

sets in. In no material respect do they seem to differ from their compatriots, as described by Ross, Franklin, and Parry.

A much larger river than the Coppermine falls into the sea in latitude 68 deg. 2 min., longitude 104 deg. 15 min., and is much frequented by reindeer and musk oxen. This will probably be one day soon the location of a trading post.

"Finding the coast tending northerly from the bottom of the great bay," says the despatch of the adventurers, "we expected to be carried round Cape Felix of Captain James Ross; but on the 10th of August, at the point already given, we suddenly opened a strait running in to the southward of east, where the rapid rush of the tide scarcely left a doubt of the existence of an open sea leading to the mouth of Back's Great Fish River. This strait is ten miles wide at either extremity, but contracts to three in the centre. Even that narrow channel is much encroached on by high shingle islands; but there is deep water in the middle throughout.

"The 12th of August was signalized by the most terrific storm we ever witnessed in these regions. Next day it blew roughly from the westward, but we ran southeast, passed Point Richardson and Point Ogle of Sir George Back, till the night and the gale drove us ashore beyond Point Pechell. The storm lasted till the 16th, when we directed our course to Montreal Island. On its northern side our people found a deposit made by some of Sir George Back's party. It contained two bags of pemican and a quantity of cocoa and chocolate, besides a tin vasculum, and two or three other articles, of which we took possession, as memorials of our having breakfasted on the spot where the tent of our gallant, though less successful, precursor stood that very day five years before.

"The duty we had, in 1836, undertaken, was thus fully accomplished; and the length and difficulty of the route back to the Coppermine would have justified our return. We had all suffered from want of fuel and deprivation of food, and prospects grew more cheerless as the cold weather stole on; but having already ascertained the separation of Boothia from the continent, on the western side of Great Fish River, we determined not to desist till we had settled its relation on the eastern side also. A fog which came on dispersed towards evening, and unfolded a full view of the shores of the estuary. Far to the south, Victoria Headland stood forth so clearly defined, that we instantly recognised it by Sir George Back's drawing. Cape Beaufort we seemed to touch, and with the telescope we were able to discern a continuous line of high land as far round as north-east, about two points more northerly than Cape Hay, the extreme eastern point seen by Sir George Back.

"The traverse to the furthest visible land occupied six hours' labor at the oar, and the sun was rising on the 17th when we scaled the Rocky Cape, to which our course had been directed. It stands in latitude 68 deg. 3 min. 56 sec. N., longitude 94 deg. 35 min. W. The azimuth compass settled exactly in the true meridian, and agreed with two others, placed on the ground. From our proximity to the magnetic pole, the compass had latterly been of little use; but this was of the less consequence, as the astronomical observations were very frequent. The dip of the needle, which at Thunder Cove (12th August) was 89 deg. 29 min. 35 sec., had here decreased to 89 deg. 16 min. 40 sec. N. This bold promontory, where we lay wind bound till the 19th, was named Cape Britannia. On the rock that sheltered our encampment from the sea, and is the most conspicuous object

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