

in case of necessity. Everything seemed favourable to our purpose, and I fully expected to return in the evening and get under way; but on approaching Cape Smyth, I had the mortification to find the lane of water terminate so close to the shore that a native u-mi-ak could not have passed. This was one of the disappointments of ice navigation, which teaches one patience, and requires to be borne with, in addition to others we are liable to, even under favourable circumstances.

From the 1st to the 6th of August an officer was sent each day to Cape Smyth, to bring the earliest intelligence of any change in our favour; but each day brought the same unwelcome report, that the ice was still close with the shore, and no open water to be seen. It seems a strange complaint in these latitudes, but the fineness of the present season was the cause of our detention. During the month of July the wind was registered one day from five to six in force; for four days four; and the remaining twenty-six barely averaged two, proving the extreme of fine weather to be a greater obstacle in moving masses of ice than the reverse state of it.

On the 7th a fresh breeze from the eastward gave me some hopes of a change in our favour; and on visiting Cape Smyth I observed a narrow lane of water extending as far as the eye could reach to the southward. On getting on board at 8 P.M., we left our anchorage, where we had found shelter for eleven months and four days—seven days later in the season than Captain Parry had been enabled to leave Melville Island. We carried a favourable breeze for eight hours, and had made considerable progress, when the wind shifted to S.W., with thick weather and heavy rain, which made it difficult to avoid coming in contact with the ice, from the narrowness of the channel we had to beat in. A continuation of thick weather and light contrary winds on the following day prevented our making any progress; and in the afternoon, finding we were losing ground, I made fast to a large floe-piece, when we found