

the drift to be one mile an hour, east, being very nearly in the opposite direction to our course. After a few hours we were enabled to cast off, on a light wind springing up from the northward, and run along shore to the S.W. ; but the ice had become gradually closer during the few hours of westerly winds, and we had much difficulty in picking our way during the night, as a thick fog prevailed. On the following morning, 9th August, the outer edge of the land-floe in the depth of Peard Bay was found to extend unbroken from the land to a distance of nine miles, and the ice outside seemed too close to offer us a passage in the desired direction ; but as the wind was fresh and favourable, the ship was forced into open water by 10 A.M., having sustained some severe but unavoidable shocks in doing so. I was now anxious to keep close in with the land, in order to stop any boats that might be making their way to Point Barrow, in consequence of our failing to reach Cape Lisburne ; and at 2 P.M., in passing the Sea Horse Islands, we got into three fathoms in endeavouring to close the shore for the purpose of sending a boat to put up a mark, which we were not able to accomplish, as the wind was found to blow rather on shore, and was too strong to admit of the ship lying off and on with safety. I accordingly bore up to run for Cape Lisburne, and on the following day, 10th August, at 11 A.M., communicated with her Majesty's ship *Amphitrite*, Captain Frederick, from whom I received their Lordships' orders, directing me to remain at Point Barrow ; but the health of the crew would have prevented my doing so had I received the order previous to leaving ; and as there seemed no difficulty in returning during the present season, I repaired, in company with the *Amphitrite*, to Port Clarence, to await the arrival of the *Rattlesnake*, and to obtain the changes found necessary in the crew, with an increased supply of provisions and fuel for another year.

Our return seemed the more necessary, as their Lordships' instructions direct provisions to be left in the neighbourhood