

duty to run over the track laid down for me, and on the 18th reached the fourth and last rendezvous, having passed the 17th in the vicinity. We turned our head south for Cook's *Ne Plus Ultra*, the longitude alone being specified in the instructions—we continued our course to the southward, the weather at times very thick, ice-islands becoming numerous, and occasionally passing a little floating ice, until half-past 11 p. m., of the 19th, when it became so abundant and in such large masses around us, that we hove-to until daylight, frequently filling to avoid damage from it.

At four o'clock a. m., we again stood on, but were soon again from the same causes obliged to heave-to. At this time the water was much discoloured, and much of the ice also having the appearance of being but lately detached from land. I got a cast of the lead in one hundred fathoms,—no bottom. The same discoloration of the water I afterwards observed always in the vicinity of extensive masses of ice; and thought it might possibly be produced by refraction. At eight o'clock the fog suddenly lifted, and to the amazement of all on deck, disclosed to us a wall of ice, from fifteen to twenty feet high, extending east and west as far as the eye could reach, and spreading out into a vast and seemingly boundless field to the southward, and so close under the lee that I did not venture to ware, but after getting the foresail on her, stood on to the westward, luffing and bearing away alternately to avoid a dangerous contact with large detached masses, with which the sea was filled in all directions. At length finding a place sufficiently clear to put the helm down, we worked out, with the same risk, to the eastward, and at nine o'clock had reached a comparatively smooth sea. Our latitude at this time about $67^{\circ} 20'$ S., longitude 105° W.; extremities of the field, as far as visible, bearing per compass east-by-north and southwest-half-west.

It was formed of various sized masses, of all shapes, and shapeless, and of several colours, a dingy white (if I may say so) prevailing. Continued to coast along the ice until meridian, when, seeing large ice ahead, and weather thick, hauled to the northward, and soon ran into blue water. At 2 p. m., weather clearing a little and sea tolerably clear, stood to the southward and eastward, and at 3^h 20^m, saw the ice in unbroken ranks, bearing from west-by-south to southeast-by-south. At four, the weather very thick, stood to the northward and eastward; water discoloured: at the time of taking the above last bearings, our view not extending beyond a few miles.

At six o'clock, weather lighting up, discovered field-ice distant about four miles, bearing from southeast to east per compass, passing through floating ice. At eight, lowered the foresail, and hove-to head