

and snow fell at intervals; the wind continued from the westward. Many whales were seen; albatrosses, petrels, and Cape pigeons were frequent about the ship. At 4 P. M., the mist raised a little, and to their surprise they saw a perfect barrier of ice, extending to the southwest, with several large icebergs enclosed within it. Shortly after, they discovered a sail, which proved to be the Porpoise.

The Vincennes and Porpoise were left in our narrative near the icy barrier, separated by the fogs and mists that prevailed at times. The Porpoise, on the 13th, in latitude 65° 08' S., longitude 163° E., discovered several sea-elephants on the ice, and sent a boat to capture them, but without success. The current was tried, and found to set west one-fifth of a mile per hour. Some time afterwards, seeing some sea-elephants near the edge of the ice, a boat was sent, and succeeded in capturing a female. From the numerous sea-elephants, and the discoloration of the water and ice, they were strongly impressed with the idea of land being in the vicinity, but on sounding with one hundred fathoms, no bottom was found; Lieutenant-Commandant Ringgold felt convinced, from the above circumstances, and the report that penguins were heard, that land was near, and thought he could discern to the southeast something like distant mountains. A nearer approach was impossible, as they were then in actual contact with the icy barrier.

On the 14th, at 3 P. M., the water being still discoloured, tried soundings, but found no bottom.

Two sea elephants were seen lying motionless on the ice. On being shot at, the animal would raise its head and look around for an instant, and then resume its former posture. Boats were lowered, when they were captured and brought on board: they proved to be the *Phoca proboscidea*. Dr. Holmes examined their stomachs, and found nothing but well-digested food. Their dimensions were as follows:

Total length	10 feet, 9 inches.
Length of posterior flipper	1 " 9 "
Breadth	2 " 4 "
Circumference of largest part of body	6 " 3 "

This was a young female. The other was taken afterwards; he measured—

In length	8 feet, 6 inches.
Greatest circumference behind anterior flipper	5 " 0 "
Length of flippers	1 " 5 "
Breadth "	1 " 5 "

On the 15th the Peacock and Porpoise were in company: the specimens of sea-elephants were put on board the Peacock; and, after having had communication with each other, the vessels again separated, standing on opposite tacks.