

and were only to be broken by force ; nor could they be kept in a fluid state at the distance of a yard from the fire.

About the commencement of the year, the snow fell so thick, that it reached near the height of the roof of the house, The men were, therefore, obliged to cut a passage through it ; and to keep that passage clear, by daily shovelling away the fresh fallen snow. When this consolidated, it afforded what was denominated the captain's gallery and sick men's walk, the surface of it being a yard, at least, above the level of the ground.

The cold now became intolerably sharp. The atmosphere being full of vapours, made the sun and moon appear of an oblong figure, when near the horizon. On the 31st of January, the sky was so clear, that Captain James could perceive, or imagined he perceived, two-thirds more stars than ever he had seen before ; but the moon rising before midnight, three parts of them were lost in her lustre.

The sea freezes over every night, two or three inches thick. The half flood generally breaks this congelation, and drives the flakes over each other, which immediately coalesce ; and by this means, the ice, in a few hours, becomes five or six feet thick ; and the number of flakes and fields of ice are increased to that degree, that the sea is entirely filled with them, and the water cools more and more every day, till at last it becomes almost insupportable. As a proof of this, when Captain James's people waded in the sea during the month of December, and the water froze on their legs, they did not feel it so sensibly as in the month of June.