

1824.
June.

ward, we again made some progress, and on the afternoon of the 28th came in sight of the Caithness shore, near Noss Head. As the breeze appeared likely to continue, I ordered Lieutenant Bullock to proceed with all despatch to Stromness, that the supplies which we required might be prepared against our arrival; and the better to accomplish this, Mr. Manico accompanied him, charged with a commission to purchase two strong Shetland ponies which we purposed taking out on trial. Off Noss Head we procured a pilot in the evening, and with the wind from the south-eastward crossed the mouth of Sinclair's Bay. We had not however ran above four miles from the Head, when a thick fog set in, and the wind being on shore, with the tide running strong to the northward, we hauled off to avoid being set down on the Pentland Skerries.

Having made an offing, until by the pilot's account of the set of the tide, we could weather the Head, we again stood in-shore; but a heavy swell, through which the ship made no way, and a light air, rendered her quite unmanageable; and the tide having turned, we were carried right for the Head; for at ten P.M. we obtained soundings in twenty-five fathoms, and saw the shadow of the cliff