

peak of this region. A steep island almost at its base Ross named Cockburn Island, and, landing upon it, he took formal possession by raising the British flag. It was especially interesting from the fact that Dr. Hooker, then assistant surgeon of the *Erebus* and afterwards the famous botanist, was able to collect nineteen species of plants on its rocky slopes. The investigation of these regions was made as thorough as possible, but could not be long continued on account of the rapid formation of young ice and the increasing pressure of the pack.

This grew so severe that the attempt to penetrate southward along the coast was finally relinquished, and Ross was forced to fall back on his alternative plan, that of following Weddell's course. He turned to the east, keeping along the edge of the pack, and then south until he reached a comparatively open sea. The highest point to which he penetrated was three degrees short of that attained by Weddell eighteen degrees farther west, but the advanced season and thickening ice made it imperatively necessary that he turn north, especially as he was harassed by violent storms. He crossed the Antarctic Circle for the last time on the 11th of March, 1843, and, having made a vain search for the Bouvet Islands, he returned to England by way of St. Helena, Ascension and Rio de Janeiro, with vessels and crew in sound and healthy condition, the only man missing being one who had fallen overboard in a gale off Cape Horn.