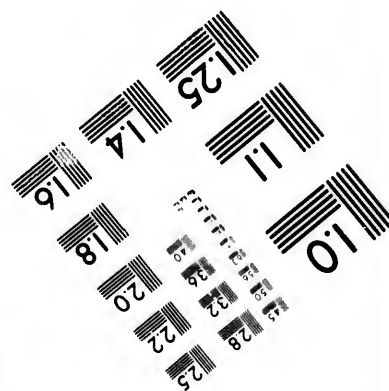
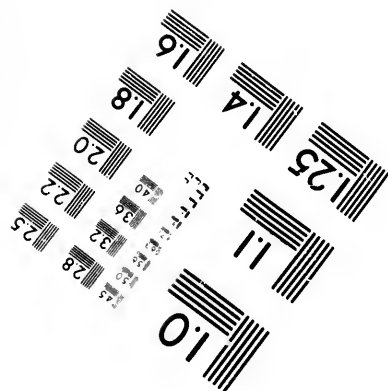
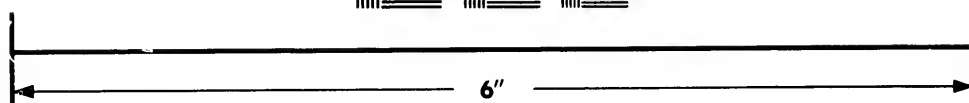
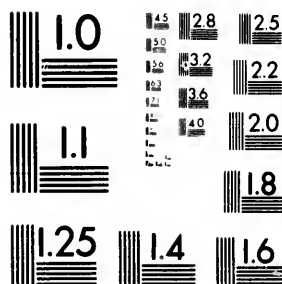


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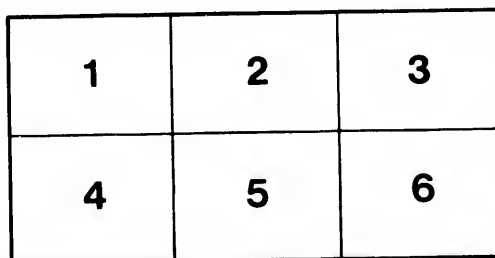
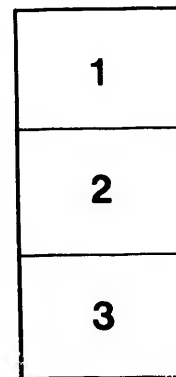
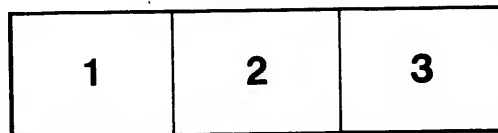
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THE  
V O Y A G E  
OF  
Captain THOMAS JAMES,  
FOR THE  
DISCOVERY of a NORTH-WEST  
PASSAGE to the SOUTH-SEAS.

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CH A P. I.

*Captain James sets sail from Bristol, and arrives on the Coast of Greenland, where he is in great Danger from the Ice. He lands in several Places; the Crew undergo dreadful Distresses, and the Ship being at length covered with Ice, and the Sails froze, the Crew prepare for spending the Winter near Charlton Island.*

ABOUT the year 1630, several of the merchants of *Bristol* formed themselves into a company, for discovering a passage by the west to the *South-Sea*, and thence to *Jap-  
O 2* *pon*

*pan*\*; and as Captain *James* had been employed before in some northern voyages, and was justly esteemed both a man of integrity, and an old experienced sailor, he was thought the fittest person in the kingdom for attempting this long wished for discovery. His Majesty King *Charles I.* being informed of this design by Sir *Thomas Roe*, who had many years before been sent on an embassy to *Indostan*, was pleased to make known his approbation of it, and to confirm the choice made of Captain *James*.

Mr. *James* desired only a single ship of 70 tons burden, which was built for this voyage. This vessel being manned with 22 men, and furnished with provisions and other necessaries for 18 months, fell down *Bristol* channel on the 3d of *May*, 1631; but meeting with a contrary wind, was obliged on the 8th to put into *Milford* Haven, where she remained till the 17th, when taking the advantage of a fair wind, Mr. *James* again set sail, and on the 4th of *June* came within sight of *Greenland*.

Early the next morning the ship was encompassed with ice, and the men endeavouring to clear themselves of it, were the more engaged, and the ship endangered by frequently striking upon it. They, however, made fast to a

\* See some account of former Voyages, made for the same purpose, by Captain *Davis*, in Vol. IV. Chap. V. Page 41; and by Captain *Hudson*, and Captain *Button*, ib. Chap. XIII. Page 152.

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*Discovery of a North-West Passage.* 153

large piece, and with poles laboured day and night in repelling the repeated attacks of the others; in which employment all their poles were broken. On the 6th the danger increased, prodigious pieces of ice coming down upon the ship with such violence, that she was in danger of being crushed to pieces; but by spreading her sails, she escaped this danger, yet ran upon another piece of ice with such force, that the Captain was for a moment in doubt, whether she was not flayed to pieces; and, indeed, this was actually the case with the shallop. Captain *James* now caused the long-boat to be hoisted out, by which the broken shallop was recovered and brought upon the deck; the Captain intending to rebuild her the first opportunity. All that day it blew a perfect storm, and it was not without very great difficulty, that he forced his way through these dangerous impediments, by making all the sail possible; and, though the ship was beat against the ice, those on board, to their great surprise and joy, brought her off without the least damage. On the 7th and 8th they endeavoured to double *Cape Farewell*. On the 10th, the sea near the southernmost point of *Greenland* being very rough, and some pieces of ice swimming in sight, higher than the main-top-mast-head, the long-boat broke from the stern, and was with difficulty recovered and brought into the ship. About eight in the evening, they were off *Cape Resolution*, in 65° north lat. In this course they received many shocks from the mountains of ice: the sea was filled



filled with grampusses, and the weather was foggy.

On the 17th at night the weather was dark, foggy, and so sharp, that the sails and rigging were frozen: at the same time, from the hideous noise made by the waves, they judged themselves nigh the shore; but in the morning they found it was no more than a piece of ice, and at the same time they perceived the Island of *Resolution*, in the mouth of *Hudson's* Streights, and endeavoured to double the southern point, where they observed the tide run with great swiftness into the strait, and that the ebb was equally strong with the flood. As the fog cleared up, they saw that the entrance of the strait was filled with ice close wedged together, when endeavouring to proceed forwards, they were fast inclosed and driven to and fro with it. The fog was here so penetrating, as to render the compasses useless.

On the morning of the 20th they had doubled the southermost point of the Island of *Resolution*, when the wind turning about to the west, drove both them and the ice towards the land, within two leagues of which they came into a strong eddy of the sea, that whirled both the ship and the ice about in a surprising manner. Prodigious pieces were aground in 40 fathoms water, and the ebb rushing from the broken grounds of the island, carried them round sometimes close by rocks, and at others so near to these lofty islands of ice, that they were afraid they would fall upon them. To prevent their being driven

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*Discovery of a North-West Passage.* 155

driven on shore, they fastened two large pieces  
of ice to the sides of the ship, with their  
kedger and grapnels: these pieces drew nine or  
ten fathoms, and these they imagined would  
be aground before them, if they should hap-  
pen to be driven on shore. But this expedient  
not appearing sufficient to secure the vessel, the  
boat was hoisted out in search of a place of  
safety among the rocks. But she was instantly  
inclosed, and the men were obliged to haul her  
upon the ice, to prevent her being dashed to  
pieces, and to drag her from piece to piece.  
In the mean time the whirling of the ice broke  
the two floating pieces from the sides of the ship,  
and the kedger and grapnels were carried away.  
They then made signs to the boat to return,  
which she with great difficulty performed, and  
in the mean time they recovered their grap-  
nels. The boat was, however, manned anew,  
and with difficulty recovered the kedger. It  
was with extraordinary joy they saw her re-  
turn; for having dropped anchor in a shallow  
rocky bottom, they had lost sight of her, and  
supposed she was unfortunately sunk with one  
third of the crew. The ship had now only  
three fathoms water, and lay under the shelter  
of a large piece of ice that was aground, and  
kept off the floating ice, that would otherwise  
have driven upon her: but at the return of  
the tide was assaulted with pieces, that every  
half-hour threw the men into great dis-  
tress, and obliged them to work continually to  
keep them off. At high water the great piece  
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of ice that was their buckler was afloat; and, notwithstanding all their endeavours to stop it, got away from them, and left them in imminent danger from the ice that drove in upon them; but at the return of ebb, this large piece came again aground, in so favourable a manner as to shelter them all the rest of the ebb. All night they worked hard in shifting their cables and hawsers, and making them fast aloft to the rocks, that the ice might the better pass under them; but all day and night it snowed hard, and blew a storm at west, which drove in the ice out of the sea upon them; in opposing which the hook of the kedger, two arms of the grappels, and two hawsers were broken, and the shallop was much bruised. This tide the harbour was choaked up with ice, in such a manner, that it seemed firm and immoveable; but at ebb, some large pieces came aground, altered the course of the other ice, and put the ship on the rocks.

