

and had they not been seen breeding at Heard Island it might have been fancied that they used the ice for the purpose.

On the 16th, at 2 A.M., the ship again running into a quantity of brash ice, which was apparently thick from S.W. to W. by N. the vessel wore round to the northwards. At 4 A.M. a large number of icebergs were in sight; one being pyramidal in shape and of a peculiar blue colour like a turquoise; at 7 A.M. it fell calm, and the sea being smooth steam was got up in order, if possible, to effect a landing on the ice, and obtain a series of magnetic observations free from the local errors of the ship. Although the sky overhead was clouded the atmosphere was remarkably clear, so that objects 20 miles distant appeared only five or six miles off, so much so that icebergs at that distance seemed from the masthead to be a line of unbroken pack, or a large floe, but on steaming towards them always turned out to be the usual tabular bergs. Some of these were very large, at least four miles in length, but all about the height of 200 feet, and all with steep, inaccessible sides. At 10 A.M., seeing no chance of effecting a landing on the ice, the small pieces in the pack rising and falling with the swell, and the bergs being inaccessible, sail was made and the vessel stood to the southward. Although the sky overhead was covered with an impervious cloud all the forenoon, so that the position of the ship could not be ascertained by astronomical observation in the early part of the day, the sun was shining on all the distant bergs, and there were no clouds of any description near the horizon from S.W. to S.E. (true).

At 2.30 P.M., having stood 10 miles southward of the Antarctic Circle, the vessel tacked and stood to the northward. At this time there was no pack ice in sight but a large number of icebergs as far as the eye could reach, some of them certainly two or three miles in length. The clear sky to the southward was just what could have been wished had the object been to attain a very high latitude, for land of any elevation would certainly have been seen at a distance of 50 or 60 miles had it existed. The object, however, was not to attain a particularly high latitude, but merely to make observations on the temperature and depth of the sea in the vicinity of the ice, and it would have been foolish to go farther south in an unfortified ship with only six months' provisions on board. At 3.30 P.M. the sun shone out, and at 5 P.M. a double altitude was obtained which gave the position. At 2.30 P.M., when the ship tacked to the northward, the position was lat.  $66^{\circ} 40' S.$ , long.  $78^{\circ} 22' E.$  The absence of pack ice at the turning point indicated that the pack seen on the two previous days was a detached floe. A number of Penguins on small detached pieces of ice were passed during the day, and several Whales were seen. The weather was fine all day, calm in the forenoon, an easterly breeze in the afternoon, which gradually freshened; the barometer steady at 28.800 inches till noon, after which it fell; the mean temperature of the air  $29^{\circ}$ , and of the surface water  $30^{\circ} 5.$  At 8 P.M. the topsails were double reefed, and at 11 P.M. the ship hove to, the weather having become misty and snow squalls passing over.