

the sledge frequently having such a "*list*" that we were in momentary expectation of an upset, but such a casualty did not take place. Seeing two or three very large high hummocks about a mile ahead, I left the sledge and walked to them, thinking that I might be able to pick out a better road, but I could perceive no appearance of amendment. We managed to get the sledge as far as these hummocks, by which time it was close upon 5 A.M., and the men were very much fatigued, for the last two days spent in the tent were not at all calculated to increase their powers of endurance of fatigue. Although ten hours under weigh I do not think we made more than five miles this day. Our now solitary tent was pitched for the first time by itself; and whilst the cook of the day was preparing our morning meal, I determined, although very much fatigued, to ascend to the high land above us, in order, if possible, to ascertain the nature of our marching ground in advance, for our slow progress to-day, as well as Leiper's report, had made me very anxious. Accompanied by Marshall, we climbed with some difficulty the high steep snow slope above the tent, and, gaining the level above, walked about two miles to the westward, when we found ourselves overlooking a very beautiful little bay of much smaller size than the one we had last left, but which had a very fine appearance as now seen beneath us. The sea does not run far inside the eastern and western sides of this bay, but beyond the sea-beach for a considerable distance inshore there was a succession of the most beautifully marked raised beaches or terraces rising one over the other with a very gradual slope, which gave it a larger appearance. These were cut through in the centre by the hollow of a watercourse, and it was curious to notice how each of those terraces had successively taken the same sweep and curve along the edges of the stream as the matter forming them had been subjected to its influence, whilst it still *was* a sea-beach. The western headland is a bold and prominently marked one, very precipitous at its northern face, but a short distance inland sloping away to the southwards. Beyond and over it in this direction is to be seen in the distance a low projecting point at least twenty miles off. Between this and the nearest head part of another bay is visible, the ice in which, at least what we could see of it, we were rejoiced to perceive was apparently free of hummocks. The sketch I endeavoured to take of this view will perhaps assist a little to explain it.

Looking to the northward we could now see well round the western point of the nearest island; no land could be seen in that direction, but over and *beyond* this island there is in two or three places high and peaked hills seen, apparently on separate islands, but I do not think that this is the same land seen on the 17th, for there is in the far distance, indistinctly seen, a coast running to the eastward, which is more likely to be that which was then perceived. To the westward are seen two apparently smaller islands lying north and south of one another. On returning to the tent I found the thermometer, which had been noted when we left at  $+7^{\circ}$ , to be now  $+12^{\circ}$  (8.30 A.M.) The morning had been all along a fine one, bright sunshine and clear, with light airs from the westward. The land which we saw this morning we had no doubt Captain Penny would be able to reach without difficulty with the dog sledges, but the rapidly increasing quantity of water and decayed state of the ice to the northward and westward made us exceedingly anxious about his party. However, we knew that his own and Petersen's experience would not allow them blindly to incur unnecessary risks. Looking forward to a very hard day's work for the morrow, we were not long of "turning in" on this occasion, for I made it known that we should be early astir. At 5 P.M. the cook was called, and preparations for starting afoot. Our yesterday's road had been so bad at the foot of the slopes that I walked a considerable distance out amongst the hummocks, in order to see if no way could be picked out amongst them to the westward, but I soon found that it was needless to entangle ourselves amongst them, and that however slow our progress and hard our labour, it would be better to persevere along the shore for some distance further. Before 8 P.M. we were ready to start. The evening was fine and clear, though if anything too warm for the work we had in hand. The thermometer had been in the afternoon as high as  $+19^{\circ}$ , and was now  $+17^{\circ}$ . Until midnight we had a spell of the hardest work that it is possible to conceive,—dragging the heavy sledge over immense wreaths of soft snow. At last, about 1 A.M. of the 24th, we came fairly to a stand in consequence of the sledge running rapidly down the declivity of one