The following tide the ship was driven upon a sharp rock, a part of which arose above the water, higher than the main-mast; and as the water ebbed, she heeled so much to the seaward, that there was no standing in her; and as it was apprehended that she would soon overset, the men got upon a piece of ice, and went to prayers; but at the coming of the tide, she began unexpectedly to come to rights, and they soon to their great joy saw her afloat. They now worked hard to change their situation, and to have as much of the ice as they could between them and the rocks. For this purpose,

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was afloat; and, in every effort to stop it, they were in imminent peril of being crushed in upon them; this large piece was so favourable a manœuvre to the ebb, that in shifting their position, they were making them fast to the ice might the next day and night it would be at well, which would be upon them; in fact the kedger, two of the hawfers were as much bruised. The ship was choked up with ice, it seemed firm and some large pieces of the other rocks. The ship was driven upon the ice, which arose above the water; and as the ice was so much to the sea-ward in her; and she would soon overcome of ice, and went on the tide, she came to rights, and they saw her afloat. The change their situation of the ice as they were on the rocks. For this purpose,

*Discovery of a North West Passage. 157*

purpose, they with axes and bars of iron broke the corners of the ice, to make way for its passing by them, and to get as much of the softer kind of ice about them as possible. Captain James now went on shore, which he could easily do, the ice joining so as to form a continued footing to the land; and having erected a beacon of stones, he placed a cross upon it, and named it the *Harbour of God's Providence*. At low water those pieces that were aground broke with a thundering noise.

On the 23d, in the morning, the ice drove up with the flood among the broken grounds, and with the ebb showed all out, except a large piece that came aground and settled near the ship. Captain James then took the boat, and went ashore on the east side of the island, and having climbed up a hill, to see if he could discover any place free from danger to which he might steer the ship, he observed one that seemed likely to answer his purpose; but while he was viewing it, he heard the great piece of ice split near the ship in four pieces. This made him apprehend the destruction of the vessel; on which he hastened to the boat, and thence to the ship, when to his great joy he found she had received no damage. He now sent the boat into the cove he had discovered, and at her return unmoored the ship, and with all possible speed warped her away from the ice; but they had not got a mile from it before it broke all to pieces in such a manner, that all on board were certain the ship would have been

sunk

funk had the continued a little longer in her former station.

Having entered the cove they made the ship fast to the rocks, which being done, Captain James went again on shore to see what he could discover. He found it all broken rocky ground, without so much as a tree, herb, or blade of grats upon it. As the ponds were still frozen, no fowls were as yet to be expected, and there was no sign of either deer or bears. However, he saw one or two foxes; and from a few fire-brands, bones of foxes, and whale bones, it appeared that some of the savages had been there some time before; yet it was not easy to imagine what could have invited them thither, as the soil was entirely barren, and the sea, at least at that time, void of fish. The Captain called this *Price's Cove*, from the name of the master of his ship: it is in latitude  $61^{\circ} 24'$ , and from the high grounds they could see Sir Thomas Button's Islands.

A fresh gale springing up at east on the 24th in the morning, they steered between great pieces of ice that were aground in 40 fathoms, and twice as high as the top-mast-head, when sailing out of the cove, he endeavoured to gain the north shore; but though for the space of a league they had clear water, the ice was wedged together in the offing as thick as possible, and notwithstanding it continued blowing hard from the east, they could make no way through it, the ice grating with such violence, that it was apprehended it would wrench the planks from the ship's sides. Thus they continued

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*Discovery of a North-West Passage.* 159

ained driving among the ice till the 26th, without their being able, even from the top-mast-head, to discern so much open sea as amounted to half a quarter of a mile; but then the weather clearing up, they had calm sunshine: yet the nights still continued so cold that their rigging froze. They continued sailing till the 5th of July thro' these obstructions, with variable winds and fogs, and sometimes a calm, when having clear weather, they observed *Sally's Island*, and soon after *Prince Charles's Cape* and *Mill Island*; but the sea to the north-north-west, and indeed all around them, appeared encumbered with ice, which gave Captain James much concern, from his finding it impossible that year to prosecute the discovery as he intended to the north-westward. The ship was still in the greatest danger, and the people on board were a thousand times under the apprehensions of her being beaten to pieces.

*Hudson's Straights* beginning at the island of *Revelation*, and ending at *Digg's Island*, are about 120 leagues long. In the entrance they are generally about 15 leagues broad, and between *Digg's Island* and *Cape Charles* are about the breadth of 20 leagues. The north shore is the straitest and clearest from ice, but there are many small low islands on its coast. Here is a certain tide, but no current.

Captain James being now convinced of the impossibility of doing any thing to the north-westward, steered on the 16th west-south-west towards *Niortfield Island*, which at three in the afternoon of the ensuing day he gained sight of.

of, the ship receiving in her course many dreadful shocks from the ice. Here the crew were put to half allowance of bread. In the evening she came to an anchor, when sending the boats to sound, it was found that the water flowed from the west-south-west, and the highest tides, as far as could be perceived, had not swelled above two fathoms. The ship stood off and on a good way down, but could find little or no drift wood or beails on the island, nor any thing useful, except a few fowls, one of which they shot. *Mansfield* island is low land, and has ponds of fresh water, but no grass, it being entirely barren.

The wind coming favourable on the 18th, they set sail, intending to fall in with the western land, but after steering for a short time, through what they began to hope was an open sea, they came to a firm range of ice; upon this they stood to the south-west; but at length fell in with thick frozen ruts, in which they were sometimes fast locked up, and at others were able to proceed forwards by the help of the wind, generally suffering the inconvenience of a very thick fog. At length they were inclosed with ice for three days together, and notwithstanding they hoisted all their sails, and it blew a hard gale of wind, the ship stirred no more than if she had been in a dry dock: the crew therefore went all out upon the ice to sport and recreate themselves; when some of the flat pieces being measured were found to be 1000 paces long.

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## Discovery of a North-West Passage. 161

This was the first day in which the men  
began to murmur, thinking it impossible to get  
either forwards or backwards, and dreading  
that they should not be able to land in order  
to spend the winter. The Captain encouraged  
them as much as he was able, and to chase  
away these apprehensions, made them drink a  
health to his Majesty on the ice, the ship still  
continuing under all her sails without a single  
man on board. The Captain himself saw the  
justice of their fears, and apprehending  
that they should be frozen up in the sea, or-  
dered that a fire should be made but once a  
day, and that with only a certain number of  
faggots, which the steward was to deliver to  
the cook by tale, in order to prolong the  
fuel.

On the first of *August* they perceived the ice  
to heave and set a little, occasioned by a swell-  
ing sea that came from the south-west, which  
gave them great comfort, as it made them  
hope they should soon get out of the ice. On  
the third, they observed a little open water to  
the north-westward, and feeling a sea flow  
from thence were persuaded of there being an  
open sea to the westward. On the fifth, they  
saw the sea clear, but could by no means work  
themselves to it with their sails; therefore  
about six in the evening they let fall an anchor  
in 50 fathoms water, and stood with their poles  
and ears to push off the ice to the leeward, at  
which labour they continued all night. In  
the morning the wind coming up at north-west  
they weighed with much joy, and soon got  
into



into an open sea to the southward in latitude 54° 28'. On the 11th, they entered the bay called *Hubbart's Hope*, and in the night came to an anchor with the kedger; but afterwards attempting to weigh, had the misfortune to lose it, though they had not another on board. They then proceeded to the southward, and on the 13th in the afternoon, when it was somewhat hazy, saw some breakers ahead, and endeavouring to get clear of them suddenly struck upon the rocks; the ship being under her top-sails, fore-sail, and sprit-sail, with a fresh gale of wind. Upon this dreadful accident they immediately struck all their sails, and having providentially two or three good swelling seas, which heaved them over the rocks, they cast anchor, and soon found that the ship had received no damage, though she had three such terrible blows that all on board thought her masts would have shivered to pieces, and that she was certainly bulged.

