

perhaps still more remarkable, we were here once more reduced to the same necessity as before, of steering the ships by one another for an hour or two; the Griper keeping the Hecla a-head, and our quarter-master being directed to keep the Griper right a-stern, for want of some better mode of knowing in what direction we were running. The fog froze hard as it fell upon the rigging, making it difficult to handle the ropes in working the ship, and the night was rather dark for three or four hours.

A fresh breeze continued from the S.W.b.W., with some swell, to which we had long been unaccustomed, and which, together with the extreme thickness of the weather, and the uncertainty of our course, made great caution necessary in running along the ice. We had for some time been steering principally by the moon, but when she became obscured, we were under the necessity of hauling our wind to the northward and westward, which led us from the ice, till the weather should become more favourable.

We continued to run along the edge of the ice to the eastward, till half-past ten P.M., when, more land being discovered a-head, of the extent and position of which we had no previous knowledge, and the night growing dark, the ships were hove to with their heads to the northward and westward, in