

therefore those seas remayne for euer vndissolued. Which if it be so, that the nature of cold can congeale the seas, it is very likely that his first working power, beginneth vpon the vpper face of the waters, & so descending worketh his effect, which if it were, howe then commeth it to passe that shippes sayle by the North cape, to Saint Nicholas fise degrees or more within the frozen zone, & finde the seas free from pester of yse, the farther from the shore the clearer from yse. And myselfe likewise howe could I haue sayled to the septentrionall latitude of seuentie fise degrees, being nine degrees within the frozen zone, betweene two lands where the sea was straightened not fortie leagues broad in some places, & thereby restrained from the violent motion & set of the maine occian & yet founde the same Nauigable & free from yse not onely in the midst of the chanell, but also close aborde the eastern shore by me name Desolation, & therefore what neede the repetition of authorities from writers, or wrested philosophical reasons, when playne experience maketh the matter so manifest, & yet I deny not but that I haue seene in some part of those seas, tow sortes of yse, in very great quantity, as a kind of yse by seamen name ylands of yse, being very high aboue the water, fortie & fiftie fadomes by estimation & higher, & euery of those haue beene seuen times as much vnder the water, which I haue proued by taking a peece of yse & haue put the same in a vessell of salt water, & still haue found the seuenth part thereof to bee aboue the water, into what forme soeuer I haue reduced the same, & this kind of yse is nothing but snow, which falleth in those great peeces, from the high mountains bordering close vpon the shore depe seas. (For all the sea coastes of Desolation are mountains of equall height with the pike of Tenerif with verie great vallies betweene them) which I haue seene incredible to bee reported, that vpon the toppe of some of these ylls of yse, there haue beene stones of more then one hundreth tonnes wayght, which in his fall, that snowe hath torne from the clyffs, & in falling maketh such an horrible noyse as if there were one hundreth canons shot of at one instant, & this kind of yse is verie white, & freshe, & with shore winds is many times beaten far of into the seas, perhaps twentie leagues & that is the farthest distance that they haue euer bin seene from the shore. The other kind is called flake yse, blue, very heard & thinne not aboue three fadomes thick at the farthest, & this kinde of yse bordreth close vpon the shore. And as the nature of heate with apt vessels deuiddeth the pure spirit from his grosse partes by the coning practise of distillation: so doth the colde in these regions deuide & congeale the fresh water from the salt, nere such shores where by the abundance of freshe riuers, the saltnes of the sea is mitigated, & not else where, for all yse in general beeing dissolued is very fresh water, so that by the experience of all that haue euer trauelled towards the North it is well knowne that the sea neuer fryseth, but wee know that the sea dissolueth this yse with great speede, for in twentie foure houres I haue seen an ylande of yse turne vp & downe, as the common phrase is, because it hath melted so fast vnder water that the heauier parte hath beene vpwarde, which hath beene the cause of his so turning, for the heuiest part of all things swimming is by nature downwards, & therefore sith the sea is by his heate of power to dissolue yse, it is greatly against reason that the same should be frozen, so that the congelation of the seas can bee no hinderance to the execution of this passage, contrary to the former obiection, by late experience reprooued, yet if experience wanted in ordenary reason men should not suppose nature to bee monstrous, for it all such yse & snowe as congealeth & descendeth in the winter did not by natures benefit dissolue in the sommer, but that the cold were more actual then the heate, that difference of inequalitye bee it neuer so little would by time bread natures ouerthrowe, for if the one thousand parte of the yse which in winter is congealed, did the next sommer remayne vndissolued, that continual difference sithins the worldes creation would not onely haue conuerted all those North Seas into yse, but would also by continuall accesse of snow haue extended himselfe aboue all the ayers regions by which reason all such exalations as should be drawn from the earth & seas within the temperate zones & by windes driuen into these stiffe regions, that moysture was no more to bee hoped for that by dissolution it should haue any returne, so that by time the world should be left waterlesse. And therefore how ridiculous this imagination of the seas frysing is, I refer to the worlds generall opinion.

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