this river terminated, not many miles beyond their examinations, in a spacious bason or harbour. The service of procuring wood and water was frequently interrupted by floating ice of considerable magnitude, which, by the rapidity of the tides, endangered the boats, requiriring the utmost caution to prevent their being crushed. The natives who came on board the ship, or visited and accompanied the boats in their canoes, appeared to be friendly and hospitable, acquainted with the European manners, and ready to render them every service on shore, and during their researches on the river. Having at length clearly discovered that this reputed river was in fact only an extensive arm of the sea, the Captain gave it the name of Cook's Inlet.

Mr. Whidbey, with two boats, was dispached previous to their quitting this station, to examine the river Turn-again, a branch of Cook's Inlet, and in the mean time the Discovery was in the utmost danger through the drift of ice, which had formed one connected field from side to side. In this situation the Captain was visited by ten Russians and about twenty Indians, who expressed their apprehensions for the safety of the ship, and frequently asked if she did not make much water. From the Russians he had received intelligence respecting the inlet and its branches, as well as the surrounding shores, which confirmed his own observations and researches, and fully proved that the dangerous anchorage they were in was not in a river but in an arm of the sea, which finally closed about fifteen Russian versts beyond the station he had taken. They also informed him, that the Russians had several establishments on these coasts, the principal of which was in Prince William's Sound, at a port called Etches, and they endeavoured to impress him with an idea, that the American Continent and adjacent Islands, as far as the meridian of Kaye's Island, belonged exclusively to the Russian Empire.

The report made by Mr. Whidbey on his return, after an absence of seven days, corroborated the cir-
cumstance