

## CHAPTER XI.

Quit Kotzebue Sound, and proceed to survey the Coast to the Northward—Interviews with the Natives—Cape Thomson—Point Hope—Current—Capes Sabine and Beaufort—Barrier of Ice—Icy Cape—advanced Position of the Ship—Discover Cape Franklin, Wainwright Inlet, Shoals off Icy Cape, &c.—Boat sent on an Expedition along the Coast—Return of the Ship to Kotzebue Sound—Interviews with the Esquimaux—Boat rejoins the ship—Important Results of her Expedition.

CHAP.  
XI.

July,  
1826.

ON the 30th of July we weighed from Chamisso Island attended by the barge, and steered out of the sound. The day was very fine; and, as we sailed along the northern shore, the sun was reflected from several parts of the cliff, which our telescopes discovered to be cased with a frozen surface similar to that just described in Escholtz Bay. We kept at six or seven miles distance from the land, and had a very even bottom, until near Hotham Inlet, when the soundings quickly decreased, and the ship struck upon a shoal before any alteration of the helm had materially changed her position. The water was fortunately quite smooth, and she grounded so easily that, but for the lead-lines, we should not have known any thing had occurred. We found upon sounding, that the ship had entered a bight in the shoal, and that there was a small bank between her