

1824. which were built on the steep edge of the
June. cliff. At one P.M., a change of wind having
taken place, we weighed, and ran with the
ebb for the Pentland Firth; but being unable
in a stiff breeze, and with studding-sails set,
to get above four knots out of the ship, which
was twice whirled round in an eddy, from
which we could not escape, we lost the tide,
and in consequence did not arrive at Strom-
ness until one A.M. of the 30th. We found
that the Snap, having been carried out from
the Firth to sea in the fog, had only arrived
on the preceding evening.

As refreshments were not to be procured
at Stromness, the Hudson's Bay ships, which
sailed as late as the 29th of June, having pur-
chased all that were on hand, I sent Lieute-
nant Manico to Kirkwall, for the purpose of
ordering a supply of beef, vegetables, &c.;
and also to purchase the ponies.

In the mean time a boat was hired for
bringing water to the ship, which I found
would detain us some time, a drought of three
months' continuance having rendered it so
scarce, that our only place of supply was from
a very small rill, yielding about two tons a
day. The towns-people, in consequence of this
great scarcity, had for some time been under