

1774-
December.
Monday 19.

without the least appearance of vegetation. These mountains terminate in horrible precipices, whose craggy summits spire up to a vast height; so that hardly any thing in Nature can appear with a more barren and savage aspect, than the whole of this country. The inland mountains were covered with snow, but those on the sea-coast were not. We judged the former to belong to the main of Terra del Fuego, and the latter to be islands, so ranged as apparently to form a coast.

After three hours calm, we got a breeze at S. E. by E., and having made a short trip to South, stood in for the land; the most advanced point of which, that we had in sight, bore East, distant ten leagues. This is a lofty promontory, lying E. S. E., nineteen leagues from Gilbert Isle, and situated in latitude $55^{\circ} 26'$ South, longitude $70^{\circ} 25'$ West. Viewed from the situation we now were in, it terminated in two high towers; and, within them, a hill shaped like a sugar-loaf. This wild rock therefore obtained the name of York Minster. Two leagues to the westward of this head, appeared a large inlet, the west point of which we fetched in with, by nine o'clock, when we tacked in forty-one fathoms water, half a league from the shore; to the westward of this inlet, was another, with several islands lying in the entrance.

Tuesday 20.

During the night between the 19th and 20th, we had little wind easterly, which in the morning veered to N. E. and N. N. E., but it was too faint to be of use; and at ten, we had a calm, when we observed the ship to drive from off the shore out to sea. We had made the same observation the day before. This must have been occasioned by a current; and the melting of the snow increasing, the inland waters will cause a stream to run out of most of these inlets. At

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noon,