

latter were intended for observatories, but the floe was found to be too unsteady for such purposes.

In the month of February, when day again returned, an order was issued to discontinue shaving. The beard, it was thought, would be some protection from the rays of the sun, so fiercely reflected from the ice and snow ; and the officers and men, as a further precaution, rubbed their faces with grease before going into the open air.

Night had lasted for more than three months, and not the least remarkable of the effects produced by the absence of the sun was, that every one in the squadron became very pale. After a month or two of sunlight, however, they were all successfully re-bronzed.

On the return of day, the travelling parties were organized. Men and officers wore dresses suited to the rigours of the climate. Each had on great boots, large enough to allow the feet to be comfortably wrapped in flannel ; and the generality had a suit of chamois-leather under their dress, and heavy coats warmly lined. Each party took with them, besides arms and ammunition, cooking utensils, tents, and provisions. Sails were set in the sledges, to which large kites were also attached. When the wind was high, the sails and kites propelled the