated them in the same manner, and so on, in rotation, till they had run this sort of eating gauntlet through the whole of the five tents. It is not surprising if they thus ate much more than they ought to have done. It was a feature of somewhat refined politeness in their entertainers, and more to be expected from an ancient Spaniard than an Esquimaux, that during the whole time of this prolonged meal these really kind hosts continued thanking them for the honour thus conferred: reminding them also that they had themselves been fed in a similar manner at the ship, in the preceding winter, and thus proving those grateful feelings which we might formerly have doubted; while of this we could now be quite sure, since, having hitherto made no presents in return, we made none on the present occasion, nor during the whole of our stay with them: being desirous to put off till the very last what we intended to give, that we might remove all doubts on this subject.

June 10.

Being now much recruited by a day's rest and all this good living, we set out at ten in the night of the tenth of June: having first, since we could now entertain no doubt of their real gratitude, distributed among these natives every thing which we could spare. This, however, was fully returned to us in an ample supply of fish; which, in addition to the blubber that had been served in superfluous abundance, fully provided us for all the remainder of our journey. Some of them also accompanied us as far as Pad-le-ak, to assist us in dragging our sledge, and to point out to us where

their tents would be pitched in the summer. On finally separating, they continued to cheer and thank us as long as we were within hearing, and when they could no longer see us, owing to the irregularities of the ground.

They had desired us to follow the tracks of a party which had preceded; and this instruction proved of essential service, in spite of my endeavours to find a shorter road for myself by neglecting their advice. I had imagined that they were going to fish at some place which would take us off the most direct road, and therefore quitted the indicated track, attempting to gain the route by which we had formerly travelled. In this, however, I was completely baffled, by the great depth of the snow and water on that line, wherever I attempted to diverge into it; so that I was at length glad to abandon, and I believe fortunate in surrendering, my own opinion, and consenting to follow my yet unseen guides. A dense fog, indeed, soon served to convince me of the wisdom of this choice; since, without that track which served us as a compass, we should have been compelled to halt in the middle of one of the lakes, without being exactly certain where we were, or what was to be done next.

We arrived at Tar-rio-nit-yoke in latitude  $69^{\circ} 41' 6''$ , and longitude  $92^{\circ} 54' 21''$ , at eight in the morning of the eleventh, and encamped on the south side of the stream which carries the waters of this chain of lakes to the sea. The party of Ow-wen-yoo-ah was here seen on the opposite shore; and as soon as they perceived our arrival, one of them waded across the stream, which was between four and five feet deep, to bring us some fuel. This man was our acquaintance Ow-wen-yoo-ah and he told me that they

June 11.

intended to remain there fishing, for some time. He expressed himself much disappointed at the absence of a large party which he had expected to find here; informing us also that he had gone, the day preceding, in pursuit of some reindeer with their fawns, which had been seen in the neighbourhood of Shag-a-voke, but without success.

When we rose in the evening, to pursue our journey, the whole of Ow-wen-yoo-ah's family came over to us. His present wife and children belonged to another man who was his particular friend, and an angekok, to whom he had, in the preceding autumn, lent his own two wives; a loan which is here considered a peculiar mark of friendship, and, it must be admitted, not very unreasonably. He had expected the restoration of this pair of spouses at this time and place; but the borrower Shoong-ug-u-wuk had taken them with him on the expedition after deer, and this breach of agreement seemed to be the chief cause of our friend's vexation and disappointment.

If we once supposed that this practice, for which these people may plead the authority of ancient Rome, was limited to the natives of Repulse bay, we had subsequent occasion to believe that it was universal among this tribe; the inhabitants of Boothia, as we must now term this country. Others may analyze the morality of this fashion; but one thing at least appeared certain, namely, that the women had no voice in the matter, and were therefore considered merely as property or furniture, conformably to the high authority already quoted, and to the practice of some other nations in states of civilization rather more resembling, it must be owned, that of Boothia than of the Mistress of the world.

At this place the thaw was proceeding with such extraordinary rapidity, that the stream which we had crossed in the morning with the greatest ease, was now impassable. The torrent of water thus discharged from the lakes had also covered the ice which was to be traversed, to the depth of several feet. Not a dry spot remained any where; for there being no tide powerful enough to break up the frozen barrier towards the sea, this disengaged water could find no passage to it, except through a few seal holes which were quite incompetent to drain it off.

Had we not already known that such must be the case at this season of the year, we should have had ample proof of the necessity of condensing the expedition from which we were now returning, within the very limits to which it had been fixed. It is true that our confined stock of provisions formed the actual restraint on our further advance, and that our return was, as I have already shown, compulsory, from this cause. Yet in thus restricting that allowance, and, with it, the time of our absence, we had not acted imprudently, as the facts now proved; whether or not we are to be allowed the credit of having shown prudence and foresight in our calculation. And however impossible it was then, and even now is, to suppress the constantly returning regret that we did not reach Cape Turnagain, I cannot see how we could have completed that survey and returned in safety, or perhaps returned at all, even though we had been amply provided for a longer journey. At any rate, it was plain that the arrangements for such an expedition must be very different from what ours had been; and that if it was to be undertaken in the following season, a new calculation must be made, and very different expedients

adopted, together with much more force, to ensure any chance of success.

Under the present obstructions we were recommended by Owen-yoo-ah to go round by Shag-a-voke, since he considered that the water was too deep for us to cross. This however would have materially increased our distance from the ship; and, as I also knew that the ice was very bad at the entrance of the inlet which we should thus be obliged to traverse, I determined to attempt the wading of the bay at this place, since the distance was not much more than two miles. I therefore caused all the holes in the skin boat to be repaired; and having stowed the luggage in it, we proceeded on this amphibious portion of our journey at ten o'clock. The water did not finally prove more than knee deep, and was barely sufficient to float our boat: but we found no difficulty in reaching the opposite shore by midnight. We should not indeed have been displeased had this watery tract extended much further; since we found it a very laborious task to get over the high craggy ridge of land that intervened between it and Too-nood-leed bay, which was now bare of snow.

In this bay, to compensate for that difficulty, the travelling was among the easiest that we had found. The water, which had here also overflowed the surface, had dissolved the snow, and afterwards escaped through the fissures beneath, which had been produced by the rise and fall of the tide. We found therefore a smooth plain of polished ice; and on this we proceeded with great expedition, not without wishing that more or all of the territory which we had passed, both outwards and on our return, had been of the same character.

The river Ang-ma-look-took now appeared much more extensive than I had formerly supposed it to be; and, from the number of landmarks near it, together with similarly numerous *cachés* on its banks, I concluded that it was a fishing station of considerable importance to the natives.

At eight in the evening of the twelfth we halted, in latitude June 12.  
69° 48' 10', and longitude 92° 23' 9', on a small rocky islet, much fatigued, and chiefly by the labour of wading. Here we found in flower, the *Saxifraga oppositifolia*; being the first that we had seen for this spring; though we afterwards found that it had appeared much earlier in the vicinity of the ship.

It was near midnight before we again got into motion; at first finding the way extremely rough, from the intermixture of hummocks of ice and deep pools half frozen, but proceeding with much more ease after reaching the mainland, while feeling additional energy and strength as we diminished our distance from the ship. It was at seven in the morning when we came in sight of her; June 13.  
when I issued the last remaining dram to the party, and, hoisting our flag, we arrived on board at eight, all in good health, though much reduced in appearance.

## CHAPTER XXX

## CONTINUATION OF THE JOURNAL—SUMMARY OF THE MONTH.

1830.  
June 14. **A STRONG** westerly breeze made the weather cold, and the thermometer fell to  $33^{\circ}$ , with showers of snow. It did not prevent
- June 15. our work from going on, neither on this nor the following day, when it fell in much greater abundance. It only remained on the
- June 16. ice, however; on the land it soon melted. On the next it was much the same; and we began therefore to expect a later summer than we had at first anticipated, since no visible alteration had taken place in the ice for some days. The thermometer during these latter days was rather under the freezing point at night, and the highest heat of the day, being on the fifteenth, was  $50^{\circ}$ .
- June 17. On the seventeenth the weather looked better and more settled, but it was not warm. Two natives came, bringing a couple of seals: a very welcome supply, with the large pack of dogs that we had to feed. They had been successful at the Comptroller's islands. After rewarding them in the usual manner, I presented Ikmallik with a sovereign to wear round his neck, as being the picture of our great chief; desiring that he would preserve it, and show it to any European he might hereafter see. It was not likely to be spent, whatever else might happen; but if it was too valuable a gift intrinsically, for one who was as ignorant of its uses as inca-



pable of applying them to a purpose, he would have been greatly astonished could he have exchanged it for its English value in timber and iron, in fish-hooks, axes, knives, and needles. Nor must I forget that the two guides took leave of us, with much gratitude for the presents they received and the kindness which they had experienced; hoping soon to see us again. We learned from Ikmalik, that all the rest had gone to the southward, except his own family and another, which were to remain some time in Comptroller's islands. He gave us the native names of the birds which had been shot; these being mimics of the cries of the several animals; and they all departed under a promise to see us again.

