

wounded ones attacking them with their tusks and stove one of the boats in several places.

The circumstance of the season being so far advanced as to afford a very short space for attempting further discoveries, induced Captain Parry to reconsider his purpose of remaining another winter in these climates with the *Fury* only. The state of health of several of the officers and crew appeared also to have undergone a considerable change; and the effect of a third winter might be of too serious consequence to admit of his proceeding, without first taking the opinion of the medical gentlemen as to its probable effects. Impressed with these sentiments, he addressed a requisition to them desiring their opinion under all the circumstances, and received from Mr. Edwards the following reply, with which in substance that of Mr. Skeoch coincided.

“During the last winter and subsequently, the aspect of the people of the *Fury* in general, together with the increased number and character of their complaints, strongly indicated that the peculiarity of the climate and service was slowly effecting a serious decay of their constitutional powers. The recent appearance also of several cases of incipient scurvy in the most favourable month of the year, and occurring after a more liberal and continued use of fresh animal food than we can calculate upon procuring hereafter, are confirmatory proofs of the progression of the evil.

“With a tolerable prospect of eventual success, other circumstances remaining unchanged, I should yet expect an increase of general debility, with a corresponding degree of sickness, though at the same time confident of our resources being equal to obviate serious consequences. But considering the matter in the other point of view, namely, as a single ship, it assumes a much more important shape. It is not necessary that I should dwell on the altered circumstances in which the crew would then be placed, as they are such as you

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