

the rate of more than half a mile per hour : at no time at the rate of a mile.

It is doubtless possible, that large bodies of ice taking the ground may choak up a channel between two seas, so as wholly to obstruct the tides ; but it is not probable, that such should have been the case between this sea and the Icy sea, through the whole month of August and the beginning of September, to which time Captain Cook remained in the sea north of Bering's Strait. And the same stillness of the waters was observed there in the ensuing summer. The bottom also, not being swept by streams, was of soft ooze, so tenacious that the sounding line in common use was not strong enough to disengage the lead, and it became necessary to sound with a smaller lead and stronger line.

From Bering's Strait, Captain Cook coasted the land of America, to the north and north-eastward, as near as weather and other circumstances would admit, till, in latitude  $70^{\circ} 40' N.$  his farther advance was stopped by a close body of ice to the N. and N. E. The ice, though compact, was not fixed, and was found to be approaching the American coast. Captain Cook remarks, ' as the ice was driving down upon us, it was evident, that if we remained longer between it and the land, it would drive us ashore, unless it should happen to take the ground before us.' Captain Cook on this, as on many other occasions, accommodated his views to the circumstances present, that there might be no unprofitable expenditure of time ; and it may be said that in all his changes of plan, his measures were so directly adapted to his purpose, that without other communication his intentions were imme-