

had proceeded too far to retreat to the main land without incurring considerable risk: the men were therefore directed to make for an island commanding an extensive view of the surrounding rapids. There the river was beheld flowing between the islands and from shore to shore with the same violence.

Making a virtue of necessity, we ran them with the full cargo. Fortunately no accident occurred, except the breaking away a part of the keel-plate, by grazing a rock in the descent: but so perfectly were we at the mercy of the torrent, which whirled us about in every direction, that I question whether a single man of the party would willingly make another such attempt. From this scene of confusion we reached a wide and extensive opening, with, very much to our satisfaction, a clear horizon to the northward: for the easterly direction had of late led us to imagine that the Great Fish River would turn out to be identical with the Wager River of Chesterfield Inlet, the proximity of which began to give us no little uneasiness.

We had scarcely encouraged the hope that the tediousness and uncertainty of worming our