

mon, but we believe an erroneous opinion, that the temperature of our climate has regularly been diminishing, and that it is owing to the ice having permanently fixed itself to the shores of Greenland, which in consequence, from being once a flourishing colony of Denmark, is now become uninhabitable and unapproachable. We doubt both the *fact* and the *inference*. *It is not the climate that has altered*, but we who feel it more severe as we advance in years; the registers of the absolute degree of temperature, as measured by the thermometer, do not warrant any *such conclusion*; and more attempts than one to land on the coast of Greenland must be made, before we can give credit to its being bound up in eternal ice—which is known to shift about with every gale of wind, to be drifted by currents, and to crumble and consume *below the surface of the water*."

Now, this is all very probable, and perhaps would not have been questioned by any body, but the reviewer himself. He, however, having a favourite hypothesis to maintain, which he seems to have founded on *imaginary assumptions*, at variance with each other, rather than on known facts and experience, tells us quite a different thing in No. 35, of the Quarterly Review, in an article written preparatory to the fitting out of the two expeditions in the beginning of the following year 1818; as it was very necessary to clear away (at least by *pen and ink*) as much as possible of the ice, which some ignorant folks might suppose would otherwise impede their progress through the Polar regions, towards Behring's Strait; he therefore *admits*, in the first place, "that, for the last four hundred years, an extensive portion of the eastern coast of Old Greenland *has been shut up*, by an *impenetrable* barrier of ice, and with it the ill-fated Norwegian or Danish colonies; and who were thus cut off at

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