

ward of the islands of Diego Ramieres, we encountered a gale, in which we lay-to forty hours, in the course of which we parted from our little consort, although we had observed all the precautions of firing guns, burning blue-lights, &c.; after waiting in vain fourteen hours, with the hope of again meeting her, we resumed our course for the first rendezvous I had appointed with Lieutenant Walker, in the event of separation; that, as well as some of the others, we were unable to reach, from a succession of westerly gales and boisterous weather. To have persevered in working up for them would have consumed the little time we could yet hope for in the advanced state of the season, for our further progress south.

Without troubling you with a more minute detail of occurrences, suffice it to say, that on the 11th of March, we fell in with the first icebergs, in the latitude of $63^{\circ} 30'$ S., and longitude of 80° W., after which time they were our constant companions (and on more than one occasion very troublesome ones) until we reached the latitude of $68^{\circ} 08'$ S., and longitude of $95^{\circ} 44'$ W., where to my great joy, we fell in with the Flying-Fish, and learned from Lieutenant Walker that he had passed near most of the appointed rendezvous, and worked down from 105° W., until he reached about 70° S.; that the whole surface of the ocean in the direction of south and west presented a perfect and impassable barrier of ice; that he had been completely frozen in for a short time on the 23d, and the ice forming rapidly around him, when, fortunately, a breeze of wind rescued him from his perilous situation. When we fell in with him, he was endeavouring to push his way north.

From the time of our first falling in with icebergs, we had been daily passing great numbers (as will be shown by the chart), and encountered on the 17th and part of the 18th, the heaviest gale and sea we have experienced since we left the United States; the thermometer in the air at that time standing at 21° of Fahrenheit, and the water at 28° ; the ship completely coated with ice, every spray thrown over her freezing, and about her bows and head fairly packed with it. From the 19th to the 25th, we were without a sight of the sun or sky, surrounded by ice and icebergs, within the most neighbourly distance. During a lift of the fog, for a few moments only, on the morning of the 22d, and by the aid of an ice-blink, we discovered an extended range of icebergs and field-ice in mass, presenting a perfect barrier to our further progress south in that direction; and so completely were we hemmed in by icebergs on that occasion, that I was compelled to carry all the canvass on the ship that she would bear, and work her out into some more open position, through a fog so dense as to limit our view to two or three times the length of the ship.