

censurable to regret that there was not a mountain to indicate a spot to which so much interest must ever be attached, and I could have pardoned any one of us who had been so romantic or absurd as to expect that the magnetic pole was an object as conspicuous as the mountain of Sindbad, or a mountain of iron, or a magnet as big as Mont Blanc. But Nature had erected no monument to denote the spot she had chosen as the centre of one of her great and dark powers."

The widest part of the peninsula of Boothia is ascertained to be but fifteen miles wide, of which ten are occupied by water, and a canal might easily be cut through, were its possible navigation for about a month in the year a desideratum. It was supposed by Captain Ross that the level of the sea on one side of the isthmus of Boothia was several feet higher than on the other, and hence he inferred, though erroneously, that there was no passage nigh this point. It is proper to observe here that the overland surveys, and the assignment of the pole, were made by Commander James Ross.

On May 29th, 1832, all hope of saving the Victory being at an end, and it being impossible to brave another winter in that region, the company left the ship for Fury Beach, which they reached, after incredible hardship and sufferings, on the 1st of July. It was their only chance for life. Here they found three of the shattered boats of the Fury, in which they reached Leopold South Island in September following. Then, the ice barring all further progress, they returned to Fury Beach.

"All our attempts to push through were vain; at length, being forced by want of provisions and the approach of a most severe winter, to return to Fury Beach, where alone there remained wherewith to sustain life; there we arrived on October 7, after a most fatiguing and laborious march, having been obliged to leave our boats at Batty Bay. Our habitation, which consisted in a frame of spars, 32 feet by 16, covered with canvass, was during the month of November enclosed, and the roof covered with snow from four to seven feet thick, which, being saturated with water when the temperature was 15 deg. below zero, immediately took the consistency of ice, and thus we actually became the inhabitants of an iceberg during one of the most severe winters hitherto recorded: our sufferings, aggravated by want of bedding, clothing, and animal food, need not be dwelt upon. Mr. C. Thomas, the carpenter, was the only man who perished at this beach; but three others, besides one who had lost his foot, were reduced to the last stage of debility, and only thirteen of our number were able to carry provisions in seven journeys of sixty-two miles each to Batty Bay. We left Fury Beach on July 8, carrying with us three sick men which were unable to walk, and in six days we reached the boats, where the sick daily recovered. Although the spring was mild, it was not until August 15 that we had any cheering prospect: a gale from the westward having suddenly opened a lane of water along shore, in two days we reached our former position, and from the mountain we had the satisfaction of seeing clear water almost directly across Prince Regent's Inlet, which we crossed on the 17th, and took shelter from a storm twelve miles to the eastward of Cape York. Next day, when the gale abated, we crossed Admiralty Inlet, and were detained six days on the coast by a strong northeast wind. On the 25th we crossed Navy Board Inlet, and on the following morning, to our inexpressible joy, we descried a ship in the offing becalmed, which proved to be the *Isabella*, of Hull, the same ship which I commanded in

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