

uncommon. As a rule the westerly winds bring moderately clear weather, the easterly much fog and mist. December is the finest month, and at this season of the year a fortnight's really fine weather may be sometimes experienced, but it cannot be depended on. In the winter the whole island is snow-clad, and the sealers at the settlement have to melt snow or ice to obtain water; in the summer the lower lands, protected by elevations from the descending glacier, are free from snow, but at all seasons a fall may take place at any moment. The icebergs occasionally seen in the neighbourhood are not generated by the glaciers from either Kerguelen or Heard Islands, for the sea water in the vicinity is too warm to permit the base of the glacier to remain undissolved, and consequently only small pieces of ice, comparatively speaking, can be derived from this source.

Landing at Heard Island is always difficult and frequently impracticable. Only the one boat's party above referred to landed during the Challenger's stay, the weather having become unfavourable immediately afterwards.

With reference to the direction of the wind and state of the weather, it may perhaps be as well to draw attention here to the fact that easterly winds seldom if ever blow at Kerguelen Island, but 100 miles south of it and in the neighbourhood of Heard Island they are quite common. It would appear, therefore, unadvisable for sailing vessels running down their easting to adopt a route south of Kerguelen, even supposing the chances of meeting icebergs were equal on both sides of that island, but considering the much less danger of meeting those obstructions to navigation on the northern side, there can hardly be a doubt as to which is the preferable route.

On the 7th February shortly after midnight the barometer began to fall rapidly, the wind became light, and snow fell all the middle watch. At 4 A.M. the wind shifted to the southeast, a slight swell came into Corinthian Bay, and the weather being thick and misty it was considered unadvisable to remain longer at anchor in such an exposed position, so steam having been got up the anchor was weighed at 5 A.M. and the ship proceeded towards Shag Island to ascertain its position by a patent log distance from Rogers' Head. At 7 A.M. the vessel stopped off Shag Island, being then within half a mile of it, but the weather was so thick that its outline could only just be discerned through the mist. There being little wind, a sounding and dredging were obtained here in 75 fathoms.

At 9 A.M. the ship steamed towards Red Island, which was rounded at 10.30 A.M., obtaining no bottom with 45 fathoms. The course was then altered gradually to the southward, the weather remaining thick, so that the land could not be distinguished at any distance. At noon a breeze sprang up from the northwest and sail was made to the southward, the fires being banked. At 12.15 P.M. the land was completely obscured, although the ship was but  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the coast, and nothing more was seen of it. The wind freshened quickly to a gale, so that it was necessary to reef the topsails and courses, and at 11 A.M. the ship "laid to" under triple-reefed topsails; it was then