On the 20th they came to an anchor off a point of land bending away to the southward. They called this the *New Principality of South Wales*, and drank to the health of *Charles* then Prince of *Wales*. At this time the weather was calm, but on the 21st at night the wind rose, and the ship drove in such a manner as made them imagine they had lost their anchor, upon which they attempted to weigh it by means of the capstan, in doing which they found it had hitched, and upon the chopping of the sea, threw the men with such force from the capstan, that they were dreadfully

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*Discovery of a North-West Passage. 163*

bruised, and one of them had like to have lost his head, by its being entangled in the cable. Mr. Price, the master, narrowly avoided breaking his leg, and the gunner's foot was wrung off at the ankle; the flesh of his leg was also torn off, and the bone crushed to pieces, so that he was forced to have his whole leg cut off above the knee to prevent a mortification.

On the 27th in the morning coming to a high land, they stood towards it, and came to an anchor in five fathoms water, when Captain James sent off the boat well manned and armed, with written instructions, and a strict charge to return before sun-set; but the evening came without his hearing any news of the boat, which gave him great uneasiness, especially when he found that his shot and false fires were spent in vain, whence he supposed that she was either lost, or that the people in her had fallen a prey to the savages; and this he had the greater reason to fear, as there was a fire upon the shore, though no returns were made to his false fires. The prospect of those on board the ship was now very dreadful, for they had not hands sufficient to weigh the anchor or manage the sails; but at length, to the inexpressible joy of all on board, the boat returned, when the men excused themselves, by declaring that upon their coming ashore, a sudden ebb had obliged them to wait the return of the tide. They reported that they had discovered the tracts of deer and bears, and saw many fowls, of which they had killed some: that a considerable quantity of

164. Capt. JAMES'S VOYAGE for the

wood was growing on the land, and that a good deal was thrown on shore by the waves, but they could discern no sign of inhabitants.

On the 29th in the morning a ship was discovered about four leagues to the leeward, which proved to be a king's ship commanded by Captain *Fox*, who exchanged the usual salutes with them. That evening Mr. *James* sent his boat aboard of her, and the next morning the Captain and some of his officers paid Mr. *James* a visit, and were received in the best manner his circumstances would permit. He staid aboard the ship till the evening, and the next morning stood away to the south-south-west. The month of *August* concluded with snow and hail, and the weather was as severe as it is commonly in *England* in the depth of winter.

On the third of *September* they stood in for the shore, and arriving at the cape named it *Henrietta Maria*, from her Majesty's name. On the fourth they had a violent storm; but though at noon the weather cleared up, yet in the evening there came a great rolling sea from the north-north-east, with a very high wind from the south-east, and a most dreadful tempest of wind, lightning, snow, and rain, continued all night. The sea, which ran mountains high, washed over the deck, poured into the hold, and made its way into the bread room, where it spoiled almost all the provisions. This dreadful hurricane continued till the fifth in the evening, with such violence, that they had the greater difficulty

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*Discovery of a North-West Passage.* 165

difficulty to keep every thing fast in the hold.

On the 10th they made an island about eight or nine leagues long, in latitude  $53^{\circ} 5'$ , which the Captain named *Lord Wiston's Island*; after which they stood to the eastward, and on the 11th made an island in  $52^{\circ} 45'$ , upon which the Captain went ashore in his boat, and afterwards sent some of the men to another part of it; but neither he nor they could find any vegetables, or so much as a little sorrel, fenny-grass, or the least relief for the sick men.

On the 12th in the morning the wind blowing hard at south-east, the ship, through the negligence of those on the deck, ran upon the rocks, and a wreck seeming inevitable, the carpenters tools, a barrel of powder, six muskets, fishing hooks, lines, pitch and oakum, with a tinder box and matches were sent on shore. In the mean time they laid out an anchor to heave the ship astern, threw out all the coals, staved the water in the hold, and set the pump to work in order to lighten the ship, intending to have done the same with the beer; but at length, after continuing five hours striking in the most dreadful manner, she got over the rocks in a very leaky condition.

On the 13th they stood to the westward, but there being no anchoring ground that promised safety, it was resolved to steer to the northward towards the bottom of *Hudson's Bay*, in order to search for a passage into the river

of *Canada*, and if that failed, to winter on the main land, which would be preferable to their being placed among the rocks and islands.

In the evening of the 14th a storm arose, when the shallop being towed a-sterm, shipped a great sea, and was sunk with the keel upwards, so that she was inevitably lost. The ship had now only one boat left, and that in a crazy condition. The storm continuing all night with an over-grown sea, they began to prepare for death, but about noon the next day the weather cleared up, when they saw two islands, and running into an opening between them, found a good anchoring place, one side of which was formed by *Lord D'Effet's* Island. Here they remained till the 19th, during which it snowed and blew so violently, that they durst not put out their boat.

On the 19th the wind shifting to the north-north-east, they weighed and stood to the southward; but about noon the wind turning to the south, they came to an anchor under another island, upon which the Captain went ashore, and named it the *Earl of Bristol's* Island. While the Captain wandered about, the carpenter repaired the boat. The island was so barren, that there was not any herb upon it, and Mr. *James* finding neither fowl nor fish, returned to the ship, and after steering about and frequently landing, at last came to *Charlton* Island, where they were on the 7th of *October*, when it snowed so violently, that they were forced to clear the deck with shovels, and the snow freezing over all parts of the ship, made her resemble

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*Discovery of a North-West Passage.* 167

resemble a lump of ice; and though the sun  
shone out the following day, it had not the  
slightest effect upon it. The cold now in-  
creased to such a degree, that scarcely any  
thing could be preserved from freezing even  
by the fire-side, and the sails being stiff, and  
covered with ice, were of no use. The boat  
with great difficulty went on shore, and the  
Captain seeing the winter come on so fast, sent  
the carpenter to cut wood, and others to carry  
it to the water side, whilst those in the boat  
brought it on board.

C H A P. II.

*A House built on shore for the Sick. The Ship  
ran aground to prevent her being driven to  
Sea, or dashed to pieces against the Rocks.  
The Manner in which they spent the Winter in  
that inhospitable Climate.*

THE men having brought as much wood  
on board as could be conveniently stowed,  
the sick men desired to have a little house or  
hovel built on shore, wherein they might be bet-  
ter sheltered from the weather, in order to reco-  
ver their health. Upon which Mr. *James* took  
the carpenter and other proper persons, and hav-  
ing chosen a place, they were immediately set  
to work. In the mean time Captain *James*,  
with some attendants, ranged the island in  
search of inhabitants, but found none, and re-  
turned much fatigued, the snow reaching up  
to

to the middle of their legs. The sailors now took down the top-sails, and making great fires upon the hearth in the hatchway, thawed and dried them, and then carefully laid them up between deck.

On the 12th the main-sail was taken down, and being thawed by the fire was carried on shore to cover the new erected house.

On the 14th, some of the men being supplied with ammunition, went early in the morning to traverse the country, and search for some creek or cove for the ship, and on the 15th returned with a small lean deer, which they had cut into four quarters. They reported that they had seen a few more, but no sign of any other beast, though they had wandered 20 miles, and brought the deer above 12. In this excursion they lay in the woods, where they were almost perished with cold, nor could they recover themselves in three or four days after.

On the 19th the Lieutenant and five more of the men desired leave to try their fortune in travelling about the island; but though they wandered very far in the snow, laid out all night, and returned miserably disabled with cold, they took nothing: and what was still worse, lost one of their company; for *John Barton*, the gunner's mate, being very weary attempted to cross a pond, that was a quarter of a mile over, to save himself the trouble of going round; but when he was in the middle, the ice broke, closed upon him, and he was never seen more.

