

even before the legislature had decreed the sum of money which has been since held forth as an inducement to the completion of the discovery.

It must have been somewhere near Devil's Thumb that the route of Baffin was continued, as related, to the seventy-eighth degree; but as the land along that quarter is low and declining rapidly in descent as it approaches the Pole, and also verges much to the eastward, such a course could not be productive of beneficial consequences to inquiry after the north-west passage. Such a way was likely to be as unsuccessful as the design of sailing to the North Pole. The relation of the return of those navigators is equally mysterious. Whether, in their return from lands in the seventy-eighth degree, they had succeeded in sailing to the northward of the chain of the Linnæan Isles, and consequently to the northward of the great accumulation of ice beyond them, is not known. That they saw on their return some islands, which are called Cary's Islands, and sounds (of course lands) on the western side of Davis's Strait, or Baffin's Bay, is a circumstance which is also involved in obscurity. With that however the present question has no immediate concern; but I cannot let the term Baffin's Bay pass without remark. Any water, to constitute a bay, must be embraced by land; such for instance, as is Hudson's Bay; but if there appear no land to the northward of Baffin's Bay, as I presume is