

The current off here, on one trial, ran N. E. five-eighths of a mile per hour, and on another, N. 60° E. seven-eighths of a mile per hour: as observations on this interesting subject were repeatedly made, they will be classed in a table in the Appendix.

Favoured with a fair wind, on the 19th we saw King's Island; which, though small, is high and rugged, and has low land at its base, with apparently breakers off its south extreme.

We had now advanced sufficiently far to the northward to carry on our operations at midnight; an advantage in the navigation of an unfrequented sea which often precludes the necessity of lying to.

We approached the strait which separates the two great continents of Asia and America, on one of those beautiful still nights, well known to all who have visited the arctic regions, when the sky is without a cloud, and when the midnight sun, scarcely his own diameter below the horizon, tinges with a bright hue all the northern circle. Our ship, propelled by an increasing breeze, glided rapidly along a smooth sea, startling from her path flocks of lumes and dovebies, and other aquatic birds, whose flight could, from the stillness of the scene, be traced by the ear to a considerable distance. Our rate of sailing, however, by no means kept pace with our anxiety that the fog, which usually succeeds a fine day in high latitudes, should hold off until we had decided a geographical question of some importance, as connected with the memory of the immortal Cook. That excellent navigator, in his discoveries of these seas, placed three islands in the middle of the strait (the Diomede Islands). Kotzebue, however, in passing them,

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