The weather was fine, but it froze both in the morning and the evening. The work went on, and the boats were cleared of snow. Some men now complained of rheumatism, and were relieved by the steam bath. The Saturday began cold; and, in the course of the day, it rained heavily. Fortunately, the caulking of the deck had been finished, so that it did not interfere with the comfort of the men below. June 18.

The weather seemed to have taken a sudden turn on Sunday; the rain having ceased in the night, and the air being mild and serene, while the thermometer rose, in the middle of the day, to 62°, being at 60° for more than seven hours. Much of the snow was consequently disappearing, and the torrents again running down the hills. After church, the men having been sent to their walk on shore, brought back a fine specimen of the great northern diver, and reported that they had seen many hares and much wild fowl. Some insects were also collected, and much of the ice was broken up round the ship. June 19.

Some insects were also collected, and much of the ice was broken up round the ship. June 20.

- June 21. **Monday** was misty, with small rain; the thaw continuing, though it was less warm. A diver was again shot, together with a king and a queen duck. Preparations were made for a travelling party to trace the line of coast to the south-eastward, and the men were employed within the ship. On the next day, the weather was foggy till the evening, under a north-east wind; when it became clear. The larboard leeboard was fixed, and the preparations for the travelling party completed, should the weather permit of moving on the following day.
- June 22. It proved fine. The sledge and the skin boat were got ready, and the provisions stowed away in them after breakfast. The chief mate, with ten men, went off to draw it ten miles in advance, returning at eight in the evening. At nine, Commander Ross and four men left the ship, with the dogs: with the intention of proceeding as soon as they had reached the deposited sledge. The returned party had killed some ducks, and seen reindeer. These animals had been gradually passing in increased numbers; since we had latterly seen many, though, for so long a time, we had found nothing but their tracks.
- June 23. The morning of the twenty-fourth was fine, but there were rain and snow about noon, continuing till midnight: it was not, certainly, a midsummer day in effect, whatever it might be in the calendar; and even if the usages of St. John's day had penetrated to these lands, there was as little temptation to light bonfires as there was an utter dearth of materials for constructing them. In consequence, however, of the thaw, a considerable quantity of water flowed from the decks into the hold, being produced from the snow which still remained on the sides of the ship; and this we were

obliged to drive out by the forcing pump, as the others were not yet clear of ice. The surgeon, who had escorted the party, returned early in the morning with a brent goose; and the first swan of the season was seen. At this time flights of ducks began to pass, in considerable numbers. June 25.

The snow still fell, occasionally, though it was mild; and the day ended in a fine evening. The men were employed in cutting the ice on the larboard side of the ship, to allow her to right herself; in consequence of which, she rose fourteen inches. The thermometer at night was  $34^{\circ}$ . On the Saturday, at noon, it was  $62^{\circ}$ ; such were the extremes of day and night in this climate, and at midsummer; as, to confirm this, it fell again to the freezing point at night. It is the alternate reign of the sun and of the accumulated ice. Whatever the former effects, cannot last, and it ceases as soon as the great source of heat becomes depressed in its career. I took an opportunity of setting the net where a stream entered the nearest lake, but caught no fish; we did not even see any. An egg of a goose was found; proving that they breed here; and many of these birds were seen, while one was killed. The ship was, at length, nearly upright. June 26.

Nothing worthy of note occurred on Sunday. The men, however, were not forbidden to shoot, in their usual walk after the service of this day; and their sport brought us five ducks and a diver. June 27.

It was snowy, and became so far cold, that the night temperature sank to the freezing point: in the course of the day we finished our preparations for the projected journey of the following. June 28.  
In the morning, the snow threatened interruption: but, clearing at noon, June 29.

a party of seven men went off in advance, with the sledge, a boat, and our provisions and packages: the supply being for six days, and the place of their halt the north-west inlet. At seven, I followed, with the surgeon and three men, and found one of the party returning with a report that the sledge had been broken. He had been sent back for a new one, attended by three men and a dog: they had not succeeded in reaching further than six miles, being a mile short of the northern huts, which formed the appointed spot. But this did not prevent our proceeding: our principal object being to catch fish, for which we had provided ourselves with the necessary materials.

June 30. To complete the journal of this month, I need only say that it snowed on the last day, with the same low temperature at night, and a fresh breeze: and I may therefore give the usual summary, that I may not interrupt the account of our journey.

It is scarcely needful to say, that it had been a very unfavourable month to our prospects of proceeding at an early period in the ship. At Port Bowen, two hundred miles further north, there had been rain as early as the seventh of the month; while it had not appeared here till the nineteenth, and was followed, moreover, by frost and snow, so as to throw back every thing to the same condition as in the earlier days of June. In many places, indeed, the ice had become much thinner; but it was still very thick and compact.

The weather had however been favourable for the exploring parties. Commander Ross had not been at all interrupted in his travelling, and his reports were favourable: while, among other things, the limits of our future endeavours were much narrowed by the result of this expedition.

Our intercourse with the natives had much decreased, in consequence of their removal; but, whenever it occurred, we were on terms of greater confidence than ever. They had been unsuccessful in hunting, and had therefore been unable to bring us any supplies; but whenever they were in want, and we could furnish them with food, we did so; receiving in return every mark of gratitude and thankfulness. In reality, with exception of the adventure consequent on the boy's death, in which their mistake was afterwards fully rectified and atoned for, and excepting also some sufficiently pardonable and not very serious pilfering, we found every reason to be pleased with the character and conduct of this tribe, not only to us, but towards each other. I have given several instances of their kindness, in their dragging the helpless on sledges, and the care of their children; and if they seemed an affectionate and good-tempered people, so did they appear to live together in perfect harmony, and to be free of selfishness, even on the subject of that great article, food, which constitutes the whole, it may almost be said, of a savage's enjoyments. I had no reason to suppose that I had prematurely formed this favourable opinion, though it is so much at variance with what has been reported of other tribes of the same people. It remained for time to determine what the exact truth was.

The alterations and fittings in the ship had made so much progress, that it was plain we should be ready long before it could serve any purpose. Though the health of the crew was generally good, three or four continued to show such a proneness to scurvy, that we were obliged to regulate their diet and treatment accordingly. They had been much harassed and fatigued during this period, but bore their toils cheerfully.

The observations and surveys had been going on, including many on the dip and variation of the needle. The highest temperature of the month had been  $62^{\circ}$  plus, and the lowest  $26^{\circ}$ : the mean was  $36^{\circ}$ ,  $76^{\circ}$ : I need not repeat the comparisons with those of the other expeditions in the same month.

Our sport was but indifferent: yet some good specimens of animals were procured. The perpetual hunting of the natives seemed to prevent the deer, together with the animals of prey which followed on their traces, from resting for any time in this neighbourhood; while the same cause, doubtless, drove the musk oxen, and possibly also the hares, from this vicinity, to places where they could find greater security in the solitude of these deserts.

## CHAPTER XXXI.

AN EXPEDITION TO FISH FOR THE SUPPLY OF FISH FOR THE CREW, UNDERTAKEN BY MYSELF AND PARTY—NARRATIVE AND RETURN.

**H**AVING proceeded towards the place where the sledge had been appointed, we came suddenly on two large white bears, before we had reached the end of the lake; but as our guns were loaded with small shot only, we were compelled to avoid them. It is not a safe animal to provoke unarmed. We met, after this, the men returning with the broken sledge, and afterwards arrived at the boat where the ammunition and fishing tackle had been deposited. We then proceeded over the ice, which was very full of cracks and holes.

1830.  
June 29.

Early in the morning, we reached the point forming the entrance of the inlet, which we believed to be the estuary of the river in which we had proposed to fish; but were obliged to pitch the tent, as it began to snow heavily, with a strong northerly gale. Being in a sheltered spot, we were, however, enabled to cook our dinners and go to rest. We had killed two ducks and a plover, and seen some reindeer. The land at this place was rugged, clear of snow, and divested of all vegetation. We found the ice, in many places, dangerously thin, independently of many large holes and wide cracks

June 30.

After dinner, at five in the evening, we proceeded up the inlet, which turned to the north-east; travelling over the ice for five miles, till it divided into two branches; one leading to the north-west, and the other north-north-east. We followed the latter a mile, and arrived at its termination. Here we ascended a high mountain, where we saw that the north-west branch took a north-easterly direction, as if it was about to join the great inlet to the northward, from which its visible end could not be more than a mile distant.

We saw no river of any importance, though we had expected one: there was only a small lake; but we found on its margin some remains of snow huts. On its banks, the game, such as it was, proved somewhat abundant for a country so barren in this respect as it generally had been found, and our sporting produced us some ducks and gulls, all equally acceptable to those whose variety of food was for the most part very disagreeably confined. The hill bounding the other inlet was, like those we had ascended, rugged and bare, and there was a narrow channel of water along its shore, extending all the way up, excepting where two points projected. Many showers of rain fell during this walk, and the weather at length became so thick and misty, that all further view of the interior land was unattainable.

July 1.

