

revolved round the ship, which would be the same thing, it cannot be doubted, that every part of the ship, in a few revolutions, would become temperately heated, and, after a considerable succession of revolutions, would suffer by too great an accumulation of caloric. The result of the sun's action at the Poles would therefore not be materially different from that mentioned by Captain Scoresby, as having been the effect of the meridian sun in the latitude of 80° .

The meridian altitude at the Pole, at the summer solstice, would be only $53'$ lower than that in the case above mentioned; and, though the heat absorbed by a sheet of water, supposing the region of the Pole to be such, would not be equal to that taken up by the black side of a ship, yet it would be considerable. I have supposed the ices of the Poles to be dissolved by the 21st of *June*; for, although the process of the fusion of ice is slow, it having no less than 140 degrees of caloric to absorb, before it can become fluid, yet, the sun having swept the horizon for nearly two months, advancing from the altitude of 15° to $23^{\circ} 28'$, we may conclude his effects to have been sufficient to accomplish the dissolution of those ices.

The intervention of the rays by fogs and clouds, both of which are prevalent in high northern latitudes, would, of course, lessen the