

days, and the average weight per man was upwards of 200 lbs. Captain Penny himself started on the 18th with two dog-sledges, and joined the others on the following day. But, on reaching a distance of forty-two miles from the ships, on the 22nd, in consequence of the extreme severity of the weather, the temperature being at  $25^{\circ}$  to  $30^{\circ}$ , and a strong gale of wind facing the party directly down the channel, it was considered most advisable to return. From this time to the 5th May, every one was busily occupied in preparing whatever had been found to be necessary during the first journey, and on the 6th the sledges again started.

From Point Separation, in  $75^{\circ} 5'$  N. lat., Captain Stewart's party proceeded to Capes Erinelle and Hurd, examining the various beaches, &c., for further traces, as strong opinions were entertained that more was to be discovered in that quarter. Mr. Goodsir and another party had directions, in the meantime, to examine the western side of the channel. After excursions to a considerable distance in every direction, the several parties returned to the ships, one having been absent for a period of thirty-one days, without being able to report any traces, either indicative of the course pursued by the *Erebus* and *Terror*, or of any retreating party having subsequently passed along the coast. After indulging in a few hours' rest, fresh researches were made, with the assistance of boats and dog-sledges, but equally without fruit. These travelling operations continued to occupy the crews of the *Lady Franklin* and *Sophia* up to the 27th July, and the ships were ice-bound from that date until the 10th of August.

Captain Penny thus describes the circumstances under which he resumed his course homewards:—

"On the 11th of August, Captain Austin's ship entered our harbour in their progress to the eastward. His parties had penetrated as far as ships could hope to go, yet, like our own, unsuccessful in finding the least trace of the missing expedition. In fact, none had been found such as would warrant the risk of a second winter, and, my orders being such as left no alternative, I determined on immediately returning to England, if no instructions to the contrary should be met with. In proceeding down the country we landed at Cape Hay and Button Point, in Pond's Bay, positions considered the most probable for despatches being left on by the whale ships. Finding none, we continued our course down along the land, crossing in  $70^{\circ}$  N. lat., through a body of 140 miles of ice. We made repeated endeavours to reach Sievly, on the island of Diaol, to ascertain if any despatches had been left there for our guidance; but thick weather and a strong northerly wind obliged us to haul off, after having made a narrow escape from a reef lying close in-shore. We parted from the *Sophia* about 20 miles off the land, expecting to rejoin her after having communicated with the Danish settlement; but the thick weather and strong gale continuing for twenty-four hours, we separated from her, and have not since seen her. Captain Stewart's instructions, in case of such an event, were, to make the best of his way to Woolwich, having it in his power to take either the English Channel or the Pentland Frith as his route, according as the wind might lead."