

three knots ; took in sail. About one we lay to. About half-past one, P. M., we saw ice for the first time ; it appeared\* in the form of large detached masses. Several pieces struck the vessel, and with so much violence as to awaken almost every person on board. Four o'clock : the ice continues to come in immense large flakes ; the pieces are larger, but not quite so numerous. Owing to the very unfavourable state of the weather, we could get no opportunity for making an observation ; the captain, however, suspects that we are about the entrance to Hudson's Straits.

Tuesday, July the 14th. Weather still continues thick and hazy ; almost a complete calm ; helm lashed. The horizon is covered with numerous flakes of ice ; on some of them we observed a great quantity of sand and gravel. Some of these masses had a greenish, while others had an azure tint ; they appeared to be moving with considerable velocity.

About five o'clock in the afternoon we saw the first island of ice ; the haze of the atmosphere, along with a light drizzling rain, prevented us, however, from seeing either its summit or circumference distinctly. Plate II. will afford a tolerable correct idea of its appearance ; it was taken by Mr. Holmes, an ingenious young gentleman, who was *on his way out* to join Lord Selkirk's party on Red River. This enormous mass appeared quite stationary ; at least, I could not observe that it had the slightest motion.

Friday, July the 17th. About six o'clock in the morning the captain came down to inform us that he had seen land ; is uncertain, however, where we are, not having had any opportunity of making an observation for some days. Is inclined to think, *however*, that it is Resolution-Island.†

About nine o'clock we got within a short distance of it ; it had a most cheerless, dreary appearance, being for the most

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\* In clear weather a curious appearance, to which seamen have given the name of the Ice-blink, is observed on approaching the ices. It consists of a lucid streak spread along that part of the atmosphere which is next the horizon. It is evidently occasioned by the reflection of the rays of light which fall on the surface of the ice into the superincumbent air. Not unfrequently they afford a beautiful map or picture of the ice for a considerable distance, resembling, in this way, the curious atmospherical phenomenon to which naturalists have given the name of the Mirage. Field-ice, Mr. Scoresby informs us, affords the most lucid blink, accompanied with a tinge of yellow : that of *packs* is more peculiarly white, and of *bay-ice* greyish. The land, from its snowy covering, likewise occasions a blink, which is yellowish, and not unlike that produced by the ice of fields.

† Resolution Island is situated on the N. side of the entrance into Hudson's Straits ; it is considered to be about sixty miles in circumference, N. lat. 61° 40' W. long. 65°.