

"Investigator" first felt the influence of the north-east trade-wind of the Atlantic, and on the 28th March she passed out of the southern tropic in the South Atlantic Ocean. On the 14th April M'Clure reached to within ninety-one miles of the Strait of Magellan, in long. 67° 57'. At this point the officers and crew became entitled to "*double pay*," writes Surgeon Armstrong—who sailed with M'Clure, and who writes a "Personal Narrative of the Discovery of the North-West Passage,"—"in accordance with the orders of the Admiralty that it (the increased rate of payment) should commence on attaining the meridian of Cape Horn, which we had then reached." On the 17th the "Investigator" joined the "Enterprise" in Fortescue Bay in Magellan Strait, and it was found that, though the vessels had parted company early in February, and from that period had never sighted each other, they both had crossed the line on the same day. On the 19th the discovery vessels set sail in company, but in the evening a fresh gale springing up from the north-west, the vessels parted company, *never more to rejoin*. For ten days the "Investigator" was driven about in the gale, and it was only on the 30th April that M'Clure was able to resume his course for the next rendezvous—Honolulu, in the Sandwich Islands.

Honolulu was reached on the 1st, and left on the 4th July. On the 28th Behring Strait was passed, Arctic circle was crossed, and the Admiralty clothing for the use of the seamen in the far north was issued to the crew. "Arctic sights," writes Sherard Osborn, "now rapidly accumulated to interest the many novices in the 'Investigator,' and to awaken in the mind of their commander recollections of his former trying and unsuccessful voyage on the opposite side of America into that same frozen sea." This first issue of warm clothing, we are informed by Armstrong, consisted of "one complete suit of blue double-milled box-cloth, boots, stockings, boot-hose, comforters, mits, and caps; all of excellent quality, and well adapted for Polar service." At eight p.m. on the 28th, M'Clure observed a sail bearing down upon him, and was delighted to find that the stranger was the Arctic store-ship "Plover" (Captain Moore), which had passed the winter of 1849-50 in Kotzebue Sound. From Captain Moore the "Investigators" learned that the "Enterprise" had not yet been met with in the Polar Sea, and that the ice beyond Kotzebue Sound was so heavy as to be impenetrable. Bidding adieu to the "Plover," M'Clure pushed on northward for Cape Lisburne.

The "Investigators," however, did not miss the opportunity of sending their last words to friends in England by the "Plover," and among other letters, M'Clure sent home to the Admiralty one of the most vigorous despatches it has ever been our fortune to read. In it are discernible all the courage, the ambition, and the inflexible resolution which were afterwards displayed in accomplishing the North-West Passage. Captain