

Becker, and Beynen commenced a survey of the harbour, and I went upon the high land to view the straits. Some guns also went out to procure game.

"The prospect from Cape Kenrick was not very clear or encouraging; the straits in the north-west and north round to Sunrise Point were full of heavy floes. A mist hung over the ice in the west, but I saw that the pack was loosened in the direction of Cape Isabella, so, hastily returning on board, we weighed anchor at 4 P.M. Our sportsmen, who hurried back on the recall being made, brought a quantity of hares and other game.

"We steered across the straits with a fresh north wind, passing through the pack, and with some difficulty keeping the direction, owing to the necessary deviations of our course and the weak horizontal force of our compasses; but as we drew over on the west side the weather cleared, and having set our close-reefed topsails, we reached Cape Isabella at 3 A.M. on Sunday, August 6.

"We soon observed a large cairn on the summit, but as we had now a gale from the north, with the tide, or current, running four knots to the southward, and carrying blocks of ice past the rocks, it was six o'clock before we could place the ship in such a position as to enable the boat to land. Lieutenants Arbutnot and Becker immediately left with their crew, fully provided with all necessary camping gear in case of need.

"I was somewhat puzzled how to act for the best with regard to our despatches and letters, Captain Nares having requested, at Littleton Island, that they might be landed at Cape Isabella, or carried as far north as a ship intended to go; but as in the present condition of the straits, and at this early season, it was impossible to know what our future proceedings would be, or even if we could again visit the cape, and, moreover, the despatches not being in duplicate, I considered it for the best to land now the loose letters, which seemed to comprise some for nearly every member of the Expedition, and to reserve the sealed bags until the landing party returned with further information. These letters, therefore, were packed in a cask and sent in the boat to be deposited on shore with a record of our proceedings.

"In the meantime we had to keep steaming full speed to maintain our position against the wind, current, and ice. At 1 P.M., having seen our boat coming out through the ice, and again some distance off upon the ice-foot, with no one in it, a relief boat was manned; but we soon saw our people rolling the cask of letters up the lower hill, about half a mile southward of the cape, when the recall was made, and by four o'clock they all returned on board, and Lieutenant Arbutnot handed me a