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*Discovery of a North-West Paſſage.* 169

It now began to blow and ſnow ſo hard that the boat could hardly get on ſhore, and the men were obliged to land from it by wading in the thick congealed water; and a barrel of being landed, froze firmly in the houſe in night; but being thawed in a kettle over fire, was good for nothing. Thoe on then broke the ice of a neighbouring pool to come at water, but it having a loathſome ſmell, orders were given for none to touch it, it ſhould be infectious. This diſappointment reduced them to ſink a well near the houſe, where they found excellent water, which in their opinion taſted like milk. On the 10th the Captain ſet the carpenter to work to make a boat that might be carried over the ice, and uſed wherever there was water; the Captain alſo ordered the men to make traps to catch foxes, many of which were daily ſeen; ſome were black and white, whence it was concluded that there were ſome entirely black, whoſe ſkins the Captain told the men were of great value, and promiſed that whoever took one of them ſhould have the ſkin for his reward. Upon this they made ſeveral traps, and walked thro' the ſnow, which was very deep, to place them in the woods. The ſame day the Captain took the latitude of the iſland, which he found to be 52 degrees. Thus, notwithstanding the dreadful ſeverity of the climate, this inhospitable iſland is but thirty minutes farther north than *London*.

On the 17th their houſe took fire; but the flames were ſoon extinguished; however, as they



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we were obliged to keep an extraordinary fire at and day, this accident made the Captain order a constant watch to look after it. The *James* continued on shore till the 17th, during which it snowed and froze extremely; the ship from the shore resembled a piece of ice in the form of a ship, the snow was all frozen about her, all her fore-part and sides were firm ice, and the cables were frozen in the hawse. The Captain now went on board, where he spent the nights in the most gloomy reflections, without the least hopes of saving the vessel, or the probable assurance of its being possible long to endure the extremities to which they were all reduced. The men were obliged every day to beat the ice off the cables, whilst some dug it out of the hawfers with the carpenter's long caulking iron; in which work the water froze on their cloaths and hands, and so benumbed them, that they could hardly get into the ship without being heaved in with a rope.

On the 22d in the morning, the gunner, who had had his leg cut off, died; and was buried in the sea at a good distance from the ship. Some days before his death, he had desired that he might be allowed to drink nothing but sack, to which the Captain consented; but the bottle in which it was contained froze at his bed's-head, as did the plaster at his wound, though he had a close boarded cabin in the gun-room, as many cloaths upon him as were convenient, and a pan of live coals kept constantly by him.

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*Discovery of a North-West Passage. 171*

On the evening of the 23d, just after watch  
was set, a large piece of ice came across the  
bowser, and four more followed after it, the  
last of which was a quarter of a mile over.  
The Captain and all on board were much ter-  
rified, imagining that these pieces of ice would  
drive the ship upon the rocks. They strained  
the cable considerably, and in this extremity  
the crew fired signals of distress, which were  
answered by those on shore, though they were  
unable to come to their assistance. However,  
this being newly congealed, only two inches  
thick, those on board broke through it, and by  
ten o'clock it was all gone.

In the morning the Captain sent for the men  
to come on board. They therefore shut up the  
house, and after being obliged to wade through  
the congealed water, with much pain reached  
the boat. When the whole crew were on  
board, it was resolved to run her aground, in  
order to preserve her as long as possible. This  
resolution being taken, they with great diffi-  
culty landed part of their bread, and a hog-  
head of beef: the bread that remained in the  
bread-room, with all the powder, was carried  
up into the great cabin. The ship being  
driven on shore, continued to beat violently,  
though she was bedded two feet deep in the  
sand; on which the Captain went with the cas-  
penter into the hold, and bored a hole with an  
auger in her bottom, and in about six hours  
the water rose, broke into the powder and  
bread rooms, and damaged her between decks,  
when

when it was every minute expected that it would open and break to pieces; but after having beat off her rudder, which was lost, she began to settle. At night they took to the boat, but the water was so thick with snow, that it was with great difficulty they reached the shore, by double manning four oars; and the Captain and his men, on their landing, were so altered in their habits and voices, and by their face, hair, and apparel being frozen, that they scarcely knew each other.

Having hauled up the boat, they went in the dark along the beach side to the house, where having made a good fire, they eat some bread and drank melted water, after which they deliberated on their situation; the Captain ordering every one to speak his mind freely. The carpenter gave it as his opinion, that the ship was quite foundered, or at least rendered useless by the loss of her rudder; Mr. James however thought otherwise, and encouraged his people to keep up their spirits, by a very pious speech, in which he observed, that if it was their fortunes to end their days there, they were as near heaven as in *England*. He encouraged them to rely upon that Providence which supports those that confide in it, and that if it should happen that the ship was foundered, they might at the worst build a pinnace out of the wreck of the ship, in which, by the Divine assistance, they might once more be enabled to reach *Old England*. To this the carpenter answered, that no industry of his should be wanting to extricate them out of this place:

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*Discovery of a North-West Passage.* 175

place; and if the crew would assist him, he  
imagined the island produced timber enough  
for building a pinnace, without meddling with  
the ship, which might by some good chance be  
again rendered more useful than now seemed  
probable; and all the men immediately replied,  
they would do their utmost to help forward  
whatever work he should undertake for the  
public good. The Captain thanked them all,  
and to encourage the carpenter, promised to  
give him immediately a piece of plate worth  
10*l*. and that in case they went to *England* in  
the pinnace, he would freely give her to him,  
and also make him a present of 50*l*. in money;  
and that all the industrious should be liberally  
rewarded. Having thus concluded this con-  
sultation, they settled themselves close about  
the fire, and took their rest till day-light ap-  
peared.

Early the next morning the Captain desired  
the surgeon to cut off his hair short, and to  
shave off his beard, which became extremely  
troublesome from its being frequently frozen  
with large icicles; and all the rest having fol-  
lowed his example, prepared for work. The  
first thing they were to do was to get the cloaths  
and provisions on shore, and therefore the  
Captain divided the company; the master, and  
a proper number of men were to go on board  
to get things out of the hold; the cockswain,  
with his gang, were to bring the things on  
shore in the boat; and the Captain, with the  
rest of the people, were to carry them half a

mile through the snow, to a place where he intended to have a storehouse erected: but as for the heavier things, it was proposed to leave them on the beach. In the afternoon the wind being at south-fourth-west, and the water having ebbed so low that they thought something might be got out of the hold, they launched out the boat, and with their oars made way through the thick congealed water. It froze extremely hard, and the Captain stood on the shore with great uneasiness, thinking that the boat would be carried with the ebb into the sea; and if that should happen they were all lost. However, they got safe to the ship, made a fire to signify their arrival on board, and falling to work, got something out of the hold upon the deck; but night approaching, they durst not venture back on shore, and therefore lay on the bed in the great cabin, where they were almost starved.

The 1st of *December* was so cold, that the Captain went over the ice to the ship, the same way in which the boat had gone the day before; and he, with the men, carried upon their backs 500 of their fish, and a great part of their bedding and cloaths, which they were obliged to dig out of the ice. The 2d was mild weather, and some of the men going over the ice, they fell in, and were with great difficulty saved; so that not being able to get to the ship, the Captain directed them to begin the storehouse on shore. The same evening the ice broke, and was driven by the wind out of the bay. On the 3d several large pieces of ice

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come within a flight fhot of the fhire: fo that  
the men were forced to undergo the hardfhip of  
wading through the congealed water with loads  
upon their backs. In this cold evening they  
cut away as much ice from about the boat as  
they were able to pick out of her with hand-  
fpiques, and endeavoured to hoift her into the  
fhip, there being but little hopes of going back-  
wards or forwards with her again; but their  
whole united ftrength being infufficient, they  
were obliged to leave her in the tackles by the  
fhip's fide.

