

ward nothing but one extensive field of ice could be seen. It is impossible to conceive a more helpless situation than that of a ship thus beset, when all the power that can be applied will not alter the direction of her head a single degree of the compass. On the 26th we were in lat. by observation, $63^{\circ} 59' 29''$, and long. $61^{\circ} 48' 07'$, having one hundred and twenty-five fathoms, on a fine sandy bottom. The deep-sea line indicated a drift to the S. b. W. Some of our gentlemen, having walked a mile or two from the ships, imagined that they saw the marks of a sledge upon the ice; but, as no traces either of dogs or of one human foot appeared, they were perhaps mistaken.

A large black whale, being the first, was seen near the ships. It is usual for these animals to descend head-foremost, displaying the broad fork of their enormous tail above the surface of the water; but, on this occasion, the ice was so close as not to admit of this mode of descent, and the fish went down tail foremost, to the great amusement of our Greenland sailors.

As long as the wind continued to blow strong towards the ice, so as to keep it close, the ships lay securely sheltered from the sea; but at nine in the evening, when it veered a little to the westward, the ice became more slack, and we began to feel the effects of the swell which was thus admitted from without: each roll of the sea forced the heavy