

directly under my observation, it is very remote from my expectation, that my communications will not be considered of value, both from the accuracy of detail and the intention with which they are advanced.

As no doubt of the final success of the expedition rests upon my mind, we shall follow up the inquiry, by way of anticipation on the course to be pursued. Passing by the channels through which the southern current makes its progress into Hudson's Bay through Chesterfield's Inlet or Repulse Bay, and also crossing over the entrance of the great bay observed by Hearn, a tract of coast presents itself totally unknown, and upon whose border the most prominent difficulties stand. The narrow outlet for the ice by Behring's Strait is the chief cause of those difficulties ; because if the polar accumulation extend so far to the westward as to come in contact with the American coast, all further inquiry will be fruitless. If, however, the icy continent extend not so far, as I have much ground to imagine, from Hearn's seeing open water, the voyage will proceed prosperously, and the long desired end will be triumphantly attained. The whole, if actively investigated, will be effected within the space of one month after departing from the latitude of Disko ; but the greatest precaution should be observed in noting the different state of the ice on the progress westward ; otherwise a return may be attended with disappointment and danger, in the present