The 4th, being *Sunday*, they refted, and  
fpent their time in religious exercifes. The  
two following days the weather being extreme-  
ly cold, they made bags of their flore fhirts,  
in which they carried the loofe bread to fhire  
over the ice. They alfo dug their cloaths and  
new fails out of the ice with iron hand-fpiques,  
and carrying them on fhire, dried them by a  
large fire. The 7th was fo exceffive cold  
that their nofes, cheeks, and hands froze as  
white as paper; and though the two following  
days continued extremely cold, and there fell  
a great quantity of fnow, yet they perfued  
their labour in carrying and rolling goods on  
fhire.

The cold now increafed to fuch a degree,  
that by the 19th they could get nothing more  
out of the hold, but were obliged to leave five  
barrels of beef and pork, all their beer, and  
Q 2 feveral

176 *Capt. JAMES'S VOYAGE for the*

several other things, which were frozen so fast as not to be moved. The 21st was so cold that they could not go out of the house, but on the 23d they went to get the boat ashore, having before dug her out of the ice. By ten in the morning there came so thick a fog, that it was as dark as night; upon which the Captain made them lay aside their work, and make what haste they could to the shore, which they had much ado to find without losing one another. At last, however, they met at the house, but in the most miserable frozen condition imaginable; for several of the men had blisters raised by the cold as big as walnuts, which it was thought proceeded from their too hastily approaching the fire.

Their well being now frozen up, they found that no water was to be had by digging ever so deep, and were therefore obliged to make use of snow water, both for drink and dressing of victuals. This they found to be very unwholesome, it giving them such a shortness of breath, that they were scarce able to speak. All their sack, vinegar, oil, and every thing else that was liquid, was now frozen as hard as a piece of wood, and they were forced to cut it with a hatchet; nay, the frost was so severe as to penetrate within a yard of the fire-side. About this time the Captain recollected that on his first landing he had discovered a spring at the foot of a hill at a small distance, near which he ordered some trees to be cut for marks to know the place, he sent three of the men that had been there with him, who

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at last found it, and shovelling away the snow,  
came to the very head, where they found it  
rise strongly, and to the Captain's great joy  
brought him a can of it. This discovery proved  
of vast service to the people; for the spring  
flowed the whole year, and was never frozen so  
hard, but that they could come at it by breaking  
the ice.

They now settled their bedding and provisions,  
and made preparations for keeping *Christmas-*  
*Day* in as religious and cheerful a manner as  
they were able. And now Captain *James* says,  
that instead of a *Christmas* tale he will describe  
the house they lived in, with others that were  
adjoining.

On his first resolving to build a house, he  
chose the warmest and most convenient situa-  
tion, and one that was at the same time nearest  
the ship. It was among a thick tuft of trees,  
under a rising ground facing the south. This  
building they chose to erect, from their finding  
they could not dig into the earth to make a  
cave, which would certainly have been the  
best way. The house was square, about 20  
feet each way, which they began to erect  
by driving long stakes into the earth; and  
round these they wattled boughs as thick as  
possible, beating them down very close. This  
first work was six feet high on both sides, but  
at the ends it reached almost to the very top,  
where two holes were left to admit the light,  
and let out the smoke. They then cut down  
trees, which they proportioned into lengths of  
six feet: of these they made a pile on both



hides the house six feet thick and six feet high, but at both ends ten feet high and six feet thick. They left a little low door to creep in at, and a portal before that, to keep the wind from blowing into it. They next fastened a rough tree on the top, upon which they laid the rafters, and the main course over them, which covering the whole, reached from each side to the ground.

The inside they lined with their bonnet sails; then driving in stakes made bedstead-frames about the three sides of the house, which doubled one under another, the lowermost being a foot from the ground. These they first filled with boughs, upon which they laid their spare sails, and then their bedding and cloaths. In the middle of the house they made a hearth for the fire, and round it placed some boards to stand upon, to prevent their being injured by the cold damps of the earth; and with their wattle cloaths and small sails, they made testers and curtains.

They built another house at not above 20 feet distance, which had the same sort of wattling, but it was less. Instead of piles on the south side all the chests were heaped up within; and indeed the reflection of the fire against them made it warmer than the mansion-house. Here they dressed their provisions, and the inferior part of the crew refreshed themselves in it all day.

The store-house, for fear of fire, was 29 paces distant. It was only a rough tree fastened aloft, with rafters laid from it to the ground, and

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and covered with a new suit of sails. Within  
it were laid small trees, spread over with boughs,  
on which the bread and fish were stowed, at the  
distance of about two feet from the ground, in  
order to preserve them from damage; but other  
things lay more carelessly.

Long before *Christmas* the mansion-house was  
covered thick with snow, almost to the very  
roof, as was also the second house; but the  
store-house was covered all over, on account of  
there being no fire in it. Thus they seemed  
to live in a wilderness of snow, which they  
were obliged to shovel away from their doors;  
and this being trampled upon served for the  
Captain's gallery and the sick men's walk, the  
surface of it being at least a yard above the  
ground.

The month of *January*, 1632, was extremely  
cold. The sea was firmly frozen, and no where  
to be seen. On the 21st the sun arose along the ho-  
rizon of an oval figure, twice as long as it was  
broad; but as it got higher, it resumed its  
common form. On the 30th and 31st, in the  
beginning of the night Captain *James* observed  
more stars in the firmament by two thirds than  
he had ever seen before; but the moon rising  
about ten o'clock, three parts of them were  
eclipsed by her lustre. The wind was northerly  
and very cold the greatest part of the month;  
but when it was warmest, the men employed  
themselves in fetching wood, and working upon  
the pinnace.

During the month of *February* the cold was  
as extreme as it had been any time in the whole  
year,

year, and its dismal effects were bitterly felt by these unhappy people, some of whom had all their teeth loose, and their gums swelled and covered with rotten flesh. Others had pains in their heads and breasts; some a weakness in their backs; others aches in their thighs and knees, and others swellings in their legs; and by these disorders two thirds of the company were under the surgeon's hands.

To remedy these dreadful effects of the scurvy, the surgeon, who was a man of an amiable temper, exerted his utmost diligence; and rising early in the morning, picked their teeth and cut away the black rotten flesh from their gums, while their thighs, knees and legs were bathed in a tub of warm water. There was no tree, bud, or herb, of which they did not make trial; and these being boiled in a kettle, and put into a small tub and batons, they placed it under them, and by bathing the aggrieved parts, so mollified them that though when they rose out of their beds, they were so crippled as scarcely able to stand, yet after this had been done half an hour, they were able to walk, and were under the necessity of wading through the snow about business. By night, however, they were as bad as before, and then their mouths were again dressed, and their limbs bathed, before they went to bed. These dreadful distresses were aggravated by most of them having no shoes to secure their feet from the snow; for upon their coming out of the snow to the fire, they were scorched

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upon their feet, and the fore shoes were all  
sunk in the ship. In this necessity they fastened  
clouts about their feet, and with this poor expe-  
dient endeavoured to perform their duty.

It may be necessary here to observe with re-  
spect to provisions, that, as there was no hopes  
of recruiting, the cook ordered them in the fol-  
lowing manner. The beef which was to serve on  
Sunday night for supper, was boiled on Satur-  
day night, for about an hour, in a kettle full  
of water, with a quart of oatmeal. The beef  
being then taken out, the rest was boiled to  
half the quantity, and the pottage they eat  
with bread as hot as they could. On Sunday  
they dined upon pork and peas, and at night  
the beef being boiled again, made mere pot-  
tage; and thus they proceeded the rest of the  
week; but as many of the people fell sick  
after Christmas, and from the soreness of their  
mouths could neither eat beef, pork, salt fish  
nor pottage, some pounded bread in a mortar,  
and eat it after its being fried with a little oil,  
and others boiled peas to a soft paste.

In the whole winter they did not take above  
a dozen foxes, some of which were dead two  
or three days in the traps before they were  
found, when the blood being settled they were  
unwholesome: but when one of them was taken  
alive he was boiled to make broth for the  
weakest of the sick men, and the flesh being  
boiled soft, they also eat of it. Some white  
partridges were also killed, but these were  
very few.

Abroad

Abroad the severity of the weather was scarce to be endured, no cloaths being proof against it, nor any motion sufficient to keep up their natural warmth. It froze the hair on their eye-lids so that the men could not see. The inside of the house hung with icicles, and even the bed-cloaths, though the beds were almost close to the fire, were covered with hoar frost, and the ground was frozen ten feet below the surface.

