

tents of their little vessels. On visiting the encampment an hour after, every thing was found in as complete order as if they had been domiciliated on the spot for months; and the surprise of the sailors was raised to the highest by the variety of articles which, in almost endless succession, they produced from their little boats. "From the two baidars they landed fourteen persons, eight tent-poles, forty deer skins, two kayaks, many hundred weight of fish, numerous skins of oil, earthen jars for cooking, two living foxes, ten large dogs, bundles of lances, harpoons, bows and arrows, a quantity of whalebone, skins full of clothing, some immense nets made of hide for taking small whale and porpoises, eight bread planks, masts, sails, paddles, &c., besides sea horse hides and teeth, and a variety of nameless articles always to be found among the Esquimaux."

In the mean time, Mr. Elson in the barge proceeded along the shore for seventy miles, to a promontory, denominated by Beechey Cape Barrow, which was afterwards discovered to be only distant 146 miles from the extreme point of Franklin's discoveries. Upon this new line of coast posts were erected at various distances, with directions for Captain Franklin, should he succeed in pushing so far to the westward. A frequent communication was opened with the inhabitants, who were found to resemble the other Esquimaux, with the unpleasant difference that their manners were more rude and boisterous, and their conduct in some instances decidedly hostile. Point Barrow, the most northerly part of America yet discovered, formed the termination to a spit of land jutting out several miles from the more regular coast line. The width of the neck did not exceed a mile and a half; on the extremity were several small lakes, and on its eastern side a village. The danger of being shut in by the ice was now great, and Mr. Elson determined to land, obtain the necessary observations, erect a post, and deposit instructions for Franklin. This plan, however, was frustrated by the violent conduct of the natives, who assembled in formidable numbers, and threatened to attack the crew of the barge, which consisted only of eight men. It was therefore judged prudent to proceed as speedily as possible to the rendezvous at Chamisso Island, which they reached on the 9th of September, not without considerable difficulty, having been obliged to track the barge round Cape Smyth, through a sea thickly beset with ice, that threatened every moment to close its impenetrable walls, and cut off their return. The result of Captain Beechey's voyage, and of the expedition undertaken under his orders by Mr. Elson and Mr. Smyth, was the addition of a new and extensive line of coast to the geography of the polar regions. The actual difference between the extreme points reached by Captain Franklin and Mr. Elson being so small, there is reason to believe that the navigation of this remaining portion will not be attended with any very formidable or insurmountable obstacles.

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