

terial difference is observable in the mean temperature of the atmosphere, the quantity of rain which we experienced is considerably greater than usual ; and it is well known how very rapidly ice is dissolved by a fall of rain. At all events, from whatever cause it may have arisen, it is certain that about the meridian on which we proceeded northward in the boats, the sea was in a totally different state from what Phipps experienced, as may be seen from comparing our accounts—his ship being closely beset, near the Seven Islands, for several days about the beginning of August ; whereas the Hecla, in the beginning of June, sailed about in the same neighbourhood without obstruction, and, before the close of July, not a piece of ice could be seen from Little Table Island.

I may add, in conclusion, that, before the middle of August, when we left the ice in our boats, a ship might have sailed to the latitude of 82° , almost without touching a piece of ice ; and it was the general opinion among us that, by the end of that month, it would probably have been no very difficult matter to reach the parallel of 83° , about the meridian of the Seven Islands.

THE END.