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k, and that until
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ry reason to ex-

pect, to find it still closed, you would have barely suffi-
cient time to return to Igloolik, in order to pass your
third winter. Again—should the sea prove open to
the north-eastward, and should you deem it expedient
to attempt, by rounding the extensive land in that di-
rection, to find some other passage to the westward,
you would in that case depart from the Admiralty in-
structions by leaving the coast of America; and I also
conceive, that the extreme lateness of the season would
not admit of your making discoveries of any importance,
or, at all events, of such importance as to warrant your
passing a third winter at the risk of endangering the
safety of your officers and crew.

“Having stated my reasons for changing my former
opinion, I now beg to advise that the *Fury* and *Hecla*
return to England together, as soon as such arrange-
ments respecting removal of stores and provisions as
you may judge proper to make shall be completed.”

Almost immediately after I had received Captain
Parry's letter, and while in the act of writing my an-
swer, the harbour floe separated in several places un-
der the influence of a fresh north-west breeze. Both
ships made all sail at eleven A. M. and the *Fury* being
in an opening, got to sea by one P. M. In the *Hecla* we
were not so fortunate; being unable to make any im-
pression on our winter floe, we were in consequence
carried out by it at a very slow rate. We lay with all
sail set in a little open pool which had thawed round
us, and were perhaps the first ship that ever was so
carried out of harbour. The novelty of the convey-
ance, however, excited no very pleasant feelings; for
we remained all night in great suspense as to where we
might next be carried, a shoal point lying across the
entrance of the inlet. At eight A.M. on the 9th, having
made a little offing, the short sea broke our fetters,
and with all sail before the wind we ran clear of
the ice.

We had now passed three hundred and nineteen days
in our winter quarters, of which three hundred and ten