

a coming wave, resumed their search for food. As first impressions are always lasting and forcible, I may be forgiven for mentioning my sensations on this day, which I can compare only with those I experienced on riding from Tripoli to take a view of the desert, amongst whose barren and inhospitable sands I was then about to undertake the tedious journey, which ended so unhappily.

On the weather moderating, we stood along the pack edge to look out for some convenient place in which to put the ships while we unloaded the Nautilus. As we now considered ourselves to have entered on the scene of action, many requisite preparations were made for our new service. In all whaling ships, and such as are obliged to run much amongst ice, a large and broad plank is erected across the ship, before the mizen-mast, at such a height as to afford a clear view over the bows; in order that whoever is conning, the ship may have timely notice of any heavy or dangerous pieces of ice lying in her way, and be enabled to steer her clear of them. This walk is called a spike plank, and was on this day got up in both ships. We also rove light tacks, sheets, and braces, and bent a smaller foresail with a boom at the foot, as being more easily worked than the other.

In the afternoon we were surrounded by a very dense fog, which froze as it fell, and quite encrusted the rigging; it soon cleared away, and we saw a strange sail to the S.E. In the evening we observed the appearance of distant land, which we supposed was a part of Resolution Island, then 64 miles W.S.W. of us.

During the first watch a large fragment was observed to fall from a berg near us, and to throw up the water to a great height, sending forth, at the same time, a noise like the report of a great gun.

On the evening of the 20th we made fast to a berg at some distance from the pack, in order to clear the transport. Occasional gales, the necessity of making an offing, and many other of the attendant difficulties usually experienced amongst ice, prevented our entirely clearing the Nautilus until the 30th of June.

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