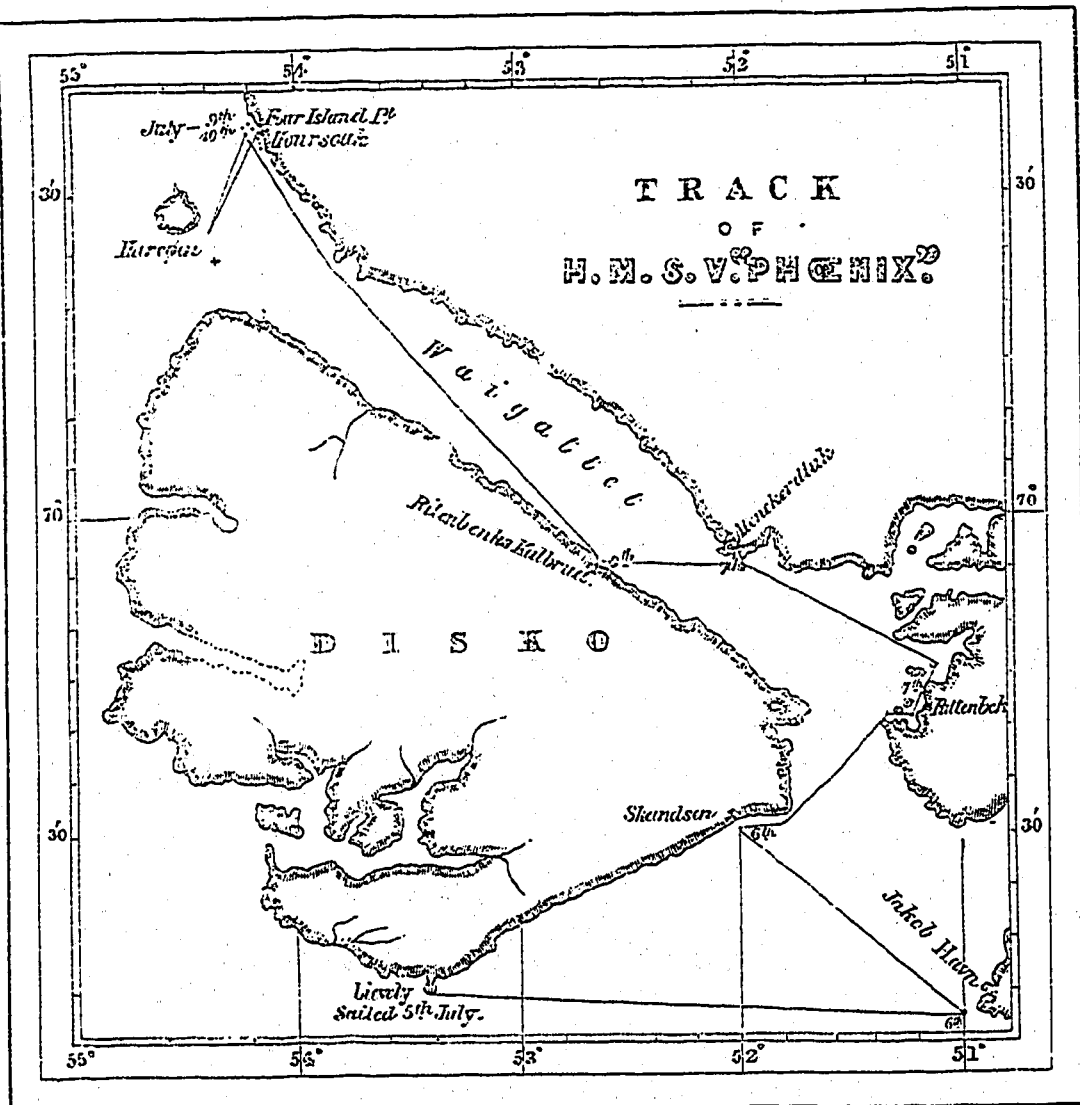


by a Danish vessel a further statement, enables me to give their Lordships some information with reference to the coal deposits on the Island of Disco, which I think will be found interesting, as regards its utility, but doubly so as geological data.

With "Talbot" in tow we parted company from the "Diligence," at 6 P.M. of 5th instant, and last sighted her standing with a fresh wind from the eastward down the coast. We reached the harbour of Jacob's Haven at 5.30 A.M. of the following day, but found it so thickly beset with heavy ice from the neighbouring glacier, that it was with much difficulty we succeeded in getting sufficiently near to the hospital to land the Esquimaux I alluded to in my letter of the 5th instant, and whose precarious condition rendered it advisable he should be conveyed there; ultimately the doctor came off in a whale boat, and thus was enabled to communicate with our surgeon; the necessity for our landing was therefore avoided, and so we proceeded immediately towards "Skandsen" on the Island of Disco, as shown in Rinks chart, a tracing of which I enclose. The principal officer

Coal Districts at Disco.



of the Danish Government in North Greenland, Mr. Olric has kindly accompanied me on this visit to these coal districts, and through him I have been enabled to communicate freely with the natives along the coast, and thus obtain much useful information. "Skandsen" was reached at 3 P.M. of the 6th, and landing, we soon found the spot that had been previously worked by the Danes. A specimen of the coal found here (and which is in a strata cropping out of the bank on the beach, covered only by light clayey sand) is forwarded through the courtesy of Mr. Olric, in a box, addressed to the care of the English Consul at Copenhagen. This is marked No. 1. Skandsen, as well as some of the superincumbent soil. The vein varied from 1 foot to 4 feet 6 inches in depth; but as a far superior specimen of coal for steaming purposes has been since met with, I shall not trouble their Lordships with further particulars of this spot, excepting that good holding