

were in the floe from which we had just cleared ourselves. I shall not attempt a description of our sensations on this day; there are some people who can easily imagine them, and those who cannot, will never have waded thus far through my journal. We had now been part of every month in the year in confinement, having entered on the 24th of September, and being freed on the 9th of August.

CHAPTER XII.

Expedition returning—A land-mark erected—Account of Igloodik—Drift of the ship—Danger of the ships while driving—Lyon Inlet—Death of Mr. George Fife—His case—The ships drive out of Lyon Inlet—Open water seen, and an offing made—Passage down Hudson's Strait and across the Atlantic—Arrival and hospitable reception at Lerwick.

On joining the *Fury*, I went on board to Captain Parry, and from him received a letter to read to my officers and ship's company, informing them of the change which was about to take place. We now beat up the Inlet to our old wintering quarter, which, as if by magic, had been entirely cleared of ice in one night; and it was also open as far as we could see up Quilliam Creek from the highest ground.

Preparations were now made for our receiving several of the stores and provisions which we had supplied to the *Fury* in the spring. Captain Parry purposed remaining here a week, in order to paint and equip his ship for her passage home.

The whole day of the 10th was occupied in transporting stores, and before night every thing was finished and stowed.

Soon after midnight of the 10th, we observed the strait to be rapidly filling with ice; and at one A. M. a very heavy floe came down at the rate of two knots, and settled across our bows: before we could weigh