

have passed Melville bay, one of the most dangerous localities on the coast on account of field and heavy ice, the bay also being studded with icebergs aground.

Melville bay has within its length, along the coast, a large number of glaciers which discharge into the sea, forming the icebergs. The bay is about 400 miles long from Uppernivick to Cape York and about 90 miles deep. I made a curve, the customary practice of navigators in the bay, on account of the middle pack ice which moves according to the wind. When the wind is west or southwest the ice jams; it is forced up on the glaciers, and if a vessel is caught she becomes frozen in by young ice. Whalers are sometimes a month in the pack in Melville bay. There are some clusters of islands along the coast which help to break the large fields of ice and open up leads for vessels. Experience teaches the ice navigator, that the safety of his ship depends upon preventing her from being beset. No leads should be entered, unless from the start a clear way out is seen. If the wind is on the land, care should be taken to find out how much water is between the ice and land. The most open navigation is along the land, as a general thing, but the usual coast dangers have to be contended with.

On the 17th we ran until 5 p.m., when the weather changed and the wind increased to a gale; we shortened sail, close reefed and hove to on the port tack, because of the thick sleet. When about 6 miles off Cape York, the gale moderated a little, and the weather clearing, we saw the cape, and from this point shaped our course for Smith sound, passing to the westward of Wolsenholme island. At Cape York, several families of Eskimo are living; no other Eskimo inhabit the country from Uppernivick to Cape York, nor do these people migrate south.

During the afternoon, we passed Petiwick glacier; this glacier is about ten miles wide. At 10 p.m., we passed Cape Parry, a very bold cape, appropriately named after the intrepid explorer, Captain Parry. At midnight, we sailed by the most western part of Northumberland island; the wind was from the southward with heavy rain, and we passed Hakluyt island, the *Arctic* running at a speed of ten miles an hour, under sail and steam, but at 8 a.m. we hove to on account of sleet, and