

would enable us *now* to push on as *rapidly* and as far as was consistent with prudence. I roused out all hands at 7 p.m., and whilst the cook was preparing our breakfast the others were set to repack and arrange the sledge. In doing this every article was scrupulously laid aside that could be dispensed with for the remainder of the journey, and all the provisions, with the exception of sufficient for twenty-nine days, seventeen of which I intended for our use whilst still advancing, the remaining twelve I trusted would be sufficient for our return to this spot. I hoped thus to be able to make an outward journey of thirty-five days from the ships, by which time we might have examined a considerable distance of coast. The only article in which we were at all short was the fat for fuel, and which there was every reason to suspect we would run short of; upon pointing out which circumstance to the men they every one agreed to save every ounce they possibly could on their respective cooking days. After securely covering up with gravel and large stones what we intended leaving behind, we started at 9 p.m., and keeping along the beach until we got abreast of the smooth ice of the bay, we then hauled the sledge out to the westward. The point we were now leaving, however, being the most conspicuous landmark within view, I determined before proceeding to erect a larger cairn than usual on it. Taking all the men with me, we ascended to the summit, and very soon constructed one of some height, in which I left the usual papers. This is the first place in which we have found the construction of a cairn of any size an easy matter. In our view to the northward and westward nothing new was observed in addition to what has been previously recorded. After regaining the sledge we struck right for the western point of the bay, over the best travelling ice we have had for some days back. We were not interrupted by a single hummock the whole way across the bay, the ice being perfectly smooth, and of that wavy description which indicated its being of a previous year's formation. Our quick and easy progress during this march gave rise to happier feelings than we had enjoyed for some days back.

We reached the point at half-past five a.m. of the 25th, and encamped on its western side. The morning was quite calm, and bright sunshine, the temperature where we camped being plus 10°, and at midday + 25°. Before turning in we walked up to the nearest high ground. The point on which our tent was pitched is low and outlying for about half a mile, after which the land gradually ascends to about a height of 200 feet. On gaining this elevation we found an almost level country stretching out before us to the southward for a considerable distance; but the view in this direction was bounded by high hills. Looking to the westward another bay similar to the one last crossed was now seen before us, terminated by a low point, inshore of which was a oblong hill or elevation, seemingly surrounded by very low level land. The bay itself seemed broken in two, as it were, by a small projecting point of land, which run out a short way from the bottom. The elevated land on which we stood terminated at this point; beyond it the low land commenced. Before leaving the tent we had noticed on a very conspicuous position something that had the appearance of an artificial mark or cairn, but we now found on reaching it that it was merely a large block of stone. We erected a small cairn on the top of it, and left the usual paper.

Sunday, 25th May.
Calm a.m.
Therm. + 10° to + 25°.

At 7 p.m. I roused out the cook of the day, and at 9 we were ready to start. The evening was clear and pleasant, the temperature plus 19°. The ice of this march was similar to that gone over the previous day. The range of hummocks across the mouth of the bay were smaller, and at a greater distance from the shore. By midnight we were nearly half way across, or almost equidistant between the eastern and western points, and had the low land seen in the morning open to us. Had we not previously perceived its nature we should have been inclined to judge that it was a deep inlet running in here, so little was it above the level of the ice on which we stood. The point for which we were steering our course had a number of dark coloured looking objects upon it, which afterwards turned out to be large blocks of limestone, but which, in consequence of refraction, assumed——

Monday, 26th May.
Light airs, W. & S.W.

[*Incomplete when opened.*]