



THUS do the Dutch seamen employed in the Greenland fishery agree with our own countrymen, in never having so much as heard of a perpetual barrier of fixed ice, to the Northward of Spitzbergen, in 80 deg. and a half, (*a*) which indeed is one of their most common latitudes for catching whales, whilst all of them suppose the sea to be generally open in those parts, and many of them penetrate several degrees beyond it.

I shall only add, that in my former pamphlet, (*b*) I have mentioned a fact or two, which I had reason to expect from the Rev. Mr. Tooke, Chaplain to the factory at Peterburgh, which he conceived would strongly prove that the sea is open to the Pole, and which I have since received in a letter from him dated the 26th of May last.

Mr. Tooke hath been assured by several persons, who have passed the winter at Kola in Lapland, that in the severest weather whenever a Northerly wind blows, the cold diminishes instantly, and that if it continues, it always brings on a thaw as long as it lasts.

He hath also been informed by the same authority, that the seamen who go out from Kola upon the whale and morse fisheries early in March (for the sea never freezes there) throw off their winter garments as soon as they are from 50 to 100 wersts

(*a*) One of them indeed says, that the ice frequently *picks* in that latitude, which he supposes to arise from the meeting of two currents.

(*b*) Page 33, note [*1*].