

how impossible it was for even an unloaded man to climb the snow-covered and steep mountains west of us. I however resolved at last on returning to the low land, and by tracking along the foot of the hills, look out for the first opening to the westward. Seven hours' travelling over the plain brought us to the foot of a mountain which I had observed to bear about S.E., and here we tented.

"A heavy snow-gale confined us to the tent during the 12th and 13th, and a part of the 14th; a few minutes' sun at noon on the 13th, (the first time we had seen it since leaving Captain Parry,) gave me an opportunity of obtaining the meridian altitude; and on the 14th by sights for the chronometer, I obtained the longitude. Lat. $69^{\circ} 15' 6''$ Long. $1^{\circ} 11' 30''$ W. of Hecla.

"At five in the afternoon on the 14th, we proceeded in a south-easterly direction along the foot of the rocky hills. On the snow, which was very soft, we saw a bear's track, and on a patch of shingle found several sea-shells. Five hours travelling brought us to the end of the chain of hills, and from this point we saw the ship with a glass about N.E., twenty miles. I had for sometime suspected that we had taken the wrong route, as no Esquimaux could have passed with a sledge over the mountains at whose feet we had been travelling; I had however better hopes at this place by seeing the hills become lower and trend to the south-westward, which answered in a great measure with the Esquimaux's description of the land they passed over. At the foot of this point lay a narrow lake of about three miles in length, and near it was a small but deep craggy ravine. On the shingle ridges we saw several Esquimaux circles, and a golden plover passed us on the wing. Travelling hence about three miles southerly, we tented on the snow, the wind being at N.W., and the night extremely cold.

"The morning of the 15th was thick and cold, and the N.W. wind was unabated. Soon after noon we proceeded in a westerly direction, but without having a fixed rule to