

Journal of
Commander M^cClintock.

First Journey.

N.N.W. $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles.
(Variation allowed) 137° E.
No. of hours travelled, 10.

THURSDAY 6TH SEPT.

A.M.
South.
5 to 8 c.o.
Temperature $+26$.

fine, we enjoyed a good supper of preserved meats, biscuit, and tea, and having done an honest day's work, we got quickly into our sleeping bags and to sleep.

The change from the ship and floe to the tent, and wild, almost beautiful scenery, had a most exhilarating effect upon the spirits of the whole party; and not less so upon those who had travelled before than the majority to whom it was perfectly new; all were filled with curiosity to see the interior of the island.

It blew strong when we started at half past 8, and there was much drift and snow. Travelled round the north end of the lake, towards the lowest ridge in the next hills: this we crossed over with one cart at a time, then descended into the ravine, but found its bed so thickly strewn with large boulder stones that we could only advance one cart at a time. Travelled up it to the N.W. It now blew a strong south gale with thick drift and snow.

Halted to lunch at 12h. 50m. in a part of the ravine where its width was reduced to about ten yards by a glacier attached to its N.E. side. The perpendicular face of this was 30 or 40 feet high, and sheltered us in some measure from the gale. A short description of this sort of glacier will serve for all, and there is scarcely a ravine of any considerable extent in which there are not similar ones. The drifting snow collects in the angles or other sheltered portions of the ravines during the winter, where it either wholly or partially fills them up; the summer torrent cuts its way through, forming, as in this instance, a contracted passage, or a tunnel beneath the snow, and being saturated with water, this snow is converted by the return of cold weather into an opaque crystalline substance, nearly as hard as ice, a compound of ice and snow, which therefore cannot be called by either name. In this ravine the water had undermined the face of the glacier for several feet, and in some places large masses had fallen; in others beautiful rows of huge icicles depended from the face of the glacier, reaching almost to the ground.

The temperature was high, so that we found our sealskin dresses much too warm, but were obliged to wear them to keep the snow drift out, and being impervious alike to the wind or the perspiration occasioned by hard labour in such a dress, it soon became thoroughly wet. After lunch we advanced a short distance, but finding the ravine turned off to the west, we ascended a branch to the right. Being no longer sheltered, we now felt the full force of the gale, which drifted the snow in such dense clouds that we could seldom see more than twenty yards. Having reached as far as my knowledge of the country from previous observation extended, we encamped soon after 3 o'clock, about one third of a mile above the large or first ravine. Our sealskin dresses were so completely saturated with wet as to cling about one as if they had been freshly stripped off their original wearers.

This day's journey was very little in distance, but considerable in ascent. Towards evening the wind moderated.

Second Journey.

N.W. $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles.
Travelled $6\frac{1}{2}$ hours.
Detained by weather 4 hours.

FRIDAY, 17TH SEPT.

A.M.
West 2 to 6 b.c.q.
Temperature $+18$.

It was calm nearly all night, but this morning we have a fresh west wind with clear weather. Started at 10h. 10m. with one cart at a time, the ascent being still steep; wind and snow drift nearly in our faces. Halted to lunch at 2h. 30m. upon the highest land over which we hope we shall have to pass. The weather is much improved.

After luncheon we descended upon an extensive plain, and travelled slowly across it, sometimes with only one cart, at other times with both; the snow was soft, and averaged four inches in depth. From some observations with an aneroid (which up to this period of our journey seemed to indicate correctly), as well as by estimation, I consider this plain to be rather more than 600 feet above the level of the sea.

Encamped upon a slight eminence which was bare of snow, the evening clear and cold. This journey fell far short of our expectations, but having completed the ascent we hope to do better in future. People all much tired. Very little vegetation seen to-day; no recent traces of animals.

Third Journey.

N.W. b. W. 3 miles.
Travelled $9\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

P.M.
Westerly b.c.
Temperature $+8$.