

latitudes, and to shew the method in which many of the Greenland masters keep their journals. That year seems to have been favourable, for getting more to the north, for notwithstanding Mr. Breet met with so much ice, from the latitude of 79 deg. 30 min. to that of 80 deg. 58 min. Captain Jan Klaas Castricum, in the ship the Jonge Jan, at that very time of the year, and nearly in the same longitude, reached 81 deg. 40 min. by the medium of several observations with forestaffs, where he fished with success in company with Witje Jelles, who sailed from Hamburg, and found but little ice. There were likewise two English ships, who sailed so far to the north, that Castricum lost sight of them, from the mast head, which two ships returned in something more than two days, and the Captains came on board of Castricum, (c) and assured him that they had been to upwards of 83 degrees, and could have gone much further, as they had no obstructions from ice, but finding no whales, they returned. I spoke at the same time with other commanders, who having been in sight of those ships, confirmed Castricum's account.

Six of the oldest masters assured me, (amongst whom, were John Walig, Klaas Keuken, and J. Klaas Castricum) that they had known from 1730, to 1742, an old English commander, whose name was Krickrack, (d) it was his custom between the fisheries, if not obstructed by ice, to sail to the northward, and some of them affirm, that when they have been at an anchor in Brandewyns-Bay, he once stayed away ten, and at another

(c) Capt. Castricum neither asked their names, nor those of their ships; all that he knew, was, he said if he remembered right, they sailed from England.

(d) From 1730, to 1740, most of the masters of English ships, fitted out for the Greenland trade, were Dutchmen.