

the extreme, from the vast numbers of icebergs, and quantities of floe and drift-ice, surrounding the brig at the time.

On the afternoon of the 30th, at 3^h 45^m, a ship was discovered ahead; at 3^h 50^m, another appeared in company; being in latitude 64° 52' 30" S., and longitude 135° 27' E. I determined to speak them: supposing them to be the Vincennes and Peacock; at 4^h made them out to be standing to the northward, under easy sail, and discovered them to be strangers; at 4^h 30^m hoisted our colours, knowing that an expedition under Captain Ross was expected in these seas, I took them to be his ships, and stood ready to cheer the discoverer of the North Magnetic Pole. At 4^h 50^m, having gained considerably upon them, and being within I suppose a mile and a half, the strangers showed French colours, the leeward and sternmost displaying a broad pennant; and concluded they were the French discovery ships under Captain D'Urville.

Desirous of speaking, and exchanging the usual and customary compliments incident to naval life, I closed with them, designing to pass within hail under the flag-ship's stern. When within short musket-shot, my intentions too evident to excite a doubt, so far from a reciprocity being evinced, I saw, with surprise, sail made on board the flag-ship. Without a moment's delay, I hauled down my colours and bore upon my course.

On the morning of the 31st, at 8 A. M., I found myself completely embayed in an immense gulf, with a field of table-ice one hundred and fifty feet high, bearing to the northward, and from east to west so far as eye could discern. After consuming the day in trending to windward, I passed out along its eastern margin without accident.

In my progress and examinations, I obtained frequent specimens of sandstone, granite, and red clay, from the field and floe-ice.

I gained the meridian of 105° E., on the 12th of February, latitude 64° 54' S.; the weather was at intervals misty, affording little opportunity for observation; many strong indications of land presented themselves. The barrier assumed a dark discoloured appearance, with numerous stratified veins of earth and rocks, and with lofty and conical peaks, remotely placed along its southern portion; the impression of land, surrounded and covered by field-ice, was often strongly urged. Penguins and seals were seen, and in my anxiety to land and convince my mind, I was embayed in a narrow and dangerous inlet, which, with the aid of a strong southeast wind, was cleared in safety ere night closed in.

The wind easterly and the weather becoming clear, the occasion