

given to the seamen of the Hecla to enter on board the Fury, as he intended to increase the number of men on board his ship beyond the complement originally appointed. A removal of provisions and stores also immediately commenced, and an exchange was made with the Hecla of the more serviceable anchors, boats, and cables. In about a fortnight the removal of stores to the Hecla was completed, by means of the Esquimaux dogs, who performed the whole service of the removal, none of the crew being called on to convey the stores from one ship to the other; and it excited the astonishment of the ships' companies to observe with what ease and expedition the dogs performed this service. Some idea may be formed of the value of the services of these animals when it is stated, that nine of them drew a body of stores weighing sixteen hundred and eleven pounds from the Hecla to the Fury, being a distance of nearly half a mile, in about nine minutes. In this manner the dogs laboured for about eight hours each day until the removal was completed.

By the end of April the thawing of the snow of which the Esquimaux huts were composed, rendered the abodes of these people the most uncomfortable that can be conceived, the floor being constantly wet. They were necessitated also to place skins over the openings which the melting of the snow occasioned in their roofs. Several of the families also now began to remove; some to another part of the island and others to some small island at a distance. The ships now began to enjoy the comfort of opening the hatches every day to admit the fresh air, a luxury they had not enjoyed for the last six months.

The rapidity of the change of the temperature of the atmosphere could not but be noticed by every individual, and the earth exhibited also the most evident tokens of the rapid approach of the summer. Instead of one unvaried white appearance, there were to be seen large dark patches of land with multitudes of caterpillars.

To expedite the thawing of the ice round the ships, and