We returned about two in the morning, for the purpose of resting till six, during which time it blew a gale from the northward. After this, I set off, with the surgeon and one man, to examine the coast to the west, in search of a river; and passing along the shore, came to an island in the south of the inlet, and, afterwards, to two points, the bays near which received nothing larger than a



small rivulet. We then passed two more points on the right, and three islets on the left; finally arriving at the arm of the sea and that mouth of a river which were formerly examined by Commander Ross. Finding it still frozen, we proceeded to the north shore ascending the rising ground as we went on; and at length, at the distance of three miles, meeting two small lakes.

Thence I ascended a mile, leaving my companions, lest I should fatigue them; and, crossing a lake, proceeded to the summit of the highest mountain. Hence I saw the termination of the northern branch of the inlet which I had observed yesterday, and beyond it a neck of land dividing it from the one further to the northward, which was also distinctly seen, about seven miles distant. I returned after two hours, and, joining my companions, we arrived at our tent.

While resting near it, a man was perceived crossing the bay, on which we fired a shot, to attract his attention. He seemed at first alarmed, but at last stood still to look at us, when the surgeon went to meet him, throwing away his gun, as the signal of friendship. On this he also threw away his bow and arrows and spear, when, approaching with the usual salutation, he was discovered to be our friend Awack. I then persuaded him to accompany us to our tent; giving him the gun to carry, in hopes of thus better establishing confidence among us. We had walked thirteen hours, and were glad to find a dinner, in which we made our friend partake. He informed us that his uncle Ikmallik's party were at a river that entered the bay about ten miles off; and thither we determined to go, to his great satisfaction.

Our tent and baggage were immediately packed on the sledge with the little boat and the net, and we set off with fresh spirit,

passing several islands and points, till we came to one of those alluvial mounds which I formerly described; on rounding which, we saw the river, and the huts of the natives about a mile away on the north bank. At our guide's desire, we announced our approach by firing a gun, which produced a general acclamation. Leaving the sledge behind, I was soon at the village, and was received with open arms by our old friend Ikmallik.

He informed us that the season for fishing in the river was ended, and that they were about to set off for the lakes; but that they would stay another day, if we would remain with them. Our sledge then arriving, we erected our tent, and they began to replace theirs, which had been taken down; the number of families being four. They were highly delighted when I displayed the flag above Ikmallik's tent instead of our own. We were then presented with fish, including two fine salmon, which we proceeded to dress in our cooking apparatus: a process that excited great attention, from the quickness with which it boiled one of these fishes and fried the other.

They had proposed to dine with us, and of course we could not refuse; though perplexed to know how to cook for so large a party, with our limited kitchen. The whole twelve were, however, invited into the tent; and, with our own party of five, it was more than sufficiently filled. We were soon relieved from all anxiety about cookery, finding that they preferred their fish raw. Our two dinners, therefore, made a parallel progress: in time, however, not in quantity: since, while we found that one salmon, and half of another, was more than enough for all of us English, these voracious animals had devoured two each. At this rate of feeding, it is

not wonderful that their whole time is occupied in procuring food : each man had eaten fourteen pounds of this raw salmon, and it was probably but a luncheon after all, or a superfluous meal for the sake of our society. Nor is it wonderful that they so often suffer from famine : under a more economical division of their food, with a little consideration for to-morrow, the same district might maintain double the number, and with scarcely the hazard of want. The glutton bear, scandalized as it may be by its name, might even be deemed a creature of moderate appetite in the comparison : with their human reason in addition, these people, could they always command the means, would doubtless outrival a glutton and a boa constrictor together.

Whether Captain Cochrane's extravagant accounts be true or not, the voracity of the northern savages, on both continents, is sufficiently known. But it is a question that has not been examined as it ought ; and my medical knowledge is far too small to allow me to say much on a subject on which I cannot find that either preceding travellers or physicians have written any thing of importance. These northern stomachs have been supposed especially powerful ; but the Boshman of southern Africa has a digestion of the same energy, and can equally bear the alternatives of gross excess and want. It may be true also, to a certain extent at least, that the severity of these climates demands more abundant food than one more temperate, and that, in particular, oily food is useful, as I had occasion formerly to remark. But the inhabitants of the alpine regions of southern Europe demand no such extravagance of food, nor are even the people of Lapland and the northern extremity of Norway conspicuous for such eating ; as is not less true of the

**Icelanders.** In Norway, indeed, the peasant is very much limited to milk, and to bread of the very worst quality: yet, in neither of these cases, do we find the people less strong, or less capable of labour, while equal, at least, to the Esquimaux tribes in longevity and in general health.

If this extraordinary consumption of food, and that of the most nutritious kind, is therefore not necessary, under this comparison with people most nearly corresponding in climate, the contrast is far more remarkable when we compare them with some of the people in the hotter parts of the earth. The Arab, on one small allowance of barley meal in the day, is more enduring of fatigue than an Esquimaux, who perhaps eats twenty pounds of flesh and oil; while he is also stronger and more active. Other comparisons are easily made by any one acquainted with the geographical history of man. It is for physicians to explain these accommodating powers of the human stomach and constitution; but they should also account for the disposal of that which cannot fail to be superfluous: we were all as well fed on a pound of salmon a day as these people on twenty.

Be that explained as it may, this vast power of digestion must be the result of practice and habit; while, unfortunately, the habit being once established, the consequence of a more restricted diet is suffering and weakness, or starvation. That is fully proved by the appetites of the Canadian boatmen. The Esquimaux is an animal of prey, with no other enjoyment than eating; and, guided by no principle and no reason, he devours as long as he can, and all that he can procure, like the vulture and the tiger. The half savage Canadian equally eats all that he can obtain, under the same

impulses; yet he gains nothing in strength or power of endurance by it; except that when the habit has once become established, he cannot endure privation at the first trial, nor without such perseverance in moderation as may once more reduce the condition of his stomach and constitution to a more natural state. Yet, with six pounds of solid meat in the day, or eight pounds of fish, which form his regulated allowance, he is not worth more, in point of exertion, than the Englishman, after a little practice in that labour, who is amply fed with one pound of, the former, and a proportional quantity of the other.

To return from these remarks, we were not a little amused with the fashionable usages of the table here. The head and backbone being taken off from two fish, they were handed to Ikmallik and Tullahiu, the seniors, who slit the body longitudinally into two equal parts, dividing each of those afterwards into two more. They were then rolled up into cylinders of two inches in diameter, when putting one end into the mouth as far as possible, it was cut off by the knife so close as to endanger the end of the nose; the party then handing the remainder to his neighbour. In this way they proceeded till the whole stock of fish was consumed. One of them, afterwards eating the scraps on one of our plates, where there chanced to be some lemon-juice, made wry faces, to the great amusement and laughter of the rest. Man seems a laughing animal, as he has been termed, even where he approaches as nearly as he can to his inferiors of four legs.

We proceeded, after this, to try our drag net, though they assured us that we should take no fish; promising, nevertheless, that if we caught none, we should partake of their store. Their

prophecy was correct; for, in three casts, we took but half a dozen small fish called Kanayoke, while the last brought only a large stone. This produced great laughter; but if it did not give them a good opinion of our dexterity in this art, so it had the advantage of preventing them from coveting our net. But the fame we might have lost in fishing, was compensated by our shooting, on the wing, a gull and a wild goose; and, by presenting them with these and some other birds that we had shot, our favour went on increasing. After twenty-five hours of wakefulness and labour, it was, however, necessary that these natives at least should sleep, and I therefore sent them all to their beds, appointing a meeting when the sun should be in the south.

July 2. I accordingly went with Ikmallik to one of the pits where they keep their fish, frozen; and seeing that it probably contained not less than forty salmon, offered him a large knife for the whole, which was readily accepted. He had always been the most contented of these dealers, while the others looked up to him for example; so that the other two men offered me their stores at the same price. Had I known the contents of the whole, I could not have ventured to offer such a price; as I found two hundred and twenty fish, averaging five pounds each, and therefore producing a ton weight of salmon; of which the purchase money was thus no more than seven shillings and sixpence.

We had thus more than we could well carry; but as this fresh meat was most needful for the health of the crew, especially for those who were threatened with scurvy, we adopted several contrivances for transporting at least as many as we could. The seal-skin beds were made into two bags, and, with one more lent by

Ikmallik, we succeeded in packing up two hundred and ten of these fishes, keeping the rest for present use. The offer of two pieces of wood to make a spear and a paddle, produced us, further, the loan of four dogs, with the assistance of three natives, to aid us on our journey home, and to bring back the animals, together with their reward.

Having all dined together, as before, we were ready to depart, when they said that they would show us their method of killing seals; pointing to a large one half a mile off, on the ice. Eight of them consequently set out along the shore nearest to it, and then approached the animal slowly until it raised its head, when those in front stopped, and shouted as loud as they could; on which three others ran up with incredible swiftness, but as the leader raised his spear to strike, the creature suddenly plunged into a crack on the ice, and disappeared. We did not retaliate their laughter at our want of success in the fishery, as we were really disappointed.

