

11 August, in lat.  $81^{\circ} 34'$  (p. 118) "the sea was crowded with shrimps and other sea-insects, on which numerous birds were feeding."—On Walden Island, lat.  $80^{\circ} 35'$  (p. 122), "a great number of female eider-ducks, with their flocks of young, were swimming about the island; and the *tripe de roche* and *cochlearia* were here more luxuriant than we had ever seen them. Drift-wood was, as usual, in great abundance in every spot where it could effect a landing. No ice was in sight, to the utmost limit of a very extensive view."—After having reached the main island of Spitzbergen, about lat.  $80^{\circ}$ , 19 August (p. 123), "...Low island strewn in every part with immense quantities of drift-wood."—(P. 127.) "As the wind now blew so much upon the shore, I was in momentary expectation of seeing some ice come in; but we were agreeably surprized to find that none appeared. This circumstance appeared to us the more remarkable, from the extraordinary rapidity with which, in the month of June, the very lightest air from the westward brought the drift-ice in upon the land, rendering these shores quite inaccessible in the course of a few hours."

P. 129. "In this [viz., the Appendix] there is nothing so remarkable as the extraordinary quantity of rain, of which it may be safely said, that *twenty times* as much fell in the course of this one summer as during any preceding one we had passed in the polar regions, even in latitudes from  $8^{\circ}$  to  $16^{\circ}$  lower."\* P. 133. "The shores of the Strait, like all the rest in Spitzbergen, are lined with immense quantities of drift-wood, wherever the coast will allow it to land."—(P. 134.) "The animals met with here [in Hecla Cove], during the Hecla's stay, were principally reindeer, bears, foxes, kittiwakes, glaucous, and ivory gulls, tern, eider-ducks, and a few grouse. Loons and rotges were numerous in the offing. Seventy reindeer were killed, chiefly very small, and, until the middle of August, not in good condition. They were usually met with in herds of from six or eight to twenty, and were most abundant on the west and north sides of the bay. Three bears were killed. The vegetation was tolerably abundant."—(P. 137.) "The officers who remained on board the Hecla (lat.  $80^{\circ}$ ) during the summer, described the weather as the most beautiful, and the climate altogether the most agreeable they had ever experienced in the polar regions. Indeed, the *Meteorological Journal* shows a temperature both of the air and of the sea water to which we had before been altogether strangers within the Arctic circle, and which goes far towards showing that the climate of Spitzbergen is a remarkably temperate one for its latitude. Mr. Crowe, of Hammerfest, who lately passed a winter on the south-western coast of Spitzbergen, in about latitude  $78^{\circ}$ , informed me that he had *rain at Christmas*;† a phenomenon which would indeed have astonished us at any of our former wintering stations in a much lower latitude. Perhaps, the circumstance of the reindeer wintering at Spitzbergen may also be considered a proof of a comparatively temperate climate."

\* Sir Edward Parry, probably, has greater experience, and spent a longer time in the Arctic Regions, than any other Arctic navigator living; and this conclusion, therefore, must be regarded as firmly established as it is important. The same may be said of his opinion on the climate, in the subsequent lines.

† A fact which entirely agrees with those given by Koilhau, p. 7.

ALBION  
HOTEL

RICHARDS, 37, GT. QUEEN ST. LINCOLN'S-INN-FIELDS.

