

Streights, came to an anchor in Lamber-Bay, and took two Whales, and from thence proceeded to the Texel. Mr. Baske gave also an account of his uncle's, having, in company with three ships, entered Waygats from the North, and advanced as far as the same Bay, but found too much ice to get through, which the other three, being young commanders, made a trial of. The North passage however on their return being shut, and it being the beginning of September, they made preparation to leave their ships, in order to get over land to Smeerenberg, but the ice luckily giving way, they got out to the Northward. Mr. Baske, who is a curious man, promised me amongst other things, his thermometrical observations, which, by the conversation I had about them, I have reason to think will be accurate.

After having passed six mornings, with a great number of our commanders quartered in different houses, I find that scarcely a year had past, but some of them have been to 81 deg. North, but rarely found the seas free from ice.

This is all the information, I have been able to procure during my short stay at Amsterdam, which I would have prolonged, if a call to the Hague had not prevented me; I can only add, that waiting upon Mr. Boreel, that gentleman promised, that he would order a search to be made for the journals of those ships which were formerly employed in protecting our Greenland fisheries.

I must however not forget to mention a particular that Mr. Van Keulen acquainted me with. He had at his house, last summer, a conversation with a Russian, who had past the winter last year in Spitzbergen, and gave him the following account. That being in the utmost distress, for want of eatables on the  
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