

VOYAGE TOWARDS THE NORTH POLE 407

of desperation, on the 6th of August the boats were hoisted out, and every method taken to render them secure and comfortable: but the next day the wind blew eastwardly, and the ships were moved about a mile to the westward. But still they were not so far west by a great way as when they were first beset with the ice; however, on the 9th of August, the current had visibly changed and ran to the westward, by which both the ice and the ships had been carried considerably in that direction. On the 10th, a brisk wind at north north east accomplished their deliverance, and freed them from the dreadful prospect of perishing by the winter polar cold. Having found it impracticable to penetrate any further towards the north pole, they made for the harbour of Smeerenberg, which lays on the north-west side of Spitzbergen. In prosecuting this voyage, the most northern point of latitude which they reached was 81 deg. 36 min. and between the latitudes of 79 deg. 50 min. and 81 deg. they traversed 17 deg. and a half of longitude; being from 2 deg. east, to 19 deg. 30 min. east.

The following are some of the most curious observations made on the voyage.

On the 19th of June, by a meridian observation at midnight, the sun's lower limb 0 deg. 37 min. 30 sec. above the horizon, lat. 66 deg. 54 min. 39 sec. north, long. 0 deg. 58 min. 45 sec. west. In lat. 67 deg. 35 min. captain Phipps sounded with a very heavy lead the depth of seven hundred and eighty fathoms without getting ground; and by a thermometer invented by lord Charles Cavendish for the purpose, found the temperature of the water at that depth, to be 26 deg. of Fahrenheit's thermometer, the temperature of the air being 48 deg. and a half. June 24, in lat. 73 deg. 40 min. a fire was made in the cabin for the first time. On the first of July it was found so warm, that they sat without a fire

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