

“ been to 83 deg. that the sea was then free from ice, but that
 “ he had made no discoveries, without mentioning any more par-
 “ ticulars, for we ask after nothing but Whales. When I spoke to
 “ him it was in July, and then we could get no further North,
 “ than 79 d. 30 m. for the ice. In short, we can seldom proceed
 “ much higher than 80 deg. and a half, but almost always to that
 “ latitude, for it seems that the conjunction of the currents, often
 “ fastens the ice there. I fished last year, from 80 deg. 25 min.
 “ to 80 deg. 35 min. according to the land we made after-
 “ wards.

“ But in the year 1707, Captain Cornelis Gillis, having gone
 “ without any ice far to the Northward of 81 deg. sailed to the
 “ North of the Seven Islands, proceeded from thence East, and
 “ afterwards S. E. remaining to the East of the North East
 “ land, when coming again to latitude 80 deg. he discovered
 “ about 25 miles (a) East, from the country to the N. E. very high
 “ lands, on which, as far as we know, no body has ever been.
 “ As to the season when the Spitzbergen seas may be expected
 “ to be free from ice, I believe, according to my observations,
 “ that the most open sea to the Northward, generally hap-
 “ pens in the month of September, but then the nights begin,
 “ and make the navigation dangerous.

“ I am, &c.

“ JOHN WALIG.”

(a) Fifteen to a degree, at the Equator.

A SHORT