They afterwards showed us the manner in which they take the salmon. The weapon is a spear, with two very divergent barbs of bone or ivory; and, by this, they are struck in the water. They described this method as being without difficulty; as the fish swam up in the channels between the ice and the land, in such dense crowds, that they could not throw their instrument without striking some. This was the migration to the rivers for spawning, without doubt; and it was the end of this migration that had caused them to abandon a place, which, if we had then understood these matters better, we should have resorted to at an earlier period. That report also confirms a discredited American

tale, in which the fish are described to be so abundant, at some seasons, in certain rivers, that they are trampled to death by the hoofs of horses in fording; while, if confirmation were necessary, the reports of La Perouse on the same subject, are beyond questioning.

We at length set off, dragging the three bags of fish after the sledge, as it could not bear the weight. The ice being hummocky, and full of cracks and holes, gave us much trouble: so that it required four hours of hard work to reach the first of the islands, about four miles off. I here determined on burying two of the bags; carrying on only one, in the boat on the sledge. At midnight we arrived at the second island, four miles further: and here it was necessary for us to eat and rest, having thirteen miles more to the ship.

The route continued very bad the next day, being through pools of water, often knee deep, and with holes quite through the ice, besides very wide cracks. Falling into one of these, the sledge also upset near me, the bag of fish falling at the same time in such a manner, that had I not been first, it would have gone down through the crack and been lost. The only event, fortunately, was a sound ducking. Not long after, it began to blow hard, and to snow, while we had still seven miles before us; but our perseverance at length brought us within sight of home, at three miles distance; when, after much difficulty, in consequence of the separation of the ice, obliging us to unload and carry things piecemeal over the loose fragments, we got near enough to hoist our colours, and were answered by those of Commander Ross, who had not arrived many minutes before us, from a similar fishing expedition. We found all well on board.



There is little to add to the narrative of this short expedition. The river which we had visited is called by the natives Tatchik, and is only fifteen miles from the ship, though our circuitous course had made it twenty to us. It is about five hundred feet wide, and from six to ten deep; the bottom full of large blocks of granite, and the current running strong at first, but diminishing before we had left it. There was a rapid also about two miles up the stream, preventing its navigation: while the natives informed me that it ran out of a large lake which was supplied by others at a greater distance. To our communications with the natives I must also add, that they endeavoured to entertain us in their best manner; acting over again the drama of our first meeting, together with that which was to take place when we met hereafter at Neitchillee. Our attempts to repeat their words was also a source of great amusement to them. If the meeting had been fortunate for us, in procuring such a supply of fish, which we should have missed had we been a day later, I now also found that this had been stored up with the intention of selling it to us the next year. I might indeed have procured a hundred and thirty more, but they were not so fine, nor could we contrive to take them away. I ought also to mention that we bought from them three wolf whelps as specimens.

The proceedings on board during our absence had been marked by little variety. Some of the men had been lamed in their expeditions, and required management in their allotted work. The thermometer at midnight was 37°. On the second it did not vary, and the men were recovering. The third was the day of the return of Commander Ross's party and my own, being foggy in the morning, with snow and rain. In the evening I detached a party to bring home the fish that had been left behind.

July 1.

July 2.

July 3.

## CHAPTER XXXII

JOURNAL OF THE MONTH OF JULY—SUMMARY OF THE MONTH—  
TRANSACTIONS DURING AUGUST, AND ITS SUMMARY.

1830.  
July 4. **ON** Sunday, after church service, the men who had been sent for the salmon returned: and part of Monday was occupied in cleaning them and packing them in the tanks, with ice. The snow had nearly left the land; and, this night, the nocturnal temperature rose to 48°. There was little to note on the two subsequent days:
- July 6. the necessary work for fitting out the ship was going on. The
- July 7. temperature fell, however, so much on the seventh, that it froze hard. The men were now ordered to receive three pounds of the fresh fish every other day.
- July 8. It was less cold, yet at midnight the thermometer was but 37°.
- July 9. On the following day, it rained hard for twelve hours, and the effect on the remaining snow was considerable. A native arrived with an offer of more fish, which we agreed to purchase when brought, and we undertook to send for it while he pitched his tent
- July 10. near us, with his family. In taking a walk to-day, I found the ice not more than a foot thick in many places, and so brittle, that our weight broke through it. Our projected canal had melted away to two feet, in depth of ice, at the surface. Some ducks and other birds were killed.

In the course of this Sunday our party returned with the fish for which they had been sent. It was foggy in the morning, and some rain came on at night, lasting till the following day. Thus it continued on the thirteenth; so that the snow on the land was almost entirely dissolved, and the ice covered by water. The several works went on in the mean time; and our sportsmen shot, among other things, some small birds that we did not know.

It did not clear up till the evening of this day, when it became fine, continuing so on the following day. At this time a piece of ice came up to the surface from beneath the ship, so forcibly as to lift her up on one side and cause her to heel, to the temporary alarm of those who were below. On shore, the mosquitoes had just commenced their most unwelcome summer visit, and were in swarms. The thermometer was 42° at midnight.

This day was fine, with a strong northerly breeze; and our sportsmen were very successful in shooting several birds. It still blew hard on the following, with some heavy rain. The outer part of the canal was now open. Sunday's muster, after service, found the men much improved, in consequence of the change of diet. The ice round the ship was now broken in pieces, and the snow had entirely left the hills; but no clear water was seen at sea.

Calm and clear weather brought the mosquitoes even on board the ship, where they were very troublesome. On this and the following day the thermometer was as high as 42° at midnight. On the twenty-first, the ice was so broken up about the ship that we could have hauled her out to the end of the canal. The several chief sails had now been bent; and most of the painting, caulking, and other repairs and alterations, were nearly finished.

- July 22. The weather was really hot, as well as calm, the thermometer rising to 70°. The swarms of mosquitoes were as great and as troublesome as in the West Indies. There seemed to be different species; and a large kind was the most venomous. The same calm and warm weather continued on the following two days, bringing us to the end of the week; but with as little variety of occurrence as during the preceding. We had work, indeed, to employ us, but it was nevertheless dull. We were prisoners now, equally, by land and water; for the former was unfit for travelling, in its present condition, and as to clear water at sea, there was, as yet, none. Even our sporting was impracticable, except at midnight; such was the annoyance from the mosquitoes.
- July 25. A south wind drove some of the ice to the northward, but, still, we saw no clear sea from the top of the highest hill: the whole visible surface was a compact mass of ice. Being Sunday, no work was done. But on Monday, the *Krusenstern* was cleared out, and launched off the ice to the beach, that she might be repaired and caulked; and as the ice was now in motion around us, it became necessary to moor to the rocks, on each side. This was a day of hard rain, for the most part.
- July 27. The rain continued, with a fresh breeze and a lower temperature, by which we got rid of the mosquitoes for a time. The *Krusenstern's* and other work went on, on this and the following day, part of which was expended in reshipping such parts of the engine as might be convertible to the general uses of the ship. Among these was the main shaft: the cylinders were to be cut up for the purpose of examining their materials. But as the boilers and their frames could be of no use, and were not worth the transport, in any

state, they were left on shore; with the satisfactory reflection, at least, that they would prove a valuable iron mine for our friends the Esquimaux.

Some trout had been observed in the lake yesterday; but being late in going with the boat and the net, we had only one haul, and took but four. This day we set out again, and had the luck to take above a hundred, averaging a pound each. It was the best sport that we had had for some time, while it also furnished two days' full allowance to the crew. On the next, there were only seven taken. Some rain fell in the evening, and also on the following morning: This day, more than a hundred trout were taken by the net and the rod; amounting to upwards of seventy pounds. The various works had been going on as usual; and Saturday night brought them to a close for the week, bringing with it also, the end of the month of July.

Although it had been a warmer and a better one than June, it had not compensated for the lateness of the season in the two preceding ones. The first of August was arrived, and we had not yet seen any clear sea, nor had any of the ice on it appeared to move. Still it was probable that the first southerly gale would break it up, could that last but for forty-eight hours: so that we might still feed on hope.

The month had been uniform, and therefore comparatively dull to us; but we had not at least been wearied for want of occupation. The ship had been completely refitted; and the new painting, while useful, had also improved her appearance. She was so little leaky now, as not to make more than five or six inches of water in the twenty-four hours. Lee boards had been applied to her, and

we trusted that these would improve her sailing: of the disposal of the several parts of the rejected engine, I have just spoken.

The health of the men had so far improved, on their amended diet, that even the suspicious ones were now quite well. This great supply of fish was a matter of congratulation, and somewhat balanced our other disappointments. They who, in reading this journal, may read of meat and eating, must add something to the common ideas usually associated in their minds with this subject. At home, a good or a bad dinner is but a matter of content or the reverse; and the first salmon of the season no more than a luxury. The bad dinner of yesterday will also be compensated by a better one to-morrow; and he who cannot get salmon will easily find an equivalent. But, to us, good diet or bad, salt provisions or fresh, sufficed to turn the scale between activity and weakness, health and sickness, and, as well might happen, as used to happen but too often in former days, between life and death. And the first salmon of the summer were a medicine which all the drugs in the ship could not replace: while, though they had done no more than diminish the wearisomeness which men feel from being confined to the eternal sameness of a ship's provisions, they would have had a value to us, greater than all the salmon of the Thames to those who can provide themselves with such dainties.

