

REPORT of a JOURNEY to examine the Beaches between CAPES GRINELLE and SPENCER, and the Neighbourhood of CASWALL'S TOWER and RADSTOCK BAY, by John Stuart, Third Mate, H.M.S. "Lady Franklin."

The sledge party fitted out for the examination of the east side of Wellington Channel to the southward of Cape Grinelle, and of the beaches in Barrow's Straits in the neighbourhood of Caswall's Tower and Radstock Bay, left H.M.S. "Lady Franklin" on the night of Tuesday the 6th of May. The party consisted of six men and one officer, and was victualled for 30 days.

On striking out of the bay the sledge was hauled over the east point, this being easily done, from our having four extra hands from the parties of Captain Stewart and Mr. Goodsir, who were proceeding out to their depôt of the 24th April, with one sledge and two crews each. After a march of eight hours we camped under Parry's South Bluff, close by the flagstaff of H.M.S. "Assistance."

The following evening we started at P.M., and reached Barlow Inlet at , having seen on the road a bear, a fox, and two ravens. On the north shore of the inlet we lunched, and at A.M. reached the first depôt. Here everything was found in confusion, having been disturbed, but not destroyed, by bears and foxes. The road had up to this been on the whole good, with the exception of a few patches of deep snow.

Starting at 10 P.M. with a smart breeze of wind, we still kept along the snow on the beach, and derived great advantage from our floorcloth set as a sail. In a heavy squall, however, the sledge was hove on her beam ends in passing through a gully, but luckily no damage was sustained. At 3½ A.M. we camped alongside the depôt made on the former journey. Around it were several bear marks, but it had not been disturbed. In the forenoon the dog sledges arrived from the ships, having accomplished the journey in hours. I accompanied Captain Stewart to a hill four miles to the northward, and was happy to see our road across channel almost entirely clear of hummocks, being only crossed at intervals with narrow ridges.

Starting at 8 P.M., we proceeded along the beach through very heavy snow for more than a mile, the sledges having to be double banked all the way. Striking out to the floe from a point named Point Separation, we parted with the parties of Captain Penny and Mr. Goodsir; and the three sledges under Captain Stewart, Dr. Sutherland, and myself, set sail and stood across the channel. Though the wind was light it helped us considerably, so that by 3½ A.M. we camped, having made about eight miles of offing.

After lightening Captain Stewart's sledge, which had been dragging very heavily, we started at 8½ P.M., and made good way, deriving occasional assistance from light breezes. In the course of the march we had to cross one or two ridges of hummocks, in some of which the sledges required to be double manned. The footprints of bears were numerous, and one burgomaster was seen. We camped after eight hours work, having made about 10 miles. In the course of the day a few angles were obtained, the result of which, along with the other observation taken during the trip, is laid down in the accompanying chart.

We did not start until midnight, and then proceeded over a beautifully level floe, uninterrupted by a single hummock, till 9 A.M., when we camped. During the morning we had passed a number of recent traces of bears and foxes. The distance supposed to have been made on this march was thirteen miles. A meridian altitude gave N. lat. 75° 10'.

At half-past one A.M. we again got under way, and after two hours quick march came within half a mile of the land, when we halted and carried ashore 40 lbs. of pemmican and 60 lbs. of bread, as a contingent depôt. On returning to the sledges, after having properly buried and secured the provisions, we lunched, and afterwards parted company with Captain Stewart and Dr. Sutherland. Leaving my sledge I now struck in for the north cape of the bay I had been directed to examine, instructing the captain of the sledge to proceed within the range of hummocks stretching across the mouth of the bay, and then to pitch the tent. Immediately on landing I found the skull of a sea-horse evidently of great age. The beach under the north cape was a short

May 6th, 1851.  
Assistance Harbour.

May 7th.  
Cape Hotham, 2½  
miles E.

May 8th.  
Barlow Inlet 4 miles S.

May 9th.  
Barlow Inlet 12 miles S.

May 10th.  
Point Separation  
W. by S. 8 miles.

May 11th.  
In mid-channel.

May 12th.  
Cape Bowden S.E.  
9 miles.

May 13th.  
In Bay.  
Cape Bowden S.S.W.  
3½ miles.