

velocity of four or five miles an hour, could originate in the bottom of it!"

I must observe here that the reviewer's head seems to have been so full of the *ideal* belief of an "open sea to the northward of Davis' Straits, and extending all the way to Behring's Straits, so as to allow of a communication, free and uninterrupted for ships between the Atlantic and Pacific," as well as for his imaginary circumvolving current, that he never once allowed a *fact* to enter, which would at once have destroyed that belief.—If he had examined the log-books of some of the Davis' Straits whale-ships, he would have discovered, that for days together, when laying to, under little or no canvas, their bearings of points on the west coast of Greenland, do not alter perhaps a point of the compass either way; and therefore that no such *extraordinary current* could possibly exist.\* This simple fact must have struck Phoca's mind as a seaman at once; and though it seems to have made him sceptical, he does not venture to contradict the reviewer positively, but merely reserves himself for further proof, and pursues his subject with caution.—"If", says he, "there is 'an uninterrupted communication', that is, if there is no land, no shoals in the whole space between Greenland and America, it appears very probable that greater quantities of ice would pass through that space with a current of *such velocity*, and less find its way round Greenland.

"But we must first endeavor to decide, as well as we can, how, and where the ice in the Polar regions is formed; in what direction it is *probably* impelled by winds and currents; how these winds *probably*

\* Its non-existence has been since proved by Captains Ross and Parry.