

vast fields of ice, which they had entered twelve hours previously; the only opening appearing to the eastward, they were compelled to retrace their steps, which they effected at 8 P. M., passing some ice-islands which they recognised as having been seen the evening before. They now found themselves out of this dangerous position, and, passing the point, kept away to the westward. Lieutenant-Commandant Ringgold judged it prudent to heave-to during the night, on account of the darkness.

February 1st. The immense perpendicular barrier encountered yesterday was now in sight, trending as far as the eye could reach to the westward; it was of tabular form, from one hundred and fifty to one hundred and eighty feet in height, of solid compact ice, resembling a long line of coast; wind moderate from the southeast,—a brilliant blink extending along and elevated above the barrier. At 4 P. M., they arrived at the end of this barrier, and found it trending off to the southward, seeming as if numbers of icebergs had been broken from the barrier by some mighty force, exceeding in numbers any thing that had yet been seen, and extending as far south as could be distinguished, interspersed with much drift and floe-ice. On the southern horizon sixty-four ice-islands were counted, exclusive of many near them, and those that were not distinguishable from the barrier.

The current was tried here, and found setting southeast nearly a mile an hour. Pigeons around in numbers, also whales and large flocks of penguins.

The nights now evidently lengthened, thus adding to the cares and anxieties attendant on this navigation. It was fortunate that the prevailing winds were from the southeast and southwest, or coming off the ice. If they had blown from the northward, they would have been attended with danger, and might have proved fatal to the vessel.

2d. At meridian, in longitude $130^{\circ} 36'$ E., and latitude $65^{\circ} 24'$ S. They were prevented from proceeding farther to the southward by the impenetrable icy barrier. At this time they had one hundred large ice-islands in sight, without counting any of the smaller bergs, which were innumerable; saw great numbers of penguins and some seals (*Phoca proboscida*). The current was tried here, and found setting as yesterday, and at the same rate.

At 8 P. M., were obliged to retrace their steps to the northward, the weather becoming thick, with light snow. At eleven, constant and thick snow-storm, and unable to see any distance; the gale continuing, lay-to under a close-reefed main-topsail. The vignette, from a sketch by Mr. Totten will give some idea of her situation.