Our communications with the natives had continued to confirm our good opinion of them: while, if we had attained to more knowledge of their peculiarities, and had witnessed many things repugnant to our habits and feelings, I must reserve these for future remarks.

Having frequently spoken of the *Krusenstern*, I have now to

observe, that when the ice had overflowed it had sunk her, carrying her with it to the bottom. On the thaw she was at last relieved and brought on shore; but she had sustained more damage from the pressure than we had suspected. Many of her timbers were broken; but these and all other defects had been at last repaired, and she was now in a better condition for towing than she had originally been. The other boats had also been put in order.

The collection of natural history had been increased, and the sporting had on the whole been successful. In addition to our living foxes, we had tamed a hare so as to stay in the cabin with us.

Not many observations had been made this month, as all travelling by land was impracticable. It was time, too, for taking down and embarking our observatory; while we had now but eight weeks before us of that short summer which, under our purposes, was in reality the only one; after which we should again be compelled to settle ourselves for another winter of ten months.

Respecting the temperature, it remains to add, that the highest was  $70^{\circ}$  plus, and the lowest  $32^{\circ}$  plus, the mean for July having been  $44^{\circ} 57'$  plus.

After church, we found that a strong northerly breeze had at length put the ice in motion to the eastward; and it now assumed the appearance of hummocks interspersed with pools of water. The party on shore afterwards reported that it had broken up in the north bay. August 1.

The thermometer was at  $39^{\circ}$  at midnight. On the next, nothing seemed wanting but a south wind to disperse the broken ice: the effect of the northerly ones was to pack it together, loose as it was. About seventy trout were taken in the net: and, on the following August 2.

- August 3. day, the fishery was nearly as successful. The weather continued very fine.
- August 4. It was still fine weather, but the fishery failed; excepting that we took the largest trout that we had yet seen; weighing three
- August 5. pounds and a half. The evening of the fifth produced a smart shower of rain: but things settled back to the same state on the
- August 6. following day, when a still larger trout, weighing nearly five pounds, was taken, with about twenty others of the ordinary size. The Krusenstern was launched and brought alongside.
- August 7. At five in the afternoon, a breeze sprang up and blew fresh from the south-westward for ten hours. This, setting the ice in motion, carried away one of our hawsers, and the ship was forced against the rocks near her; but was soon got off again, and secured, without any damage. This was a sort of return of our labours of the preceding autumn, but of a very different nature, as we now hoped; since it was the probable commencement of our liberation, as the other was of our imprisonment. This moving ice, however, soon stopped near the shore: further out, it continued in motion to the northward till two in the afternoon, when the tide carried it back, having now, at this spring, a rise of five feet and a half.
- August 8. It was a foggy and rainy day, with variable winds. The men, in their walk after church, reported that there was much clear water in the large bay, but that there was a ridge between Fury and
- August 9. Hecla islands, and the point. The weather differed little on the
- August 10. following day, and on the tenth the rain was much heavier. It served to prevent all fishing, nor had our success been very great on the preceding ones. The wind was to the north-westward, and became very strong, so as to pack the ice as close as possible. Many seals were seen, and some water taken on board



The weather improved: some fish were taken; and a southerly wind caused the ice to move. By the next day, under the same breeze, much more cleared away, so that an extent of two miles of clear water was seen to the northward. A good deal was, however, afterwards brought back by the wind shifting to the north: nor indeed would the tide have admitted of making an attempt to get out. For many days now, the midnight temperature had been about  $38^{\circ}$ .

The observatory was taken on board: the day being calm, and no change in the ice. Nor was there any on the fourteenth. The fishermen were now supplying us with enough for our daily consumption. It was a memorable day, inasmuch as it was the anniversary of our first visit to Fury Beach. The thermometer fell to  $34^{\circ}$  at night. There was reason, indeed, why the night should become colder, as the sun was now situated; but there was less subsidence by much, than when it had been far higher, because the ground was then all covered with snow, and was now clear; thus retaining some of the heat which it had acquired during the day.

The morning of Sunday had a favourable aspect, as a westerly breeze had moved the ice from the coast; but it soon changed to the north-east, and all became as it had been before. The first star that we had yet seen for the summer, Capella, was visible at midnight. The midnight temperature fell to  $6^{\circ}$ .

After a tranquil morning of westerly airs, the wind, towards evening, became a strong breeze from the south-west; but as the tide was very low, and the ice aground, there was no motion with us, though there was some in the offing. The following day was

- calm and mild, and there was no change in the ice. The midnight temperature rose again to 34°. Nor was there any thing worth noticing on the eighteenth. Our success in fishing, on all these days, was very small; and we had to regret the loss of one of our tame foxes, after having been one of the family for six months. The vacancy of the sea, it is well known, makes even the flight of a gull or the rising of a porpoise an important event. Whether the vacuum of wide-spread ice and snow, when the ship is itself a prisoner, instead of being only a prison, be not much worse, they must decide who have experienced both: but we shall probably be excused for considering the death of this unlucky fox as among the important occurrences of our present life.
- August 18. A fine day, with a northerly breeze, was but a continuation of this now sleepy uniformity: our ship could do nothing; and we, little. The capture of some fish, and the occurrence of rain at night, scarcely varied the sameness of the following day.
- August 20. The twenty-first closed another week: and thus did the third week of August find us where we had been since May in prospect, since September in place. The rise of the tide, during these past days, had vacillated about the standard of six feet; having once been at more than seven, and being now five. The ice was still close, to the northward, under a fresh breeze.
- August 22. It was the same on Sunday; though the afternoon was warmer than it had been for a considerable time. There was an open lane of water seen from the shore, lying along the land to the westward of the furthest visible point north. On Monday there was no change: but in the night the wind increased to a fresh gale from the northern quarter, and, at daylight next day, the ice was seen in

rapid motion to the southward, and packing into the bottom of the bay. The inner part of the harbour was thus cleared, as the coast was, for about two miles to the southward; but afterwards, a pack of the ice streamed in, and filled all except the place where we lay, that being defended by the grounding of some heavy masses outside.

The wind continuing to blow fresh from the north-eastward, August 25. the ice continued to accumulate so on us, that a very small space was left clear. It was more moderate in the morning, with rain; August 26. but there was otherwise no change. Both the subsequent days August 27. were equally free of any events worth noticing, beyond some August 28. indifferent success in fishing and shooting, including the taking of a seal. Another week was gone; and the night thermometer had little changed, varying between  $36^{\circ}$  and  $38^{\circ}$ .

Sunday promised something new; the wind becoming a gale August 29. from the north-westward. Thus the ice began to move with considerable rapidity, and the harbour was once more cleared. We tried to console ourselves by recollecting, that on the same day last year, the ground was covered with snow, and the temperature ten degrees lower.

The ice continued moving to the southward till four o'clock, August 30. when it stopped, and remained stationary the whole day. On the following, there was no change in the weather till evening, when it August 31. rained from the westward, with a fresh breeze. We made ready for hauling the ship out into a pool to the northward of us, that we might be more in the way of extricating ourselves when the ice should fairly open. And with this was summed up the month of August.

The end of that month also left us eleven months fixed to one spot. Whatever value voyages of discovery may have in these countries, they are certainly purchased at a high price in time, though there were nothing else. We might have circumnavigated the globe in the same period: and I imagine no one was very sanguine about future north-west passages, even should we contrive to make one ourselves.

That this was a month of daily and hourly anxiety, of hopes and fears, promise, and non-performance, I need not say; while no record of feelings could give a picture of them. There were but four weeks of this never assured summer to come; and, really, the hope of its speedy arrival was by no means great. On many past days we had more than hoped, we had almost expected, that the next day, or the following, or some other not far distant, would release us; and they who reflected most, were perhaps the least easy under this constantly recurring disappointment. It was my business, at any rate, to keep up the hopes of the men, and, where that might be difficult, to find them occupations to prevent them from thinking too much of the future. In this, the permission to shoot and fish gave much aid; while the variety of diet this procured them was also advantageous. Of their health, indeed, there was no reason to complain.

The commencing temperature of this month was promising; but the northerly winds of the latter portion were extremely adverse, since it was the effect of these to pack the ice upon us as fast as it broke up. One conclusion seemed obvious, namely, that the winter in that quarter had been particularly severe; though we had once thought otherwise, when observing how often the temperature rose

when the wind blew from this point of the compass. This was an unfavourable view of things: but there was no remedy. I need only add, that the highest and lowest degrees at which the thermometer stood were  $58^{\circ}$  and  $33^{\circ}$  plus, and that the mean of the month was  $40^{\circ} 87'$  plus.

Every thing about the ship, boats and all, had been entirely refitted and made ready for sea; and she had never been so trim, neat, clean, and comfortable. We had obtained abundant room by the dismissal of the engine; and that was no small gain, to compensate a loss, if that machinery can be esteemed a loss, whence we had derived so little advantage and undergone so much inconvenience and vexation. It was probable that the Esquimaux would profit for a long time to come, by the *cachés* of Messrs. Braithwaite and Erickson.

