

Spring of 1852.

had been with us in the autumn, but the two tribes had been together during the winter, as some of the presents were recognized; otherwise they showed no sign of having been in contact with Europeans. The sound from here appeared to be 20 miles wide, and its termination easterly was not seen. Lieutenant Jago returned to the ship, after an absence of 49 days, and merits my warm commendation to their Lordships for the manner in which he conducted this service.

Expedition through the Prince of Wales Strait.

The Northern expedition, consisting of two sleighs (one under my own, the other the command of Lieutenant Parks, left on the 16th of the same month, proceeding through the Prince of Wales Strait together until the 5th of May, when he was detached with orders to reach Melville Island if possible, and rejoin me on the 22d, while I proceeded along the north coast of Prince Albert Land towards Cape Walker, eventually reaching latitude $72^{\circ} 45'$ and longitude $113^{\circ} 40'$; here there is a deep bay or inlet. Lieut. Parks not making his appearance at the rendezvous on the date appointed, I set out to meet him, and succeeded in reaching his second night's encampment; when my provisions being exhausted, and thinking he might have passed me (which proved to be the case) by keeping close to Prince Albert Land, I returned and reached the ship on the 6th of June.

Party reach Melville Island.

Lieutenant Parks, on the third day after leaving me, came upon hummocky ice, through which it was impossible to drag the sleigh. Leaving the tent and it behind, he set out with his party, carrying their provisions on their backs, and succeeded in reaching Cape Providence on the 16th. Here he left a portion of his men to rest, and went forward with two of them towards Hearne Point, meeting with sleigh tracks, and the marks of three men's footsteps. Hearing the next day the howling of Esquimaux dogs, as if being put into harness, and having no arms, did not deem himself in a fit condition to have any communication with the natives: and being so far from his people, although very loath to do so, he was obliged to return without reaching Winter Harbour.

After suffering severe privation from lack of water and provisions, he reached his tent on the 21st; starting again on the 23d, he made for Prince Albert Land, in hopes of picking up driftwood, and obtaining game, and must have passed within eight miles of me on the 24th; but his people being very much exhausted, and one of them obliged to be carried on the sleigh, he did not reach the rendezvous until the 31st, and the ship on the 29th of June, having been absent 75 days. Two of his crew on their arrival were suffering from frost-bites, one of whom had to lose a portion of his foot. Lieutenant Parks appears to me to have done all in his power to alleviate their distress, and to reach Winter Harbour.

Return of the natives.

The natives returned on the 25th of May, bringing with them some bags of seal oil (which was purchased); they remained in our neighbourhood until we left, which the ice did not permit us to do until the 5th of August. In the meantime a fair supply of game was obtained, and latterly, by means of Halkett's boats and our seine, a good number of fish from the lakes.

September 1852.

The season of '52 proved a close one, the ice remaining packed, both on Prince Albert and Baring Lands, until the first week in September, when we were enabled to enter the inlet examined by Lieutenant Jago, and which I hoped would conduct us to the centre of this archipelago; we, however, reached the head of the gulf, which is in latitude $70^{\circ} 25'$, and longitude $111^{\circ} 0'$, on the 13th, and having thus established the fact that Victoria, Prince Albert, and Wollaston Lands were joined, I came to the conclusion that the most suitable place for our ensuing winter quarters would be the south-east extremity of this large island.

Victoria, Prince Albert, and Wollaston Lands form one island.

Enter the Dolphin and Union Strait.

Entering the Dolphin and Union Strait with this view, the mouth of the Coppermine River was passed on the 21st; and after a hazardous navigation, owing to the increasing period of darkness, and absolute inutility of the compasses, succeeded in reaching Cambridge Bay on the 26th of the same month.

Reach Cambridge Bay.

In hauling into a bay which promised to afford us shelter, we had the misfortune to get on shore, and before the ship could be lightened sufficiently by landing our provisions, the young ice made, and we had to wait until it was sufficiently firm to bear our casks; nor did we succeed in getting the ship afloat without severe labour.

Natives.

Shortly after our arrival we were visited by a tribe of Esquimaux, mustering in all about 200, and apparently with more provisions to spare than those we had seen last year. It was evident that they had had little or no communication