

board, one of the many thermometers was missed, and had evidently been purloined by one of our visitors.

The strong adverse winds having continued hitherto, on the 20th the Captain called a council of officers, who, after much deliberation, recommended that, unless a favourable change of circumstances should occur sufficient to warrant the expectation of reaching Kötzebue Sound by the 26th, the "Plover" should winter in the commodious harbour where she then was.

The natives were informed of the loss of the thermometer, and on whom our suspicions rested. Parties were sent on shore at the spit to take observations, and to cut turf wherewith to eke out the winter's fuel. Here, besides fragments of bones of whales, we discovered a winter hut or yourt, much dilapidated, and apparently long abandoned; it was constructed partly by excavation; the upper part appeared to be of mud and shingle; around the interior, which formed an irregular ellipse, seats had been cut in the soil.

On the 22nd (Sunday) Divine Service was performed. The natives were allowed to come on board, but bartering was prohibited, and they were made to understand, as well as might be, that one day in seven was set aside for rest and relaxation. This they seemed to comprehend, but were, nevertheless, greatly astonished. The thermometer was