

hove to until daylight. At 6 P.M. forty bergs were counted from the masthead. The weather continued fine during the day, with a smooth sea and a moderate east wind (true), the clouds were more detached than usual, the sun being visible at intervals during the whole day. The atmosphere rather misty, the barometer steadily falling from 28·880 to 28·515 inches, temperature of air 29°, of surface water 32°·4.

On the 20th, at 3 A.M., sail was made on the starboard tack, the easterly wind preventing the ship getting towards Wilkes' Termination Land as quickly as was desired. Numerous bergs were in sight all day, at one time sixty-nine were counted, but no pack ice was seen. At 10.30 P.M. the vessel was again obliged to heave to under topsails and jib for the night. A moderate breeze blew from the southeast all day, the sky being overcast, and the sea smooth, the barometer gradually rising from 28·533 to 28·828 inches. Temperature of the air 29°·5, and of the sea surface 32°·6. Some Penguins and Whales were seen in addition to the usual sea birds.

On the 21st the weather was calm all day, cloudy and misty in the forenoon, but

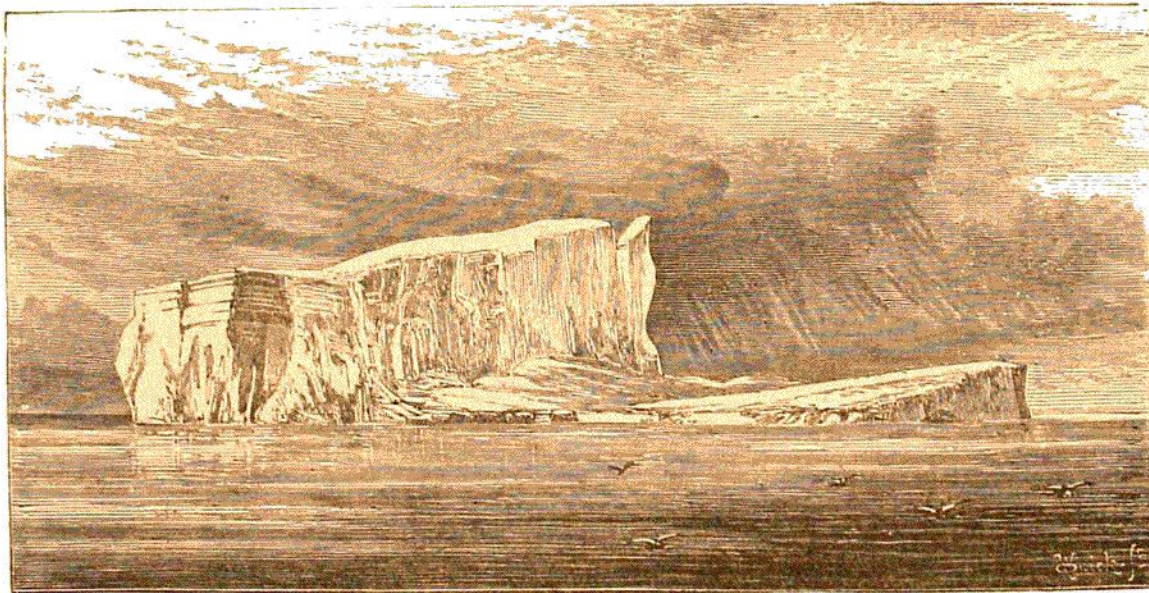


FIG. 152.—Iceberg seen 21st February 1874.

clear in the afternoon and evening. Numerous icebergs were in sight, seventy-eight being counted from the deck. At 4 P.M., the weather still remaining calm, steam was got up and the ship proceeded towards an iceberg about one mile distant; stopping close to the berg it was photographed, and afterwards the 12-pounder was fired at it. The first shot was directed at a low part of the berg about 100 feet from the ship, and striking against pure ice split off a great mass from the ice-cliff, which, tumbling into the water between the berg and the ship, created quite a commotion. The second shot was directed at the upper part of the berg about a third of the distance below the summit, which was 180 feet high, and striking against the softer part merely buried itself in the snow-cliff. The sun shining out at this time the opportunity was taken of swinging the ship to ascertain