

At last they reached the fire, and passed the night in a very disagreeable manner.

The party that set out from the ship, consisted of twelve; two of these were already judged to be dead, it was doubtful whether the third would be able to return on board, and Mr. Buchan, a fourth, seemed to be threatened with a return of his fits.

At day-break on the 17th, nothing presented itself to the view all around but snow, which covered alike the trees and the ground; and the blasts of wind were so frequent and violent, that their journey seemed to be rendered impracticable, and they had reason to dread perishing with cold and famine. About six in the morning, they were flattered with hope of being delivered, by discovering the sun through the clouds, which gradually diminished. Before their setting out, messengers were dispatched to the unhappy negroes; but returned with the news of their death.

Hunger prevailing over every other consideration, induced our travellers to divide the small remainder of their provisions, and to set forward on their journey about ten in the morning. To their great astonishment and satisfaction, about three hours they found themselves ashore, and much nearer to the ship than their most sanguine expectations could have suggested. When they looked back upon their former rout from the sea, they found, that instead of ascending the hill, in a direct line, they had made a circle almost round the country. On their return, these wanderers received such congratulations from those on board, as can more easily be imagined than expressed.

Mr. Banks and Dr. Solander went on shore again on the 20th of this month, landing in the bottom of the bay,