

easily managed as one of their canoes, or hoping to dash her to pieces against the rocks. To prevent their design, Waxel cut the cable. The interpreter, meanwhile, intreated not to be left behind. The Americans disregarding all the signs that were made them to let him go, Waxel ordered two muskets to be fired with a view to frighten them only. The success answered his expectation; the report re-echoed by a neighbouring mountain, terrified the Americans to such a degree, that they fell down on the ground, and the interpreter immediately made his escape. The savages soon recovered from their panic, and by their cries and gestures, appeared highly irritated. Waxel did not think proper to remain there any longer, as the night was coming on, the sea grew very rough, and the vessel was at the distance of a mile and a half.

Leaving the island, the Russians steered to the south, in order to get off the coast. From this time till far in the autumn, the wind scarcely varied, excepting between W.S.W. and W.N.W. This was a great obstacle to the speedy return of the ship. Besides this, the weather was almost always foggy, so that they were sometimes two or three weeks without seeing either sun or stars, and consequently without being able to take the altitude, or correct their reckoning. It is easy to conceive the inquietude which they must have experienced, wandering in such uncertainty in an unknown sea. "I know not (says one of the officers) if there be a situation in the world more disagreeable than that of navigating in an unknown sea. I speak from experience, and I can say with truth, that during the five months of our voyage, I had very few hours of tranquil sleep, being incessantly involved in dangers and anxiety in regions heretofore unknown."

The crew struggled with contrary winds and tempests till the 24th of September, when they again came in sight of the land. To one of the lofty mountains which were discovered upon it, they gave the name of St. John the Baptist. A brisk gale from the south rendered it dangerous for them to remain near the coast, they resolved to keep the ship to the wind, which soon turning to the west, increased to a violent storm, and drove the vessel very far to the S.W. This tempest continued seventeen days without intermission, and was so furious, that Andrew Hesselberg, the pilot, acknowledged, that, during the forty years in which he had served at sea, in various parts of the world, he had never seen any thing equal to it. They shortened sail as much as possible, that they might not be carried too far; but