

ascended the hills to the northward to examine some large stones which appeared at first like Esquimaux remains. Found the channel between the lagoons and the sea free of ice, with a perfect whirlpool rushing through from seaward. 6.30. Encamped close to the beach with our whole depôt complete. We were all in high spirits at having overcome the most difficult stage of our journey. I now hoped to be released from the constant one, two, three, haul, with which every inch had been gained up to this spot. The distance of 20 miles of level country having taken eight day's travelling will speak for itself with regard to the severe work the men had gone through. The dragging weight of each man after leaving Winter Harbour was 225lbs. We had been exactly 13 days out, and consequently had expended rather more than half our provisions, but depending upon a more rapid return, I determined to push on for four days more. About our encampment appeared a most excellent place for game during the summer. It is near the place where Sir Edward Parry had pitched his tents in 1820, for the purpose of obtaining specimens of the animals which frequent this island.

Travelled 11½ hours; 7 miles.
1½ made good.

West 5 c.q.

FOURTEENTH JOURNEY.

Tuesday, 5th October 1852.—8.30. Started, steering direct for Cape Edwards. Moderate travelling. 1. Halted for lunch. 1.30. P.M. Proceeded. The ice now became very bad for travelling, the whole being covered with rounded hillocks of blue ice, many 5ft. in height. In a few places there was indication of pressure, but the hillocks have been formed by the run of water from the land and the thawing of several summers. I have no doubt that in the spring the travelling here will be better, but at present it is almost impassable. Between the hillocks the snow drift has collected in long narrow ridges, with smooth ice on either side, obliging the men to tackle on to the runners of the sledge, and consequently made but slow progress, and then with awkward tumbles to many of the party. 5.20. Encamped two miles S½.W. of Hooper's Island. Walked on to ascertain if travelling improved. Found it got much worse, and had difficulty in returning in the dark.

West, 5 c.q.

Travelled, 9 hours.
5 miles.
3½ made good.

West, 6 c.q.

FIFTEENTH JOURNEY.

Wednesday, 6th October 1852.—Snow drift so heavy that the tents could not be seen from one another. Finding no prospect of better travelling, and taking into consideration yesterday's slow progress, considered it would be better to push along the south shore. 9. Wind moderated a little; started. 1.30. Lunched.

West, 8 c.q.

— 4 c.q.

P.M. 5. Arrived at the beach. Pitched tents. Sent crew out to assist the small sledge in. Went up a hill to look round. Erected a small cairn. Took from the depôt the following things, viz.,

Travelled 8 hours.
4 miles made good.

12½ cakes of stearine.

10 days' tea, sugar, and chocolate.

Left with depôt two gallons spirits of wine.

Calm o.c.m.

SIXTEENTH JOURNEY.

Thursday, 7th October 1852.—Loaded one sledge with the depôt, and proceeded at seven to the westward with it, manned by both crews. Shot two ptarmigan. Went in chase of a herd of 20 reindeer, but failed in getting a shot at them. The does were inclined to run up, but were always driven in by the bucks, who kept running round making a curious noise, which seemed to give warning to the herd of approaching danger.

P.M. 2. Arrived at Cape Hoppner. Commenced burying depôt in a most suitable spot, close to the beach among some pressed-up soil, which would not attract the notice of passing animals. Erected a conspicuous cairn above it, and placed in it one of the documents supplied for that purpose. 5.30. Returned to encampment.

Travelling 10½ hours.
13 miles.

SEVENTEENTH JOURNEY.

Friday, 8th October 1852.—8. Started along the land to the eastward. 11. Discovered in a ravine (which may be known by a peculiar pinnacle on its eastern bank) a large quantity of coal scattered about its bed. In a quarter of an hour collected about one cwt.

Calm, o.c.m.