

towards some distant islands. Here, and on various parts of the coast, a fine collection of plants was made by Mr. Dease.

We remained imprisoned in the mouth of Coppermine, awaiting the opening of the ice, till the 17th of July. Our subsequent progress along the coast was one incessant, we may say desperate, struggle with the same cold, obdurate foe, in which the boats sustained serious damage, several planks being more than half cut through. At various points we saw *cachés* of the Esquimaux placed upon lofty rocks, out of reach of beasts of prey; but we did not fall in with any of the owners, who seemed to have all gone inland to kill reindeer after their winter seal-hunt among the islands. Fragments of Dr. Richardson's mahogany boats were found widely scattered; and many articles left by his party at the Bloody Fall were carefully preserved in the native keepings. On the 29th of July we at length succeeded in doubling Cape Barrow. The northern part of Bathurst's Inlet was still covered with a solid sheet of ice; and, instead of being able to cross over direct to Point Turnagain, we were compelled to make a circuit of 140 miles by Arctic Sound and Barry's Islands. On the easternmost of that group Mr. Simpson discovered, at the base of a crumbling cliff, several pieces of pure copper ore, and the adjacent islands had also the appearance of being strongly impregnated with that metal. A series of specimens of all the principal rocks along the coast were preserved. In order to attain Cape Flinders, we had to perform a portage across an island, and several over the ice. On the 9th of August we doubled that cape; and in a little bay, three miles to the southward of Franklin's furthest encampment in 1821, our boats were finally arrested by the ice, which encompassed them for 22 days! so different was the season of 1838 from that of 1821, when Franklin found a perfectly open sea there on the 15th of August.

In June, the early part of July, and the middle of August, we had frequent storms, accompanied by snow and frost, but during the greater part of July and the beginning of August calms prevailed, which, together with the severity of the preceding winter, we consider as the cause of the tardy disruption of the ice this season.

On the 20th of August we were obliged to relinquish all hopes of advancing further with the boats. That our efforts might not, however, prove wholly fruitless, Mr. Simpson offered to conduct an exploring party on foot for ten days. It was at the same time arranged between us, that, in the event of any favourable

movement taking place in the ice, Mr. Dease should advance with one boat. Signals were agreed upon in the event of our missing each other on the way, and should we unfortunately do so, the last day of August was fixed for the rendezvous of both parties at Boat Harbour. That unlucky spot is situated in lat. 68 deg. 16 min. 25 sec. N., long. 109 deg. 20 min. 45 sec. W.; variation of the compass 46 deg. E. Mr. Simpson's narrative of his journey and discoveries to the eastward is annexed.

On the 31st of August we cut our way out of our icy harbour, the grave of one year's hopes, and, having the benefit of fair winds, crossed Bathurst's Inlet, among Wilnot Islands, and safely re-entered the Coppermine River on the 3rd of September. The following day we proceeded to the Bloody Fall, and there secreted our superfluous provisions. The ascent of the Coppermine, (hitherto deemed impracticable,) to near the junction of the Kendall River was accomplished on the fifth day. We deposited the boats in a woody bluff, where they can be conveniently repaired next spring; then, taking our bundles on our backs, we traversed the barren grounds, and returned to winter quarters yesterday.

Here we had the satisfaction to find everything in good order; the buildings rendered more comfortable, and some provisions collected. Our return, so much earlier than we ourselves expected on leaving Port Turnagain, has enabled us to commence the fall fisheries in good time; and though our stock of ammunition and other necessities for the Indians is reduced very low, want no longer stares us in the face, as it did for several months after our arrival here last year. We are most happy to add, that the natives have experienced neither famine nor sickness this season, the only death within our knowledge being that of a blind old man.

September 20.—We have the honour to acknowledge the receipt, this afternoon, of Governor Simpson's despatch of the 28th of February. As things have fallen out this season, it is fortunate that no party was sent down the Great Fish River to meet us: and from the experience we now possess of the coast to the eastward, we are of opinion that a retreat by the Coppermine may be effected when the ascent by the Great Fish River would be no longer practicable.

We feel deeply indebted for the confidence reposed in us, and the ample authority granted by the Governor's circular and previous letters to draw upon the resources of all parts of the country.

