

Discovery of a North-West Passage.

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The *Spring*, was now so far advanced, that *March*: the Swamps had now in many Places Water on them. Upon the Bank-sides, upon the Shores, and also in the Woods, there were many Plats clear of Snow, the Snow was of a greyish Colour, crisp on the Top, but upon walking on it, sunk in with you. The Snow thawing first next the Earth, occasioned by the Earths natural Warmth, and the Suns Heat which penetrates the Snow, being refracted. If you struck the Ice with the But-end of a Gun, or laid a Piece of Iron on the Ice, it would cause a Hole which would be immediately full of Water.

Upon the twenty-third, we saw several darkish Clouds appearing like rainy Clouds, such as we had not seen since the beginning of Winter. We saw also more of them on the twenty-fourth, which was a fine, pleasant, Sun-shiny Day, a little Chill, it thawing all that Day, and having but a small Frost at Night. The Morning of the twenty-fifth was fine pleasant Weather; when Captain *Smith*, with some of his Officers and Men went Aboard his Ship to remain there. Upon going to the Factory, it appeared that the River was broke up, for twenty Yards under the Factory Shore. In the Afternoon of the twenty-fifth there was a thin Fall of Snow or rather Sleet, which felt to the Hands and Face, much like to small Drops of Rain.

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