

contains several salt-water lakes and rivers, its vegetation is that of the Polar regions, marshberries and bilberries, reindeer-moss, and the like. During the summer months it is frequently visited by Russian hunters and fishermen, who come down for the swans, geese, fish, wolves, bears, reindeer, otters, whales, ermines, seals, sea-cows, walruses, and other animals plentiful in Nova Zembla and the adjacent waters. In winter, however, darkness reigns there for nearly five months, and few sounds are heard save the cracking of ice, and the growling of hungry animals.

Here, on the sixteenth of August, the Dutch sailors landed, after a voyage of four weeks. The more energetic of them climbed a hill near the coast, in order to discover whether they could see in the distance any termination to the barrier of ice, but it was in vain. Here also they had to encounter a Polar bear sixteen feet in length, which happily they were able to master.

On the twentieth of August they proceeded to Cross Island, so named from two crosses standing there. Hemskerk landed with seven of his sailors, but while they were resting and examining the crosses, two Polar bears came right up to them on their hind legs, sniffed at and examined them and finally ran at them, which so alarmed the men that they would have immediately fled for refuge to their boat had