

Straits and Christian's Sea, and calling the western coast New-Denmark. But this innovation which was contrary to every principle recognised in such cases, has not been confirmed by posterity. When September arrived and the ice closed in, he thought it prudent to seek winter-quarters, and accordingly established himself in the mouth of an opening which, it is highly probable, was that channel which has since been called Chesterfield Inlet. The season seemed to open with the best promise, commodious huts were constructed and there were both abundance and variety of game. His people witnessed some of those brilliant phenomena that are peculiar to high latitudes; at one time were two and at another three suns in the sky, and the moon was once environed by a transparent circle within which was a cross cutting through its centre. But, instead of amusing their minds and improving science by noting these beautiful appearances, they were depressed by viewing them as a mysterious presage of future evils. Frost now set in with all its intensity; their beer, wine and other liquors were converted into ice; the scurvy began its ravages; while they, ignorant of the mode of treating it, employed no remedy, except a large quantity of spirits, which has always been found to aggravate that frightful disorder. Unfit for the exertion necessary to secure the game with which the country abounded, they soon had famine added to their other distresses;