

as in rowing round it they found it perpendicular in every place but one ; in this however there was a small creek, in which a convenient landing-place was discovered. When they had ascended to the top, which was perfectly flat, they discovered a white bear, who was in quiet possession of this mass. As their fire-arms had been wetted, it was some time before dispositions could be made for an attack, during which the animal seemed to wait with patience for the assault ; but as soon as they had formed their line and began to advance, he made for the other side of the island. The party had not calculated on any other way to escape but the landing-place before mentioned, which they had left well guarded ; but to their mortification, as well as astonishment, when the animal came to the edge of the precipice, which was fifty feet high, he plunged into the sea without hesitation, and there being no boat on that side of the island, he escaped. The party remained until sun-set, and had good observations ; and Lieutenant Parry reported, that the iceberg was four thousand one hundred and sixty-nine yards long, three thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine yards broad, and fifty-one feet high ; being aground in sixty-one fathoms. Its appearance was much like that of the back of the Isle of Wight, and the cliffs exactly resembled the chalk cliffs to the west of Dover.

On the 25th of September, the slops which were supplied by Government for winter clothing were served to the ships' companies, orders being sent to Lieutenant Parry to that effect. The whole of this day the weather was so foggy that the land was completely obscured.

On the 30th of October they made the island of Fula, and, passing between Fair Isle and Sumburg Head, arrived at Shetland, anchoring in Brassa Sound, after an absence of exactly six months. The Lerwick packet being about to sail for Leith, Captain Ross sent a short account of their proceedings to the Secretary of the Admiralty, for the information of their Lordships ; in which, after recom-