

the foot,) leaving Mr. Nares the document supplied me with directions to execute the remainder of my orders, and return to the ship with all despatch.

The amount of animals seen during this journey surpassed all expectations. Between Cape Bounty and Winter Harbour, 32 musk oxen and nine reindeer were seen. From the time of leaving Winter Harbour to our return, reindeer were always in sight in herds from 10 to 60 in number. In crossing the same land probably animals were counted twice over, but certainly 300 were seen altogether. From their being in such numbers induces me to believe that they were assembling to migrate, although their movements at the time did not indicate a departure. With rifles many might have been shot, as they invariably ran up and followed us, but as we could only carry what we required for consumption, we contented ourselves with three, which we found a most valuable addition to our preserved meat. Sixteen wolves were seen, also five ptarmigan and one lemming, which were shot.

The double-barrel two-grooved rifle lost from the sledge while making a portage during a heavy snowdrift was my own property, and supplied by me as part of the sledge equipment.

I beg to refer you to my journal for remarks on the sledges and equipments; but would wish particularly to bring before your notice the bad construction of two principal articles of our outfit. The spirit lamps and compasses were completely useless throughout the journey (*vide* journal).

It is now my pleasing duty to report to you the excellent conduct of the men, who always performed their laborious work with cheerfulness and goodwill.

The reduction of one man from the crew of the "Fearless" was amply made up by Mr. Nares, who never left the drag ropes while the sledges were loaded.

I have, &c.

G. F. MECHAM, Lieutenant.

PROCEEDINGS of the Sledge "DISCOVERY" between the 22d September and the 14th October 1852, under the Command of G. F. MECHAM, Lieutenant, H.M.S. "Resolute."

#### FIRST JOURNEY.

*Wednesday, 22d September 1852. A.M.* Our preparations for starting being complete, the sledge's crews assembled on the ice, and were addressed by Captain Kellett. At 7 we started. The Melville party under my orders consisted of two sledges, viz. one ten men party, with sledge and travelling cart; one six men with sledge, commanded by Mr. G. S. Nares, (mate,) each provisioned for 25 days, and carrying 30 days' depôt for spring operations. We were also accompanied by three sledges, under Lieutenants Pim, Hamilton, and Monsieur De Bray, destined for Capes Hay and Providence. Our route at starting lay across the northern part of Bridport Inlet, having to skirt round the bay ice. This took us very much out of our way; we nevertheless progressed rapidly, and reached the west side of the inlet before noon.

Calm, o.b.c.  
Ther. + 15°.

P.M. 12.30.—Halted for luncheon. Went to the top of the high land to examine the state of the ice. 1. Proceeded, steering for two small islands off Cape Bounty. The travelling during the afternoon ran close along the water's edge. Found the cart carried better upon the top of the sledge. 4.30. Pushed in and encamped upon the beach, finding the snow salt upon the floe. The spouts of three of our spirit lamps came *unsoldered*, rendering half our cooking apparatus useless, which was a serious accident at the commencement of our journey and exceedingly annoying, as bad workmanship was the cause of it. They are manufactured by R. Dale, coppersmith, 195, Upper Thames-street, London. At 8 fired a rocket as signal to the ship.

Travelling 9½ hours.  
Distance, 14 miles; 9 miles  
made good.

S.E. 1 c.m.

Explored main land East.  
Outer Island.