

came de-
in a state
ving, and

an oppor-
as I had
te among
e treated
e printed
prepared
ic search,
l of their
redeemed
npowder.
o fear of
antity for
ession, we

their jour-
wn boats.
l seemed
al part of
on small
en seem-
s; but at
sist each
peditions,
re I left
ey ate a

ty-seven
ed to the
compara-
ing away

APPENDIX.

353

On the 7th I made an excursion across the bay to observe the state of the sea-ice, and walked two miles to the westward in the offing without being able to get a glimpse of open water in any direction from the highest hummock. This made me form the idea of taking the boats over the ice to the southward until we fell in with it.

On the morning of the 9th I left the ship with the gig and whale-boat intended for Cape Lisburne. They were placed on two strong sledges drawn by their own crews and officers, Lieutenant Vernon and Mr Gordon (mate), assisted by an auxiliary party of ten, including myself and the carpenter, making up twenty in all. Thirty-four days' provisions for the boats' crews, clothing, ammunition, &c., were carried on two native sledges drawn by dogs, a third conveying provisions for the auxiliary party. Parts of the transit over the ice were attended with difficulty, and the whole was very laborious, requiring the utmost strength of all the parties, assisted at times by natives, and for two days by a strong and favourable breeze, enabling us to make sail on the boats, which lightened the labour very much. Travelling to the southward for three days, the open water appeared within two miles of the beach at what seemed a most eligible place for launching the boats. I walked, accompanied by Lieutenant Vernon, to the open water, but the hummocks intervening seemed to offer too great an obstacle to the transit; however, on the following morning, July 12, as the weather was favourable, I decided to attempt it, and succeeded in launching the boats safely at noon. They soon after shoved off with a favourable breeze, which they held for eight hours only.

On the 15th, whilst calculating on the progress they might have made, a party of people were observed coming down at 8 o'clock in the evening, tracking an u-mi-ak, and on making out some of our people amongst them, our astonishment was so great we could hardly believe our eyes. I went without loss of time to meet them, not in a very agreeable