

had done for sixteen days; but in doing this, the ship received some severe shocks, as the ice was very heavy, and the pieces generally lay a sufficient distance apart to allow of the ship's getting great way before she struck them. We had now for many days experienced the effects of the same strong current, or set of tide from the northward, which we had so much trouble in advancing against during the last year. Now however it was of great assistance, as we made the whole of our way under its influence, the sea being closely packed with heavy ice, which made eight or ten miles southing in the twenty-four hours.

At 9 P. M. the whole body of ice began running wildly together, and the strain against the ship was very powerful. The floe by which we hung, soon burst in pieces by the pressure of others, and we went adrift at the mercy of the pack. In an hour we fell alongside another large floe and got fast to it, but this, like the former, soon broke. As the ship was now driving very fast inshore, we unhung the rudder, expecting soon to strike, having shoaled our water rapidly from twenty-two to eleven fathoms. A heavy pressure however swept us off again, and by midnight we found ourselves driving on Point Elizabeth, which was flat, and had a long shoal off it. In a few minutes we shoaled our water from twenty-four to seven fathoms, and were still nearing the point, past which the ice was running very rapidly. As an experiment, we now made all sail, the wind being fresh from N. and the rudder being unhung, the ship could only go off free. This succeeded, and we deepened our water gradually, although the darkness prevented our seeing if we were again running on to any other shoal point. The quick whirling motion of the heavy floe pieces helped us considerably, and the sails pushed us into any openings which were made; for after any very severe shock the heavy ice separated for a few moments before it acquired fresh motion; and thus in about two hours, and by a few feet at a time, we got about a mile from the danger. The ship seldom complained, or