

From a neighbouring cliff there ran a constant stream of water, which falling into a sort of reservoir near at hand, served them for drink, as they took care to clear the ice from it every day; and this agreeable refreshment they enjoyed till January, when the frost became so hard they were deprived of it, and forced to have recourse to snow-water melted with hot iron.

About the latter end of September, finding there was little probability of increasing their stock of provisions, except now and then with a chance bear, they stinted themselves to a reasonable meal of flesh a day, for four days in the week; and on Wednesdays and Fridays they fed upon the greaves of whales, which are such scraps of fat as are generally flung away, when the oil is pressed out of them, and this food they continued to eat regularly about three months, when they were obliged to retrench another day from eating flesh, which began to run short; and for fear their fuel should also fail, they roasted half a deer every day, and stowed it in hogsheds; however they left a quarter raw to roast, and eat hot every sabbath day, christmases, &c.

From October the 14th, to February the 3d, the sun was never once to be seen, but the moon shone often with very great brightness, except when the sky was overcast; and indeed the winter here in general is dull, thick, and foggy: there was a sort of twilight from the month of October to the 1st of December, which was totally eclipsed till the 20th, all that time being one entire night; but about the 1st of January, there was some visible appearance of day again.

Pelham, from whose journal we have taken this account, tells us, that they had no almanack to direct them how the seasons past, but that he endeavoured to divide the time into hours and days as well as he could; and by adding a supposed day to the epact, he found the moon's age, and he says he was so right in his calculation, that he agreed exactly in the day of the month that he reckoned with the fleet that came to their relief.

By