

extraordinary declination of the compass (peculiar to this part of the world) is so remarkable, that, were a vessel sent for no other purpose than of making magnetical observations, both the time and money which might be bestowed on the expedition would be advantageously employed for the advancement of science. The variation of the compass in latitude $70^{\circ} 17'$ North, and longitude $163^{\circ} 24'$ West, is $30^{\circ} 28'$ East; and in latitude $70^{\circ} 58'$, and longitude $54^{\circ} 14'$ West, is 74° West; whence it appears, that in nearly the same parallel of latitude, and in a difference not exceeding $109^{\circ} 10'$, or about one thousand six hundred and eighty-five geographical miles of longitude, there is a difference in the variation amounting to $84^{\circ} 42'$. It would also be a desirable discovery to ascertain whether on going to the Westward it would be found that the variation gradually decreases to the point of no variation, and afterwards gradually increases; or whether its return be not by a sudden jump from West to East. Observations on points of