

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLATES.

I.

FIRST DISCOVERY OF LAND BY H.M.S. INVESTIGATOR.

"At four A.M., upon the morning of the 6th of September, 1850, we were off the small islands, near Cape Parry, bearing N.E. by N. ten miles, with a fine westerly breeze, and loose sailing ice, interspersed with many heavy floe pieces; the main pack was about three miles to the N.W., apparently one solid mass. At 11.30 A.M. high land was observed on the port bow, bearing N.E. by N., distant about fifty miles. On approaching it, the main pack appeared to be resting upon the western shore, which side it was my intention to have coasted, had it been possible; the eastern one being, however, comparatively clear, as far as could be ascertained from the masthead, decided me to follow the water, supposing it an island round which a passage would be found into the Polar Sea. We shortly afterwards hove to, and, with the first whale-boat and cutter, landed and took possession, in the name of Her Most Gracious Majesty, calling it 'Baring's Island,' in honour of the First Lord of the Admiralty. A pole was erected, with a large painted ball upon it, near which a cask was left, containing a notification and other particulars of our having been there. The sights obtained by artificial horizon place the signal staff in latitude $71^{\circ} 6' N.$; longitude $123^{\circ} 0' W.$; and the fall of the tide was ascertained to be six inches during one hour and a half. We observed numerous recent traces of reindeer, hare, and wild fowl; moss and divers species of wild flowers were also in great abundance; many specimens of them, equally, as of other subjects of interest to the naturalist, were selected with much care by Dr. Armstrong. From an elevation obtained of about 500 feet, we had a fine view towards the interior, which was well clothed with moss, giving a verdant appearance to the ranges of hills that rose gradually to between 2000 and 3000 feet, intersected with ravines, which must convey a copious supply of water to a large lake situated in the centre of a wide plain, about fifteen miles distant."

CAPTAIN M'CLURE'S *Despatches*.

II.

BOLD HEADLAND ON BARING ISLAND.

"We continued working to windward the whole of the night, and by 9.30 A.M. of the 7th of September were off the South Cape, a fine bold headland, the cliffs rising perpendicularly upwards of a thousand feet, which was named 'Lord Nelson's Head,' in memory of the hero whose early career was connected with Arctic adventure."

CAPTAIN M'CLURE'S *Despatches*.

III.

H.M.S. INVESTIGATOR IN THE PACK,

OCTOBER 8, 1850.

"At six A.M. of the 17th of September, the wind, which had been light from the N.W., gradually died away, when we were almost immediately beset. There were several heavy flocs in the vicinity; one, full six miles in length, passed at the rate of two knots, crushing everything impeding its progress, and grazed our starboard bow. Fortunately there was but young ice upon the opposite side, which yielded to the pressure; had it otherwise occurred, the vessel must inevitably have been cut asunder. In the afternoon we secured to a moderate-sized piece, drawing eight fathoms, which appeared to offer a fair refuge, and from which we never afterwards parted; it conveyed us to our farthest N.E. position, latitude $73^{\circ} 7' N.$; longitude $117^{\circ} 10' W.$; back round the Princess Royal Islands. Passed the largest within 500 yards, in latitude $72^{\circ} 42' N.$; longitude $118^{\circ} 42' W.$; returning along the coast of Prince Albert's Land, and finally freezing in at latitude $72^{\circ} 50' N.$; longitude $117^{\circ} 55' W.$; upon the 30th of September: during which circumnavigation we received many severe nips, and were frequently driven close to the shore, from