

channel for 20 or 30 miles, whereas in the Antarctic as soon as one piece is blown to leeward its place is occupied by another; however, except in a very heavy pack, there is more chance of escaping collision with a berg in the Antarctic than in the Arctic. The temperature of the water in the pack was  $29^{\circ}$ . Ross generally registered  $28^{\circ}$ . After getting clear of the pack at 11 A.M. the ship sailed along its edge until noon, being from 10 A.M. until that time within about 15 miles of the supposed position of Wilkes' Termination Land, but neither from the deck nor masthead could any indication of it be seen. The limit of vision as logged was 12 miles, and had there been land sufficiently lofty for Wilkes to have seen it at a distance of 60 miles (which was the distance he supposed himself off it), either the clouds capping it or the land itself must have been seen. If Wilkes' distance was overestimated, that of the Challenger would be increased, and it may still be found, but as the expression in Wilkes' journal is "appearance of land was seen to the southwest, and its

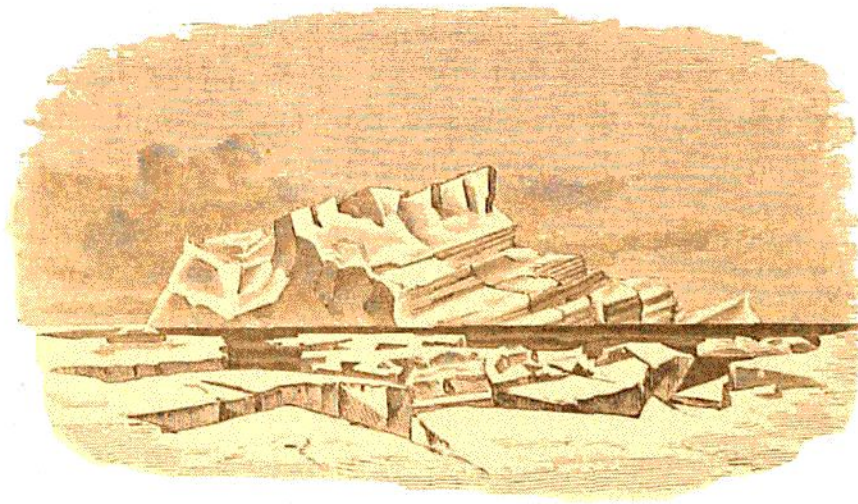


FIG. 156.—Iceberg and Pack Ice, seen 25th February 1874.

trending seemed to be to the northward," and not that land was actually sighted, and a bearing obtained, it is probable that Termination Land does not exist; still it is curious that pack ice and a large number of bergs should have been found in nearly the same position as by Wilkes in 1840, and this would seem to indicate that land cannot be very distant. At noon the northern part of the pack was reached, and it was found to trend to the southeast (true), the position being lat.  $63^{\circ} 49' S.$ , long.  $94^{\circ} 51' E.$  As no advantage was to be gained by following the pack 80 miles to the eastward, until it joined Wilkes' main pack, and as Moore, Cook, and Wilkes had seen much ice north of this position, the vessel stood to the northward with a fine southwesterly breeze.

It is a fair indication of the limit to the navigable season in the Antarctic if the dates each explorer has turned his ship's head to the northward and left the edge of the pack be compared, as in the following table:—