

ice anchors. We were no sooner swept past the cluster than we were instantly, and not very quietly, beset. In the evening the master and myself counted 54 bergs from the mast-head. We were now in the entrance of Hudson's Strait.

During the 3d we made some progress amongst very heavy floes; when, on the tide turning in the evening, the loose ice flew together with such rapidity and noise, that we had barely time to secure the ships in a natural dock, before the two streams met; and even then we received some very heavy shocks.

During the first watch, we watered the ship from the pools on the floe to which we were fast, and this being the first time of doing so, afforded great amusement to the novices, who even when it was their watch below, preferred pelting each other with snow-balls to going to bed. During the night the ships, although still beset, parted to a great distance from each other, evidently under the influence of some extraordinary eddy. On the 5th the weather cleared, and the ice slackened a little. Button's Islands were seen in the distance, and we made some westing; but on the tide turning in the evening, were again swept back.

At 2 A. M. on the 6th the inshore tide took the ship and swept us fast towards the rocks, past which the ice was driving at full five miles an hour. On nearing the shore, a low rugged point was observed, on which the ice was grating with extreme violence, and we fully expected to be carried upon it. Providentially the same eddy which had caused our troubles again relieved us by taking a sudden turn, at about two cables' length from the danger, and carrying us off from it. Had we touched on a sunken rock we must have upset, as the whole body of ice would have gone over us.

To give some idea of the pressure we at this time experienced, I may mention, that five hawsers (of five and six inches) were repeatedly carried away; and at length our best bower anchor was wrenched from the bows, and broke off at the head of the shank with as much ease as if, instead of weighing twenty-one cwt,

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