Having concluded, for the present, a long train of observations, it was very satisfactory to find how well the chronometers had performed. No. 571 of Parkinson and Frodsham had continued its rate of plus 1.1 seconds per day without variation.

The season had been very favourable to vegetation, and the collection of plants contained, as was believed, many new ones. After so long a time of confinement to a narrow and unvarying society, it was highly pleasing to find that the general harmony was unaltered.

## CHAPTER XXXIII

WARPING OUT, UNLOADING, AND FINAL ESCAPE FROM OUR HARBOUR  
—INEFFECTUAL MOVEMENTS AMONG THE ICE—BECOME FIXED IN  
THE ATTEMPT TO FIND A NEW HARBOUR FOR THE WINTER—  
SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER.

1830.  
Sept. 1.

**T**HIS month set in with great severity; the thermometer was at the freezing point, sinking finally to  $29^{\circ}$ , and there was a violent storm of snow, which covered the hills for the first time this season: while it was also the severest gale we had experienced during the whole summer. It varied between the west and the north; and though it continued to pack the loose ice, this could not move far, being soon stopped by the fixed mass at the bottom of the bay. Our own passage to the main was filled by two large icebergs.

Sept. 2.

The same gale blew, and was very heavy about two o'clock, when there was an eclipse of the moon, invisible to us. The ice was driving to the southward with great rapidity, and packing itself in immense masses. In the evening the wind diminished, and the snow which had fallen on the hills disappeared.

Sept. 3.

It did not blow so strong, and the ice was at a stand; but it froze

Sept. 4.

hard at midnight, with the thermometer at  $29^{\circ}$ . The weather being fine next day, and expecting a high tide at two in the morning, we attempted to cross the bar between the island and the main; but before we could warp out it fell so much, that we remained aground.

in only fourteen inches of water. By this accident, however, we profited so as to examine the ship's bottom, and thus also repaired several small damages which she had received from the ice. Having also shored her up, we proceeded to lighten her by discharging four tons of water, and putting ten tons of other articles in the boats, that we might, if possible, float her off at the next tide; laying out hawsers to warp her off when this should take place. There were showers of snow in the day, and the night was equally cold. We had the misfortune of losing our best dog, which died.

We were obliged to work to-day. At two o'clock in the morning we attempted to heave the ship over the bar, but in vain. The wind had shifted to the southward, and the tide did not rise so high as before. It became necessary, therefore, to unload the vessel, as the tides were now diminishing, while we could not run the risk of being neaped in this manner. A bridge was, in consequence, laid to the rocks, which were but eight yards from us, and we carried over it all our remaining stores and provisions, together with that iron-work of the engine which remained on board. In the evening, the wind came to the eastward with some snow, giving us a better tide the next day. Three treenail holes were here discovered in the ship's bottom, in the search after a leak which had plagued us, and they were accordingly secured. Sept. 5.

A shift of the wind up towards the north produced such a tide as enabled us to heave off the bar very early in the morning. Yet the ice had so grounded, that we could not advance far enough to avoid grounding ourselves when the tide should fall, and did not ~~thence dare to bring on board much of what had been landed.~~ During the day every thing was covered with snow, which partially Sept. 6.

dissolved under an evening haze; and at night it was clear and frosty.

- Sept. 7. It blew a gale from the northward during the night, but the ice did not move. Towards morning we contrived to heave out, so as to get a foot more of water, which enabled us to proceed with the reloading of the ship; and, after this, by aid of the ice at our bows, we gained another foot, thus advancing about ten feet in distance. This was a depth sufficient to allow us to reload entirely; but that caused us work enough for two days. The thermometer was  $5^{\circ}$  higher, and there was some snow.
- Sept. 8. The changes in the wind and weather were trifling, and we proceeded with the reloading of our discharged stores; also cutting some ice at our bows, that we might have no obstruction to our
- Sept. 9. next attempt. The following day was without change or interest, except that more ice was cut, and the ship hove a few feet ahead.
- Sept. 10. Every thing, however, was got on board and stowed. The next day did not advance us even a foot. The lakes on shore had not yet frozen, though there was ice on the pools.
- Sept. 11. The wind came to the southward, but was not sufficient to move the heavy ice. The pool between the island and the main was covered with thin bay ice, having a very prognosticating evil aspect; and the temperature fell with the setting sun to  $21^{\circ}$ . We still went on cutting the ice, and the ship was hove a little further ahead. The cold weather seemed really coming on, as the thermometer by midnight was  $18^{\circ}$ ; and the shooting of ducks was now rather a vexation than otherwise, since we could see that they were returning to the southward.
- Sept. 12. The changes of temperature to-day were very unexpected; the thermometer ranging from  $16^{\circ}$  to  $41^{\circ}$  between four in the morning



and noon. The men who went on shore after church, found the water, nevertheless, completely covered with bay ice.

There was some damp snow on Monday, and, though the wind was southerly, it was light, and had no effect on the ice at sea. In the night tide, the ship was hove about ten feet ahead, and that which we had to cut through was not frozen to the union of the separate fragments. The next day was fine; but this was not favourable weather for us who were in want of a gale, and that gale, too, to be of our own choosing. The midday heat was the same. The sight of a hare that had been shot was by no means gratifying, for it had now acquired its winter dress. Sept. 13.

The wind having freshened in the night from the southward, the ice began to move north, about the time of high water, and, after daylight, it was very loose, and full of lanes and pools. The night tide allowed us to heave some space ahead, and the day one brought us into five fathoms water, though not two ships' length from our position of yesterday. What remained on shore, of iron-work, anchors, and other things, were now, therefore, got on board; but that furnished us occupation for the whole day. We were consequently ready to start by evening; but the breeze died away, with the ice still drifting up and down before the tide, in the calm. Sept. 14.

That wind was of little service to-day, being light and unsteady, between the south and west; but as the ice near us was becoming slack, the ship was hove out two cables' length, to take advantage of any opening that might occur. Some lanes of water appeared in the evening, along the shore to the northward. The thermometer was  $40^{\circ}$  in the day, and  $29^{\circ}$  at midnight. It fell to  $25^{\circ}$  before the following morning, and there was an aurora borealis. At daylight Sept. 15.

Sept. 16.

Sept. 17.

we could see that the ice had drifted off the land, but there was still a complete ridge between the ship and a lane of water which led to a point three miles to the northward. About two in the afternoon, however, it seemed to be breaking up; when we immediately cast off, warped through the bay ice around us, and, in half an hour, our ship was, at length, once more in clear water, and under sail.

Under sail—we scarcely knew how we felt, or whether we quite believed it. He must be a seaman, to feel that the vessel which bounds beneath him, which listens to and obeys the smallest movement of his hand, which seems to move but under his will, is a thing of life, a mind conforming to his wishes; not an inert body, the sport of winds and waves. But what seaman could feel this as we did, when this creature, which used to carry us buoyantly over the ocean, had been during an entire year immovable as the ice and the rocks around it, helpless, disobedient, dead. It seemed to have revived again to a new life; it once more obeyed us, did whatever we desired; and in addition to all, we too were free. It was the first burst of enjoyment on the recovery of our liberty; but we were not long in finding, as other pursuers of other liberty have found, that it was a freedom which was to bring us no happiness.

Thus freed at last, we advanced about three miles; but then finding a ridge of ice, we were obliged to make fast near the point which was at that distance to the north of us; and, in a sufficiently commodious harbour between two icebergs, we passed the night. We shot some grouse on shore, to pass the time, and saw many seals. The thermometer at midnight was 30°.

Sept. 18.

In the mean time, the wind came round, unfortunately, to the

southward, and, by morning, our passage was blocked up; so that we were compelled to remain. In the offing, it was sweeping up and down before the tide; and, in the evening, as the wind became northerly, it went away rapidly once more to the southward. There was much snow to-day, and the land was entirely covered. Four hares that were shot did not much comfort us under this detention, however they might vary our dinners.

A gale had come on suddenly last night, and, continuing till high water, this forenoon, as it served to raise that tide considerably, our bergs floated, but did not change their position so much as to destroy our harbour: while the arrival of a large floe protected us from a pressure that was now threatening to be considerable. Every space was indeed filled by the ice: but as the wind ceased, it did not fix, being kept in alternate motion by the tides. In the evening it was a little more slack; and there was nothing in this day to make us neglect the duties of Sunday. The thermometer was at 25° at midnight. Sept. 19.

The ice opened so slightly under a westerly breeze, that it rendered us no service; and, as we were frozen round by new ice, we were obliged to cut around the ship. Our detention was more perfectly assured the next day, by a south-easterly one in the morning, bringing the ice in upon us. After many changes, it at last settled in the north-north-west, and blew a heavy gale. The ice being thus set in rapid motion, came in contact with the bergs which protected us, and forced them and us together, onwards, till our stern was within twenty yards of the rocks. The Krusenstern was at the same time forced out of the water. It was fortunate that the icebergs, which covered us were not carried away, else we should Sept. 20.