On the 15th of *March*, one of the men thinking he had seen a deer, engaged two or three others, with the Captain's leave, to go in search of it: but they returned at night without success so disabled with cold, that they did not recover their former state till a fortnight after, their legs and the soles of their feet being covered with blisters as big as walnuts. On the 26th, three others also desired to go out, in order to try their fortunes, but returned even worse disabled, and almost perished with the cold.

The providing timber for fuel, as well as for making the pinnacle, was attended with the utmost difficulty, for the axes and hatchets were all either broke in the blades, sockets or handles, yet these were the only instruments they had to cut down trees and form handles for these tools. It was besides extremely difficult to find wood fit for firing; that which was green almost suffocating them with smoke, and a kind of turpentine issuing from that which was dry, also caused a smoke, which

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though not so intolerable as the other, covered them with foot.

The first of *April* being *Easter* day, they solemnized it in a religious manner; both that and the two following holidays were excessive cold, and now they all sat about the fire considering and reasoning on their present situation. The carpenter had some time before been so weak, that he had been led to his work, and was now with four other men not able to do any thing; the boat-swain, and many more were very infirm, and there were but five who could eat their ordinary allowance. The season of the year on which all their hopes depended, came on apace, and yet the cold was very little abated: their pinnace was in an indifferent forwardness; but the carpenter, instead of giving hopes of his recovery, grew worse and worse, and the ship they imagined to be full of solid ice, the weight of which would be sufficient to open the seams of any new and sound vessel, and more especially of one that had lain so long upon the ground as she had done. In short, after laying open their miserable and helpless situation, and entering into many disputes, the Captain resolved, that notwithstanding it was more labour, and the men grew weaker and weaker, yet with the first warm weather they should begin to clear the ship; upon which they searched for the tools proper for digging the ice out of her, when it was found they had but two iron bars on shore, and one of them broken, the rest being sunk in the ship. With these bars, and four broken

shovels,

shovels, they afterwards began to dig the ice, and to lay it about the ship in such a manner, as to form a barricado to prevent her being damaged when the ice should break in the bay, which it was to be feared might in her present crazy condition shatter her all to pieces.

The 16th being the most comfortable sun-shiny day they had felt that year, they cleared the ship's deck of snow, and made a good fire to dry the great cabin, while others were ordered to dig through the ice for the anchor, which being in shoal-water, was discovered the next day and brought on board.

On the 19th, the master, and two others, desisted they might lie on board, that they might withdraw themselves from the groans and lamentations of their companions, to which the Captain freely consented; for they had lain very incommodiouly all the winter, with sick bed-fellows.

The greatest part of this month was spent in stopping the holes bored in the ship to sink her, repairing her other damages, and freeing her from ice and snow, in performing which such of the hands as were able laboured with great alacrity, and by the 28th the cook had set free the pumps, by pouring boiling water into them, when they delivered water very well. On the 29th it rained all day, which gave them great joy, as it was a certain sign that winter was broke up, and though it hailed, snowed, and was very cold on the two following days, yet the rain had given them such spirits, that on *May* eve, they sat round a good fire and

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most comfortable sun that year, they cleared and made a good fire while others were ordering the ice for the anchor, and was discovered the board.

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this month was spent in the ship to sink damages, and freezing in performing which were able laboured with the 28th the cook had pouring boiling water over water very well day, which gave them certain sign that winter though it hailed, snowed the two following days them such spirits, that found a good fire and diverted

*Discovery of a North-West Passage. 183*  
diverted themselves by chasing their muskets, and wearing their nanks in their caps.

### CHAP. III.

*The Weather grows extremely hot, and the Ice breaks. The green Larks of Fitch's discovered, which prove a singular Repellent. They find several good Steers in the Hdd. They feat the Ship into the Sea. Take a formal Possession of these Territories for his Majesty's Use. The vessel is and fit on fire. The Captain gives up an Account of his Adventures. A Description of the Island.*

**T**HE thaw now increased; but on the second of May the weather was so extremely sharp, that those who had any strength left durst not stir out of doors, and those who were sick in bed swooned, on being turned.

On the fourth, when the melted snow began to lie in patches, some cranes and geese made their appearance; but though the Captain and surgeon went out with their guns to try if they could kill any of these fowl for their sick men, they were so shy, that after having spent above two hours to no purpose, they returned, not being able to endure any longer the fatigue of stalking through the snow, and with such pains in their limbs, that the Captain thought he should have lost his legs.

VEL. X.

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On the ninth, they heaved out of the hold four butts of beer and one of cyder, which, to their great joy, they found to be extremely good, it having lain under water all the winter. They also the same day got up five barrels of beer and pork. By the 12th they had cleared the hold of all the ice, and came at the store shelves. Upon which they were dried by the fire, and every man fitted himself with a pair. They also found a butt of wine, which was hard frozen.

They now fitted the ship, in which they could find no defect, and therefore hoped that she was staunch; but the carpenter was of a different opinion, and alledged, that now she lay on the ground, her defects were filled by the ice, which alone kept out the water.

On the 14th the boatswain, with some other hands, brought ashore the rest of the rigging, which was much spoiled by pecking it out of the ice; and this they began to reit, while the cooper, though very infirm, was employed in making up the casks. Mr. James intending if he could not get the ship otherwise easily off, to pass some cables under her, and buoy her up with casks. The same day that gentleman having made some shot with old pewter, and the aprons of his guns, for he would not touch the carpenter's sheet lead, sent some other persons to see if they could kill some wild fow! for the sick, who now grew worse and worse, and the next day he dug up a little piece of ground that was free from snow, and

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and sowed it with peas, in hopes of having some  
that were green.

On the 18th died *William Cole* the carpenter,  
who was much beloved by all the men. He  
had nearly completed the pinnace, which was  
a well proportioned vessel of about twelve or  
fourteen tons burden, and was twenty-seven  
feet by the keel. They were, however, in  
hopes of being able to finish her, in case the  
ship should prove unseviceable. The master  
of the ship returning from the funeral, ob-  
served the body of the gunner who died six  
months before, under the gun room ports,  
though he had been committed to the sea at a  
considerable distance from the ship. The next  
day the Captain ordered it to be dug out. He  
was fast in the ice, with his head downwards,  
and only his leg upwards; the plaster was  
yet on the stump of the other. It is remark-  
able, that he had no noisome smell, and that  
his flesh would slip up and down upon his bones  
like a glove. In the evening he was buried  
by the carpenter.

The snow was by this time pretty well  
washed in the woods, and there being a high  
tree on the greatest eminence in the island, they  
named it the Watch Tower; from the top of  
it they had a view of the sea, but could yet  
perceive no appearance of the ice breaking.  
The 21st was the warmest sun-shiny day they  
had felt in the island. The Captain sent two  
men a fowling, and went himself with the  
master, surgeon, and another person, with their  
pieces and dogs, in order to search the woods,

for what they could find; but after having wandered eight miles from the house, they returned without the satisfaction of having discovered an herb or leaf that was eatable, and the fowlers had no better success. They found the snow partly evaporated in the woods, for it does not melt there with the sun or rain, and make land floods as in other climates; but is exhaled by the sun, and drawn full of holes like a honeycomb, without wetting the sand on which it lies.

They had now sometimes such hot weather, that they could not endure the heat of the sun-beams, and yet in the night it froze very hard. There was no sign of the ice breaking till the 24th, when it cracked all over the bay with a dreadful noise, and about three in the afternoon they could perceive it float with the ebb, and drive by the ship, when they found the advantage of the barricado of ice they had laid, which prevented her being dashed to pieces. The same day one of the men striking his lance down among the ice, happily struck upon the rudder, and brought it up, when others coming to his assistance it was heaved into the ship. In the mean time the ice began to rise and mount into high heaps against the shore and rocks; but in an hour's time it settled again. This was a joyful day, and all the men joined in returning thanks to God for the reviving hopes it afforded.

