

question, which Mr. Crowe, his Majesty's Vice-Consul at Hammerfast, the establisher and proprietor of a British settlement at Spitzbergen, has obtained in the last summer. The following extracts are from a communication which Mr. Crowe has made to Lord Melville:

“It having been mentioned to me by Captain Sabine, in a conversation I had with him previously to my leaving England last summer, that the Admiralty might have it in contemplation to send a vessel in the direction of Spitzbergen, for certain scientific objects, and that any information would be acceptable which might tend to facilitate the progress of such a vessel, I directed the master of a small cutter of forty tons, who was to sail from Hammerfast, to the settlement at Ice Sound, to penetrate up Wyde Jansz Water, an arm of the sea which intersects Spitzbergen in a north and south direction, respecting the free navigation of which Captain Sabine had expressed a wish to be informed. The vessel accordingly did ascend to the parallel of Ice Sound (78°), and the master reports it to have been perfectly free from ice. He next went round the west coast as far as Walden's Island, adjoining the Seven Islands, without meeting with any impediment; and although many shoals of ice were visible from thence, there were many open channels through which he