

drying. The barometer fluctuated a little on either side of 28.6. On the 18th, the temperature, which had risen gradually as we advanced to the southward, was twenty degrees higher than it was the day we left Kotzebue Sound—a change which was sensibly felt.

CHAP.  
XII.Oct.  
1826.

On the 21st we came within sight of the island of St. Paul, the northern island of a small groupe which, though long known to English geographers, has been omitted in some of our most esteemed modern charts. The groupe consists of three islands, named St. George's, St. Paul's, and Sea-otter. We saw only the two latter in this passage, but in the following year passed near to the other, and on the opposite side of St. Paul's to that on which our course was directed at this time. The islands of St. Paul and St. George are both high, with bold shores, and without any port, though there is said to be anchoring ground off both, and soundings in the offing at moderate depths. At a distance of twenty-five miles from Sea-otter Island, in the direction of N. 37° W. (true), and in latitude 59° 22' N., we had fifty-two fathoms hard ground; after this, proceeding southward, the water deepens. St. Paul's is distinguished by three small peaks, which, one of them in particular, have the appearance of craters; St. George's consists of two hills united by moderately high ground, and is higher than St. Paul's; both were covered with a brown vegetation. Sea-otter Island is very small, and little better than a rock. The Russians have long had settlements upon both the large islands, subordinate to the establishment at Sitka, and annually send thither for peltry, consisting principally of the skins of