On the 25th, the sea was pretty clear betwixt the ship and the shore. On the 29th, being Prince *Charles's* birth-day, they kept holiday, and

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and displayed his Majesty's colours both on  
land and aboard, and named their habitation  
*Charles Town*, by contraction *Charlton*, and the  
island *Charlton Island*. On the 30th, they  
launched their boat, and passed in it to the  
ship, which was now a new employment. On  
the last day of the month they found some green  
leaves of vetches, which they boiled for the sick;  
they also prepared their sails and rigging, and  
aired their provisions, there not being a man  
able to eat any thing salt, except the captain and  
master. But the cold sometimes returned with  
great violence. However, by feeding on the  
green vetches they had so providentially discover-  
ed, the sick men gathered strength surprisingly;  
and those who had been so ill as to be unable  
to stir for two or three months, could endure  
the air and walk about the house. They ga-  
thered the leaves of the vetches soon after they  
appeared out of the ground, and having washed  
and boiled them, eat them with the oil and  
vinegar that had been frozen; and this was  
such a refreshing food, that most of the men  
eat nothing else. They also eat them raw with  
their bread, and bruised them and mixed the  
juice with their drink. By these means they  
recovered strength apace, and having pumped  
the water out of the ship, they hung on their  
rudder, heaved out all the ballast, and carry-  
ing every thing on shore, rendered the ship as  
light as possible.

On the 16th of *June* there was some thun-  
der and lightning, and the weather was so hot,  
that the men went into the ponds to swim, yet

the water was still very cool. There had lately appeared several sorts of flies, as butterflies, horse-flies, and an infinite number of musketoos, that tormented the men extremely. These the Captain supposes lie senseless in the old rotten wood all the winter, and are revived by the heat of summer. There were also a prodigious number of ants, and vast quantities of frogs in the ponds; but as they were speckled like toads, they durst not eat them; however, there were yet neither bears, foxes, nor fowl to be seen.

Having before dug the sand from the sides of the ship, and sufficiently lightened her, they took the advantage of some high tides, and got her into deep water.

On the 24th, the Captain, who had before caused a very high tree to be cut down, and a cross to be made of it, now affixed to it the pictures of King *Charles I.* and his Queen well drawn, and close wrapped in lead, so that no air could possibly hurt them, and between these affixed his Majesty's titles, *viz. CHARLES King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, also of Newfounaland, and the territories to the westward as far as Nova Albion, and to the northward to the latitude of eighty degrees, &c.* On the outside of the lead he nailed a shilling and a six-pence of King *Charles's* coin, and under it his Majesty's arms cut in lead, under which was the arms of the city of *Bristol*; and this being *Midsummer-Day*, *Capt. James* erected this cross thus ornamented, on the top of the hill where the men had buried their deceased

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*Vol. X. 1844*



*Capt. James's escape from the 'Fire'.*

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*Discovery of a North-West Passage. 191*

companions. By this ceremony he took possession of these territories for his Majesty's use.

On the 25th in the morning, the boatswain, with some of the best hands, began to rig the ship, the rest fetching the provisions and other necessaries on board. At about ten o'clock the Captain with a lance in his hand, attended by another person with a musket, went to the watch-tree, to make a fire on the highest part of the island, in expectation that if there had been any savages at sea, or in the neighbouring islands, they would have answered it by another signal, by which means he might have gone to them, and have obtained some useful intelligence. When he came to the tree he laid down his lance, as the sailor did his musket; and while he was climbing, the sailor unadvisedly set fire to some low trees that were to windward; so that the Captain had scarcely settled himself on the top of his watch-tree, when he perceived that the fire ran from tree to tree with surprising rapidity, all of them being dried by the heat of the weather; and the wind blowing towards him, he hailed down as fast as possible. But he had scarcely got half way before the fire seized on the bottom of the tree, and blazed so fiercely upwards that he was obliged to leap off: and though he made what haste he could down a steep hill, the fire followed so close at his heels, that he with difficulty escaped being burnt to death. The moss on the ground was as dry as flax, and it ran like a train along the earth. The musket

and



and the lance were both burnt. The sailor at length overtook the Captain, and expressing great joy at seeing him alive, they went home together, leaving the fire every minute increasing, and burning most furiously. The Captain slept but little that night, and at break of day ordered all the powder and beef to be carried aboard: after which he went to the hills to observe the fire, where he saw it still spreading to the westward and northward. He left a person there to watch it, and immediately returning home bid his people take down their new suit of sails from the house, and carry them to the sea-side, in order to cast them in if necessary; and at erwards pull down the buildings with all possible expedition. About noon the wind shifted to the northward, when the sentinel came running home, bringing word that the fire followed him at his heels like a train of powder. There was now no occasion to bid them pull down and carry all to the sea-side. The fire came towards them with a most terrible rattling noise, being a full mile in breadth; and by the time they had uncovered their houses, and were going to carry away the last things, it came to their town, (as they termed it) and instantly burnt it to the ground. They however lost nothing of value, having carried all into a place of security. The wind then shifted towards the east, and the fire spread to the westward, consuming all before it. That night they all lay on board the ship, where they with great solemnity re-

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*Discovery of a North-West Passage. 163*

turned thanks to heaven for their preserva-  
tion.

On the three following days they took their  
water and other things aboard. By this time  
the bay was quite clear of ice, it being all  
gone to the northward. The climate now ap-  
peared very unwholesome, for in the day-time  
the heat, being increased by the reflection of  
the sandy soil, was insupportable, yet at night  
the ponds froze an inch thick. But the great-  
est inconvenience they felt was from the sting-  
ing of the musketoes, against which there was  
no defending themselves; for though they  
made bags to put their heads in, out of an old  
flag, which they tore for that purpose, those  
troublesome insects made their way through;  
so that their faces were filled with pimples, ac-  
companied by a violent itching and smarting.

On the 1st of *July* they arose early, and the  
Captain caused the ship to be adorned in the  
best manner he was able, with the flag in the  
peep, and the King's colours in the main-top.  
He had provided a short account of all the  
events in this voyage, till that day; to which  
was added the state they were in at present,  
and how he intended to prosecute the disco-  
very; which he concluded with a request, that  
any noble-minded traveller who should take it  
down, or come to the knowledge of it, would,  
in case they should perish, make their endea-  
vours known to the King. With this paper  
they went on shore with their arms, colours,  
and drums, attended by the cook with his ket-  
tle, and marched up to the cross, near which  
the

the fire could not come, on account of its being encompassed by a bare sandy ground. There they read morning prayers, and then walked about till dinner. After which they proceeded to the highest hills, in order to see which way the fire had spread, when they observed it had extended 16 miles to the westward, and the whole breadth of the island. After evening prayers, the Captain, walking along the beach side, found a herb resembling scurvy-grass, of which he had some gathered, which being boiled with their meat for supper, they found it a most agreeable food. They had therefore no sooner supped, than they went to search for more of it, and carried off about two bushels. The sun being now set, they assembled and went up to take the last view of the graves of their deceased companions, and having fastened the above paper, which was securely wrapped up in lead, to the cross, they took their boat, and departed with a view of never more setting their foot on the island.

The soil of this and all the other islands near it, as likewise that of the main, is a light white sand, covered over with a white moss; it is full of shrubs and low bushes, except some hills and other spots that are bare: in these places the sand is driven by the wind like dust. This island was very full of trees, particularly spruce and juniper; but the biggest tree the Captain saw was only a foot and a half in diameter. They saw many foxes all the winter, and killed several, but they all went away in May. They had a view also of some other small

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*Discovery of a North-West Passage. 195*  
small beasts, and saw a few bears, but killed  
none of them. In *May* there came some fowl,  
as has already been observed, and particularly  
ducks and geese, of which they killed very few.  
They had also white partridges in small quan-  
tities.

#### C H A P. IV.

*They sail to Danby Island, to take in more Wood:  
Again set sail, and exposed to many Hard-  
ships, and the greatest Danger from Storms,  
Rocks, and Ice, till they begin to despair of  
returning. The Captain again prosecutes the  
intended Discovery; but being exposed to new  
Dangers, returns to England.*

ON the 2d of *July* they cheerfully weighed  
anchor, and stood over for *Danby Island*,  
to take in more wood, and to be ready to seize  
the first opportunity of a fair wind. The ship  
was to all appearance free from damage, and  
able to last the intended voyage: the men were  
in tolerable health, and had still left a consi-  
derable quantity of the provisions they had  
brought from *England*.