Sept. 21.

have gone with them into the moving pack, or been driven on the rocks; each of them but hazardous positions, if not worse. The temperature fell to  $48^{\circ}$ , and there was snow with this gale.

- Sept. 22. It continued on the next morning, yet the ice in the bay seemed partially cleared. But, after this, coming to blow even harder, we were worse blocked up than before, though there was still a lane of water in the bay. It was however the only clear water visible: all else was a solid surface of ice. At night the wind was much
- Sept. 23. more moderate. On the following day there was no change. We were completely frozen in; and were obliged to cut round the ship, that she might right herself, having been heeled over by the ice.
- Sept. 24. There was a heavy fall of snow all day, and it continued on the
- Sept. 25. twenty-fifth. The week was expended; and we were idle and immovable. The thermometer, from having been at  $24^{\circ}$  for the past days, reached to  $30^{\circ}$ .
- Sept. 26. There was nothing to interfere with the services and repose of Sunday; and no change. The temperature, however, seemed gradually falling; it had been but  $7^{\circ}$  in the night, and was no more than
- Sept. 27.  $14^{\circ}$  all Monday. A lane of water was seen near the islands that
- Sept. 28. were next to us. It became wider on the following day; so that, had we not been imprisoned, we might have made some progress to the northward.
- Sept. 29. The thermometer fell to  $5^{\circ}$ , and the clear water of yesterday was covered with bay ice. The surrounding humanocks were also cemented together in such a manner, that nothing but a storm could separate them. Our hopes of a liberation were therefore fast passing away; and our work was now to cut through the ice, so as to attain a harbour that was likely to prove our home for the better

part of another year. It was found to be a foot thick; and as there were also many heavy pieces in the way, our progress was necessarily very slow, and the labour hard. There was not wind enough to prevent the formation of bay ice.

Under the continuance of the same low temperature, the whole sea was now covered with ice. There was no longer, therefore, occasion either to hope or fear: and there was an end to all anxiety at least. The agitation under which we had so long laboured had subsided into the repose of absolute certainty. Our winter prison was before us; and all that we had now to do, was to reach it, set up our amphibious house, and, with one foot on sea and one on shore, "take patience to ourselves." Sept. 30.

Though we had done much, we still, however, found it very hard work to cut through the remainder of this ice, which, though but newly formed, was already sixteen inches thick, independently of the broken pieces from the former winter that were mixed with it. Thence, what we had cut off was to be lifted to the surface, as it could not be sunk under the field; and, in consequence, we only made eighteen feet way in this and the preceding day; a slow navigation, though, fortunately, our harbour was not very far off. It seemed almost a fated period for us; as it was the very anniversary of the day which had fixed us not three miles from the spot which we were now seeking to occupy; while we were perhaps again captives—and who could conjecture?—for another year. It was the end of September; but the summary of September, 1830, is one of the least agreeable that I have yet to record.

It was now winter, without dispute. Theoretically, it ought to have been such; and that it was practically so, we had long been sure, whatever efforts might have been made to flatter the men, or

ourselves, that it was otherwise. It had been a busy and a laborious month; but it was busy idleness, as far as any result had followed, and all the labour had produced no return. It was, in every sense, a wasted month, and it had been an amply provoking one: there was not one in all the preceding year in which we had not done something useful, or at least made preparations for it; thus finding occupation that satisfied us; while there was not one which had not held out, what was even better, hopes, and those most lively when the chance of release was most distant. We had now to hope again, for nearly another year; to count months, weeks, even days, yet with less confidence than we had done during the last winter.

He who can hope a second time as he did the first, is of a more fortunate constitution than some of our people seemed to be. The despondent could not conceal their feelings; though, of the greater number, I am bound to say that their contentedness, or rather resignation, exceeded what I had anticipated. It was my business to show them the brighter side of this picture, by recapitulating our success in discovery, the excellent condition of our ship, the comfortable home which we had now learned to make of it, our ample stock of provisions, our good health and peace, and the better harbour which we should now secure, as it was one also whence it would prove much more easy to extricate ourselves hereafter. But the bright side of life is not easily seen through the dark one; and I had, therefore, to trust to time and habit, and to hope that between our own resources and the communications of the natives, supplied, as we expected to be by them, with fresh provisions, and, before long, with the power of renewing our expeditions by land, time would pass on, and the present evils become lighter.

In reviewing the weather and the temperature during this month, it is seen that it was more severe than that of the preceding September; and thus, being an earlier winter, it also promised to be a worse one. The highest and the lowest in the present were  $43^{\circ}$  and  $5^{\circ}$  plus, and the mean  $27^{\circ}$ ,  $42^{\circ}$  plus: in the former, the two first had been  $50^{\circ}$  and  $8^{\circ}$  plus, and the last  $32^{\circ}$  plus. In the September of 1829, there were several gales from the west and south, which cleared the coast in such a manner that it could often be navigated; but in the present one, there had not been a single breeze from those quarters, capable of making any impression on the ice. On the contrary, there had been several gales from the northward; so that as fast as that which was in the southern part of this sea dissolved, the space was filled by the arrival of heavier masses from the north. It was as if the northern ocean were sending all its stores into this quarter; and we knew that it was now the unquestionable parent of an inexhaustible supply; while, as if the blockade was not already sufficiently complete, every little shift of wind from the north to the eastward, filled up the little bays which might have afforded us a retreat. Bad, too, as this was in itself, it was rendered much more effectually so by the state of the tides, which did not allow these masses to float again, when once aground; so that they could not be removed, even though we had cut them, while, when once taking the shore, they became as much a part of it during the ensuing season, as the rocks themselves.

I need not, in this summary, go back to any general record of the ship's proceedings or our own; they offer less interest than usual, and we had not been in a situation to make any observations of moment. Our sporting calendar presents little more than some fruitless firing at seals, and the ineffectual pursuit of a white bear.

## CHAPTER XXXIV.

LABOUR IN CUTTING THROUGH THE ICE—BECOME FIXED FOR THE  
WINTER—SUMMARY OF THE MONTH.

1830.  
Oct. 1.

**O**CTOBER commenced with clear weather, and, in the course of the day, a strong breeze from the westward broke up so much of the bay ice to the north-east as to display a little clear water. It made no impression, however, on the rough ice which was attached to the land; and one of the bergs near us having split under our quarter, we received a violent concussion. The labour of cutting our way was renewed, and with rather better success. The thermometer was  $12^{\circ}$  at night. On Saturday there was little change, except that our labour was harder; and in this position we ended another week.

Oct. 2.

Oct. 3.

We were obliged to persevere in the same tedious toil; and the whole gain was but sixteen feet, which, however, released us from the pressure of the icebergs. This had been very inconvenient, if not more; since they rose above her gunwale, and also lifted her up in such a manner as to suspend her three or four feet higher than the water which she drew. The Monday morning came with a gale, which broke off some pieces of ice, but rendered us no service. Our labours only gained us an additional advance of other

Oct. 4.



sixteen feet. The thermometer adhered to  $20^{\circ}$ , and there was drift snow at times.

It became more moderate, and more favourable to our operations; in consequence of which we advanced eighteen feet. There was snow in the day, and a gale from the north in the evening, the night thermometer falling to  $13^{\circ}$ . At daylight on the sixth, the weather was fine, and the breezes had broken up the new bay ice to the northward, so as again to show some clear water. The ship was cut in as far as twenty feet more; being thus much nearer to our intended position for the winter. Being calm and clear at night, the temperature fell to  $10^{\circ}$ .

We advanced fifty feet this day, but had only six feet water at the ebb: though we were now at length clear of the heavy ice. Towards the following morning, the thermometer fell to  $5^{\circ}$ ; and, at daylight, there was not an atom of water to be seen in any direction. All was ice; and it is remarkable that this day was the anniversary of the same event in the preceding year. We however gained fifty feet more; and, on the following day, forty; but being now but in three feet water, we were obliged to shore the vessel up. The thermometer had been always low, and, on this night, was only  $2^{\circ}$ ; but the weather was calm and clear.

It was now apparent that we should soon be obliged to adopt the negative scale of the thermometer as well as the positive. It stood at zero this morning; and it had not reached that point last year, till the 19th of the same month. We were thus obliged, again, to labour on Sunday; since another forty-eight hours of such frost would render it extremely difficult to cut the ship in; as the ice around her was, even now, three and four feet thick. Nor had we made more

than the half of our needful voyage ; while it was absolutely necessary for her safety, that she should be removed to a place where she could float, which was not less than a hundred yards off. We gained but thirty feet by all our exertions.

