

It appears also by the above account that Mr. Stephens had proceeded as far as 84 and an half, the sea being open to the Northward a month earlier in this same year.

From this and other facts of the same kind, I cannot but infer that the attempt should be made early in the season; if I am right also in what I have before supposed, that the ice which often packs near the coasts of Spitzbergen comes chiefly from the rivers, which empty themselves into the Tartarian sea, it seems highly probable that this is the proper time for pushing to the Northward, as the ice in such rivers cannot be then completely broken up. What other ice therefore may be seen at this time, is probably the remains of what was disembogued during the preceding summer.

Another proof of this arises from what happened in 1773, for the Carcase and Race Horse were obstructed at 80 deg. and a half, by an immense bank of ice, during part of the months of July and August; but four Greenland masters were a degree further to the Northward, during the (b) months of May and June, in the same year.

No one winters in Spitzbergen, but some few Russians, from whom however we have not been informed what happens during that season, though it should seem from the observations of Barentz, those of the Russians in Maloy Brun, and a ship having pushed into the Atlantic, from Hudson's Bay, during the midst of December, (c) that the Northern Seas, are then navigable.

For the same reason probably Clipperton (d) who passed the Straits of Magellan in the midst of winter, saw no ice, which

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(b) See the Probability of reaching the North Pole, pag. 4, 45, 46, and 57.
(c) See *ibid.* P. 83. (d) See Callander's Collection of Voyages, Vol. 3. P. 461.