

the island the air saturated with moisture impinging on the steep mountain ranges causes frequent showers of snow, hail, or rain, and the clouds arrested by the hills accumulate and sink down causing mists and fogs; whilst, as is usually the case, on the eastward or lee side of the island the air is generally dry and there is but little fog.

The difference between the amount of rainfall on the weather and lee sides of Kerguelen is well illustrated by the snow on the hills, for whilst the main range (the mean height of which cannot exceed 3500 feet) is always capped with snow and ice, the leeward hills, Mount Crozier, Mount Wyville Thomson, &c. (which exceed 3000 feet), are entirely free from snow in the summer season.

The prevailing westerly wind is sometimes interrupted by northeast and north winds (N. by E. to N.W. by N. true) which blow with considerable violence, and during their continuance the sky is overcast and the weather thick and rainy, they usually follow a high barometer and fine weather. Just before they commence the barometer falls rapidly and the thermometer rises, and their duration is inversely as the rate of descent of the mercurial column. On one occasion in Betsy Cove the Challenger experienced a sudden northeast gale which only lasted three hours, the barometer falling a tenth of an inch per hour for four hours. These northeasterly and northerly winds are called by the whalers "northers," and their liability to blow occasionally at all seasons of the year should be borne in mind in selecting an anchorage, for inlets such as Cascade Reach and Accessible Bay are open to these winds; Betsy Cove is, however, protected from them.

When the wind veers to the westward or southwestward (S.W. by W. and S. by W. true) the thermometer falls and the barometer rises, whilst the sky becomes fairly clear, but there are still occasional snow squalls.

It must be borne in mind by vessels visiting or navigating in the vicinity of Kerguelen Island that strong winds are the rule and moderate or light breezes the exception, and that though clear weather prevails immediately to leeward of the group, the land is not extensive enough to cause much alteration in the general condition of the atmosphere hereabouts, which is thick and foggy. During the 68 days Ross spent in Christmas Harbour in the depth of winter, it blew a gale on 45 days, and only three days were entirely free from snow and rain. In the 26 days spent here by the Challenger in January, strong breezes or gales prevailed for 16 days; and whilst the "Volage" was at the island attending on the Transit of Venus party from the 9th October 1874 to the 27th February 1875, in October 7 days' gales were registered, in November 14, in December 16, in January 10, and in February 12.

Occasionally, but very rarely, the usual boisterous weather is interrupted by a calm, or a light easterly wind, when the sky is perfectly free from clouds, and the atmosphere is remarkably clear, every hill-top being distinctly visible; but this fine enjoyable weather seldom lasts twenty-four hours, and is quickly succeeded by a gale. No strict rule can be laid down as to the connection between the state of the weather and the height of the