- Oct. 11. The weather did not change, and we advanced forty-five feet.
- Oct. 12. On the next morning a fog covered the rigging with ice, and we
- Oct. 13. gained as much more. The thirteenth was a beautiful clear and calm day; and I found, when on shore, that the sun melted the snow upon the rocks, though the noon temperature was as low as  $8^{\circ}$ , falling to  $1^{\circ}$  at midnight. Other forty-five feet were gained by cutting.
- Oct. 14. In the course of this forenoon there was a gale from the west, with snow, raising the thermometer to  $12^{\circ}$ , and at last to  $22^{\circ}$ , at midnight. More of the canal was cut, but the wind prevented us from heaving the ship into it. This gale increased in force till the morning of
- Oct. 15. the fifteenth, when it fell calm ; and we could see that the new ice in the offing had been once more broken up, so as to show some clear water. The ship was advanced fifty feet this day, and forty-
- Oct. 16. five on the following ; but she did not yet float at low water. The weather was variable, and the thermometer did not materially alter.
- Oct. 17. A week, a second week, had done little for us, and we were obliged to make Sunday once more a day of work, thus advancing forty feet. A gale, which had arisen the night before, continued
- Oct. 18. till noon. We gained twenty more on the Monday, and saw that
- Oct. 19. the clear water to the northward had enlarged. The following day our progress was thirty ; while the ice was so heavy, that we were obliged to heave the pieces up by the capstan. From the shore I could see that the ice was forming again in the water, which the gale had cleared during the preceding days.

The temperature fell from  $12^{\circ}$  to  $4^{\circ}$ . We gained thirty feet in advance, but found the ice rapidly increasing in thickness. On the twenty-first our progress was forty feet, and we had entirely lost sight of the clear water. A strong gale, with snow, impeded this work on the following morning; but, in the evening, we gained fourteen feet, which enabled us very nearly to float at low water. On the next day we gained as many more. During these four days the weather had varied much, and the temperature changed with it; but it was generally higher than it had lately been, and was this night at  $21^{\circ}$ .

It was necessary again to occupy Sunday, as before; and the work was harder than usual, since the ice was about sixteen feet thick. It was too heavy, therefore, to lift, even when it was cut, nor could we sink it: so that we were obliged to cut a space for the fragments in the thinner surrounding field, that we might lodge them on it, and thus make room to pass by. What was done, was not, however, finished in time to enable us to heave the ship any further in advance.

This was a fine clear day, but the thermometer fell just below zero. Our apparently endless work was resumed; and on the following day the heavy piece in our way was removed, and the place for its reception was cut, so as to allow us to advance forty feet. On the next we gained fifty, and were at length afloat at low water. We had seen a good many hares, foxes, and birds, for some days past, during our walks on the shore, but had shot little or nothing.

The weather seemed to have seriously changed this day; the temperature, from zero, in the morning, went down to minus  $10^{\circ}$  at

- Oct. 29. night. The snow on shore was knee deep, and made walking very laborious. We gained but thirteen feet; the ice being very thick, and freezing again as fast as it was cut. On the next we advanced fourteen more, so as to have eleven feet at low water. There was some at night, and the temperature rose to 6° plus.
- Oct. 30. We now cut six feet further; it was not much, and there were two hundred yards remaining before we could obtain deeper water or a better position, being work for a hundred more days, at the same rate. But the ice was daily becoming so much thicker, that we could not hope to make any impression on it during that time, at all proportional to what we had already affected; and as our place was at least not very unsafe, hemmed in as we were all round by ice, we concluded on putting an end to our labours and remaining as we were.
- Oct. 31. We could, therefore, at length make Sunday a day of prayer and rest, nor was that less acceptable than necessary.

The summary of October can be little but the abstract of our labours, since the whole month had been employed in making a worse than tortoise progress, the entire amount of which, after all our toils, was but eight hundred and fifty feet. We had not even, with all this, reached the place that we had intended; we were, however, not very far from it, and were compelled to be as content as we could. I believe that some of us could not help calculating the number of centuries it would require to make a single north-west passage, at this rate; as others speculated on the premiums that might be demanded at Lloyd's on such a voyage; could, indeed, one man have been found to "write it."

If our place was not very unsafe, it was by no means a de-

sirable one. Yet, comparatively, it was a great gain : since, had we remained in the shallow water, suspended on icebergs, the ship would have been almost uninhabitable, from her motions and change of position, and might also have been destroyed. If the gradually-increasing thickness of the ice, added to the necessity of heaving up what could not be sunk in the usual manner, and to the often severe weather, rendered this an unusually laborious month to the people, the toil seemed to call forth the zeal and display the perseverance of every man. No one's health was affected ; and on the whole, there had been a not unexpected advantage in this perpetual occupation, since it had diverted their attention from their obvious subject of grievance, and trained them to a new detention, for another winter.

As we were now to commence a fresh residence, for little less than another year, at the best, having already undergone one of thirteen months, it became proper to take an account of our provisions, and to regulate the expenditure and the nature of the diet for the period on which we were entering. These details can have little interest for general readers ; but as it is in such things that navigators seek for information, they cannot be omitted : while, for the convenience of the latter, and not to occupy the time of the former, I shall here state them in the briefest manner, as the original report was drawn up.

*Account of Provisions on board the Victory on the first of October, 1830, together with the Arrangements then made for the Men's Diet.*

Bread, Flour, and substitutes for flour.	Andrew's flour 16 hds. containing	7928	lb.	{		lb.		
	Scott's flour 7 hds. containing	3164			Pro. for 2 years for 23 men=	19,514		
	Fury's flour 8 casks, containing	192			=	Remaining on board 17,364		
	Beechy's suet 36 lb. Fury's do. 180=	1080	flr.		Less than for 2 years	2150		
	Bedwell's raisins 700, bread 1300=	2000	do.		But with $\frac{1}{8}$ allowance for waste will only last to June 1, 1832.			
Salt beef 2844 lb. salt pork 5350 lb =				8194	{	Proportion of salt beef, pork, and preserved meat for 27	12,061	
Preserved meats - - - =				5056		=	Remaining on board	13,260
This surplus consists entirely in salt pork; there being, with allowance for bad canisters only $2\frac{1}{2}$ of pork - - - - -						1189	surplus	
			lb.	{		lb.		
Sugar 2 hds. and 1 box Bedwell 1184 lb.					Proportion for 2 years includg. waste	2828		
Fury $2\frac{1}{2}$ B. 1049 lb.								
Melasses 1 cask - - - - - 30					=	Remaining on board	2738	

Quantity of sugar, short of 2 years, from October 1, 1830. - - - 90 less

Cocoa 6 cases, termed Bedwell, 595; Fury 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  barrels, 614 = 1209 lb. Proportion for 2 years 1371 lb. Diff. 162 lb. less than 2 years' proportion.

But the 162 short for 2 years made good by tea 1 chest, 82 lb.  $\frac{1}{2}$  ditto, 14 lb., which will complete tea and cocoa for two years.

Peas, split, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  casks, 18 bush. 6 gall.; round do. 1 bag, 3 bush. 6 gall. = 22 bush. 4 gall. Proportion for two years, 32 bush. 4 gall. = short of two years, 10 bush.

Spirits, rum, 120 gall.; Rice, 250 lb.; Lemon-juice for one year at the present allowance.

Pickles 4 small casks; sliced lemon 2 cases; Mustard 2 boxes; Barley 2 casks, and 5 jars.

This is exclusive of preserved soups, of which we have 100 gall., which, together with a cask of wine, are reserved for the sick. Finding, therefore, that we should have provisions at the allowance just sufficient to support nature in this climate, until the period in 1832, when we must have either reached the Fury's store ground where there are still some provisions left, or must abandon the ship to save our lives, we determined to make the following arrangement, as suggested by Mr. Thom; which, by giving the men a soup day and a meat day alternately, during six months, to commence from the first of November, 1830, appeared to vary the diet better than any other scheme which we could have adopted.

1. Monday— $\frac{1}{2}$  pound salt beef and  $\frac{2}{3}$  pound of flour.
2. Tuesday— $\frac{1}{2}$  pound preserved meat, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  pound ditto with barley in soup.
3. Wednesday—1 pound of pork, with pease soup.
4. Thursday— $\frac{1}{2}$  pound of preserved meat with  $\frac{1}{2}$  pound of preserved meat with barley soup.
5. Friday— $\frac{1}{2}$  pound of salt beef, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  pound of flour.

6. Saturday— $\frac{1}{2}$  pound of preserved meat with  $\frac{1}{2}$  pound of ditto made into barley broth.
7. Sunday—1 pound of pork with pease soup.
8. Monday— $\frac{1}{2}$  pound of preserved meats with vegetable soup. Thus the men would have soup on six days out of every eight—and on the other two, beef and pudding—while a constant succession of diet would be obtained. Thus we trusted that their health and strength would be kept up, so as to enable them to go through the fatigue of travelling in the spring.

The place of the ship, I must now remark, was in a bay extending to the south, after entering the inlet to the eastward, which was termed Sheriff's bay, while the point to the east was called Watch point.

Though the clear water in the offing did not reach so far south as in the preceding year, it was longer open; and notwithstanding the occasional severity of the cold, the mean temperature was higher by five degrees than in the corresponding month of 1829; the highest having been 24, and the lowest 12. It closed also at plus 24°, being 40° higher than on the final day of last October.

On the whole, having but the surgeon to spare for the chase, the produce in hares had been respectable; but this tract having been the residence of the Esquimaux in the preceding year, the animals in general had been frightened away or exterminated. The place where we were now fixed was very near to the huts which they had then inhabited.