On their arrival at *Danby Island*, the Cap-  
tain and some of his people went ashore, when  
several flakes were found driven into the ground  
about a foot and a half deep. They were of  
the thickness of a man's arm, and being pull-  
ed up, were found pointed by a hatchet or  
some

some other edged tool; and by them were fire-brands half burnt. The discovery increased Mr. James's desire to speak with some of the savages, by whom he hoped to be enabled to increase his knowledge of the situation of those parts; and, perhaps, to start some commerce that might be of advantage to his country. But no inhabitants of any sort appeared.

About four in the afternoon, he returned on board in the boat, which was loaded with wood; but from the 5th to the 22d they made little way, being most dreadfully pelted and tormented with ice, and sometimes they were so blinded with the fogs, that they could not see about them, which occasioned their striking upon the ice with such violence, that the cook and others ran up to the deck, imagining the ship had been beaten to pieces: she hourly struck such blows, that the hatches were left open to afford the men frequent opportunities of examining and repairing any damage, and twenty times in a day the men would run into the hold to see if she was bulged. At other times, when they had made her fast in the night to a large piece of ice, they had such violent storms that their fastening broke, and they were beat from piece to piece in a most dreadful manner. At other times again, they were fast inclosed among great pieces of ice as high as their poop. These large pieces were formed by one piece running upon another, which made them draw eight or ten fathoms water; besides which, the lowermost would rise from underneath, and those of five, six, nay of

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*Discovery of a North-West Passage. 197.*

eight tons, strike the ship under the bulge. Among these incessant dangers, the Captain overheard the men complain, that those were happy who had been buried in the island, and that if they had a thousand pounds, they would give it to lie fairly by them, since they were destined to starve upon a piece of ice. The Captain listened to them with patience, and comforted them till he found them in a better humour.

On the 22d, after a stormy night and a thick fog in the morning, the weather cleared up, and they saw land, which they knew to be *Cape Henrietta Maria*, and instantly stood in for it. In the mean time they made a cross, to which they fastened the King's arms, and the arms of the city of *Bristol*. Coming to an anchor in six fathoms water, within a mile of the shore, they hoisted out the boat, and taking their arms and dogs landed, and upon the highest eminence erected the cross. They soon after saw several deer, but though they stole towards them, and then set on their dogs, the deer ran off at pleasure; and after having chased both themselves and the dogs, they were obliged to leave off the chase, none of the deer coming within gun-shot; when having taken half a dozen young geese on the pools by wading, they returned to their boat, vexed at being tantalized with the view of refreshments which they were unable to obtain. As these greyhounds had been very troublesome and mischievous on board the ship, the Captain caused them to be left on shore. They

were a dog and a bitch of a very good breed, and the dog had a collar about his neck, in order that he might be known by future discoverers. In this island they observed no sign of any inhabitants.

In the evening they returned on board, and stood out to sea, in order to weather the Cape: and it proving a moon-light night, they proceeded among great pieces of ice; but at length finding many of them as dangerous as rocks, they let fall an anchor, and all the men were ordered upon deck to man the poles, to each of which there was a necessity of having four men, though it often over-powered their utmost efforts, and came with violent shocks against the ship's sides. However, at break of day, they weighed and fought all ways of clearing themselves of the ice.

In extremities of this kind they laboured some weeks, giving and receiving near 500 dreadful blows in a day; sometimes using their sails, and at others having recourse to their anchors, when they could get a little open water, in order to suffer the ice to drive to leeward. At other times they were inclosed among it, when it would break and rise in such a manner as made them every moment expect to be beaten to pieces; besides they had such storms in the dark nights as broke their moorings to those large pieces to which they fastened for their security in the night.

At length the ship became so very leaky, that they were obliged to pump every half watch, upon which the Captain called a council,

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*Discovery of a North-West Passage. 197*

cil, when it being the general opinion that it was impossible to proceed on account of the ice, the Captain resolved, that when the wind blew the ice off the south shore, he would then seek to get between the ice and the land. This he knew to be a desperate resolution, all the coast being shoal and foul ground, filled with rocks and stones; but the wind turning to the south, he soon put this project in execution.

On the 1st of *August* they were again forced to struggle with the ice, and the wind being contrary, were obliged to come to an anchor near the shore, when many pieces of ice were aground in shoal water, and few of them at a greater distance from the other than a cable's length. The next day they were inclosed with extraordinary large pieces, and it being a thick fog, they made the ship fast to one of them.

On the 3d, 4th, and 5th, they were still inclosed, and it blew such a storm of wind, that endeavouring to get forward to the westward, the ship struck such heavy blows as made all the fore-part crack. Upon this they left off working, when the ice broke and rose under them, which put them in as great danger as they were in before. The ship now made a ton of water every watch, which they pumped out before they engaged in any other employment. On the fifth at noon they were in 55° latitude, at 12 leagues distance from *Cape Henrietta Maria*, which was all they had gained since the 22d of *July*. All night it blew a  
S 2 violent



violent storm at north-north-west, and about midnight, the hawser, which they had fastened to a piece of ice, broke, and they lost four fathoms of it. The ship beat all night in a most dreadful manner, being tossed from piece to piece, because the Captain durst not venture to let his men go on the ice in the dark for fear of losing them. The storm continued all the next day, and again drove them with the ice almost to the Cape.

The seventh was the most comfortable day they had enjoyed since their leaving *Charlton Island*, for the wind turned to the east, and they at length got into open water. Their dangers were however far from being over. The wind soon shifted, and a range of ice drove towards them; but though they prevented its falling foul of them, they were in a little time surrounded by it, and all their hopes of safety destroyed. They no sooner recovered from this distress than they were involved in others: shoals of ice, storms, and fogs, still seeming to conspire their destruction, till on the 19th of *August* they had passed the imminent dangers, to which they had been exposed for six weeks together from the ice.

The Captain now resumed his design of attempting the discovery of a north-west passage; and therefore looked into *Cary's Swan's nest* and *Ne plus ultra*. On the 24th he made *Nottingham Island*; but at eight in the evening it began to blow a very stiff gale, and at nine they had a violent storm, which continued all night and the next day till the evening. On the 26th

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# VOYAGE for the

north-west, and about which they had fastened, and they lost four ships beat all night in a being tossed from piece captain durst not venture ice in the dark for fear storm continued all the drove them with the ice

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## Discovery of a North-West Passage. 201

by two in the morning they were suddenly got amongst the ice, when the moon shining, they perceived it, and would have saved the ship; but it was so thick to the windward, and so near that they durst not. She therefore struck upon the ice with great violence, and in the morning they could see from the topmast head a vast quantity of it to the north, the north-west, and round by the south to the east, which filling them all with great concern, the Captain called a consultation of his officers. Upon this, they gave him their unanimous opinions in writing, that no advantage could be obtained by continuing longer in that way, in consequence of which, he ordered the pilot to steer for *England*, and they pursued their course generally blinded with fog, and heavy and frosty weather, among dispersed pieces of ice, many of which were higher than the topmast-head, and on the 30th of this month were in the narrowest part of the strait.

In the beginning of September they cleared the straits, after passing by mountains of ice of an incredible height, far exceeding any they had yet seen, and the cold so excessive, that it was with difficulty the men could take in the top and sprit-sail in an evening. On the 5th, they had a tumbling sea, the wind coming in squalls, and the ship rolling to such a degree, that they were afraid she would have brought her masts by the board; besides, her beams gaped so much, that they all lay wet, and her leaks required a constant attention to the pump. However, after this day they saw no more ice.

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202 Capt. JAMES'S VOYAGE, &c.

and having a favourable wind, came to an anchor in *Brijfel* Road on the 22d of *October*. The ship being brought into harbour, and put into a dry dock, it appeared miraculous that she had been able to perform her voyage, for she had lost 14 feet of her keel: all her cut-water, and great part of her sheathing were beaten and torn away; her bows were bruised and broken, many of her timbers cracked, and in one place the sharp rocks had cut through the sheathing, the planks, and an inch and a half into one of the timbers.

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