

to open a passage to the sea, the sledges drawn by the dogs were employed to carry sand from the shore. A distance of great part of a mile was thus covered, and of the width of more than twenty feet, that by this means the ice might be more quickly dissolved.

At this period Captain Lyon went out on a shooting excursion to a point of land called Arlagnuk, accompanied by some of the Esquimaux. He met with considerable success, killing a great number of king-ducks, which the natives collected in their canoes. Finding their success so great, shooting parties were established in the neighbourhood accompanied by the small boats from the ships, as they found the Esquimaux were in the practice of keeping back many of the birds which were shot on these occasions. In a few days this party brought to the ships a supply of one hundred and twenty ducks as well as other game, and the whole was dispersed among the ships' companies.

Captain Lyon at this time undertook a journey to the shores of the Polar Sea, with a view to obtain information respecting those parts which the ships had been prevented from approaching in consequence of the closeness of the ice. It was intended by this means to form a judgment as to the future movements of the Fury. Two persons were to accompany Captain Lyon, and provisions for a month were to be conveyed on a sledge. On the 7th of May the captain quitted the ships, accompanied by Captain Parry, who proposed travelling to a place named Quilliam Creek, where they landed the next day. Here they pitched their tents, and fixed their abode for the remainder of the day, some of the party being affected by snow blindness, and others by an inflammation of the face occasioned by the heat of the sun.

On the 9th Captain Lyon went forward on his journey, and Captain Parry having been informed by one of the Esquimaux that if they proceeded to the head of this Creek and broke through the ice, which was about five feet thick, they