

North Coast, he made a trial to get with his boat, towards the middle of the Island, by means of the Bay of Wyde-Bay in Gillis's map, into which he proceeded, till, to his great surprise, he fell into Wybe Jansz's Bay, and so came out to the South of Spitzbergen; but he had taken no notice of the depths of water. Being questioned as to that particular, he said he was very sure that he did not pass through the Waygats.

In all my conversations, with our Greenland commanders, I never failed to ask which course they would take, to reach high Northern latitudes, the result was, that they would never seek it to the Westward of Spitzbergen, but run out to the North, from the West coast of Nova Zembla; Mr. Baske's reasons and those of other commanders were.

- 1st. That all the Western coasts of the Northern countries, were for the most part, free from ice, occasioned from the winds and tides chiefly coming from the East, which experience proves.
- 2d. That the ice comes originally from the Tartarian rivers, for that the sea never freezes, but where it is calm, and at the same time a great quantity of snow falls.
- 3d. That near the seven islands, navigators often meet with a great N. E. swell, which proves that at such time, the sea, to a considerable distance to the N. E. is not locked up by the ice.
- 4th. That the drift wood, could not come to the Northward of Spitzbergen, in case the seas between the North of Asia, and that island, were frozen, whereas a great quantity of that wood, is drove on the North coast of Iceland, which is a demonstration, that the currents come from the N. E.
- 5th.