

guished from those further south by their precipitous and cliff-broken sides, facing to the westward. The river was contracted somewhat at its confluence with a large tributary named after Lieutenant-general Sir Thomas Montessor, where the country was more mountainous, but it soon swelled again into a broad stream, as far as a rocky hill, rising into a cone, at the foot of which lay the contracted outlet of the river.

So favourable an opportunity for obtaining an extensive view of the river before us as this enormous mass of grey rock presented, was not to be overlooked. We landed therefore for that purpose; when the men vied with each other in ascending its summit, and in consequence of M'Kay having first made his appearance there, it was named after him. From the commanding situation which M'Kay's Peak afforded, a sheet of water was beheld, so extensive that no land could be seen at the extreme point of vision to the northward: little doubt, therefore, was entertained as to its being the Polar Sea, in which light it was welcomed by the whole party as the termi-