

field-ice; besides which, a vast chain of large icebergs was seen to extend across it; these were apparently aground, and had probably been driven on shore there by southerly gales. It was also observed, that the tide rose and fell only four feet, and that the stream was scarcely perceptible.

On the 20th, they were by reckoning, in latitude $76^{\circ} 54'$ N., Cape Saumarez ten leagues distant, and Carey's Island bearing about S.E. Having determined that there was no passage further to the northward, they stood under easy sail to the S.W. for ten miles further, during which they had much difficulty to avoid the loose ice with which the sea was covered, and it becoming thicker the nearer they approached the shore, they hove to in this position, for the fog to clear away

From these several considerations it appears perfectly certain that the land is here continuous, and that there is no opening at the northernmost part of Baffin's Bay from Hackluit's Island to Cape Clarence. Even if it be imagined that some narrow Strait may exist through these mountains, it is clearly evident, that it must for ever be unnavigable, and that there is not even a chance of ascertaining its existence, since all approach to the bottoms of these bays is prevented by the ice which fills them to so great a depth, and appears never to have moved from its station.

Being thus satisfied that there was no opening into the Pacific through these seas and that there could be no further inducement to continue longer in this place, and it being necessary to husband the little time yet remaining, for the work which was still to be done, Captain Ross ordered accurate bearings of the different headlands to be taken, and having named the remarkable cape forming the west side of the bay, after the Duke of Clarence, in commemoration of the birth-day of his Royal Highness, they shaped their course, on the morning of the 21st, towards the next opening which appeared in view to the westward.