

pearing, as from accounts frequently takes place in the Arctic Ocean. Your time, being unlimited, will allow you to wait some days in a situation to make experiments.

I frequently found myself so closely beset that I thought it next to impossible to escape, and if the wind had not been extremely constant in its direction, I should have been shut up or much injured; as it was, I escaped with scarcely a scratch, although we took some heavy thumps.

The charts will show you the tracks and state of the ice. It was constructed as I went on, and the ice-islands laid down by carefully-kept diagrams by the officer of the deck during his watch. This I found gave me more confidence in proceeding, and facilities in case of having to return.

MAGNETIC POLE.—I consider we have approached very near to the pole. Our dip was $87^{\circ} 30'$ S., and the compasses on the ice very sluggish; this was in longitude $147^{\circ} 30'$ E., and latitude $67^{\circ} 04'$ S. Our variation, as accurately as it could be observed on the ice, we made $12^{\circ} 30'$ E. It was difficult to get a good observation, on account of the sluggishness of our compasses. About one hundred miles to the westward, we crossed the magnetic meridian.

The pole, without giving you accurate deductions, I think my observations will place in about latitude 70° S., and longitude 140° E.

On the meridian of 140° E., you will find a small bay, partly formed by ice-islands and rocks, which I have named Piner's Bay, and I think among the rocks you may find a snug little harbour. I was driven out of the bay by a gale of wind; sounding about one and a half miles from the shore in thirty fathoms. The icebergs being aground, form good shelters; but I was too much exposed to venture to remain, and my object was to trace the land and the icy barrier, which I have done, as you will see it laid down on my chart.

We had delightful and clear weather ten days or a fortnight along the coast, with the wind at from southeast to south-southwest; the two latter points particularly. The drift-ice is in large pieces, so large as to give a ship an awkward thump; but when I found it tolerably open I have run through it to get to clear water, and in hopes of making the land, but our progress was soon stopped by the firm barrier, impenetrable, through which there is no passing.

I am of opinion that there is little movement of the ice during the season. Strong gales may change its position a trifle, but I think not materially.

The only prospect of nearing the land is through a sea well studded with large icebergs, nearly thirty or forty miles in width; and I