

reached the parallel of $71^{\circ} 30' S.$ on the 5th March 1843, where he met an impenetrable pack.

Of the other explorers Bellingshausen reached within a few miles of the 70th parallel on three occasions, viz., on the meridians of $2^{\circ} W.$, $77^{\circ} W.$, and $93^{\circ} W.$ D'Urville's highest latitude was $66^{\circ} 30' S.$ on the meridian of $140^{\circ} E.$, and Wilkes just reached the 70th parallel on the meridian of $100^{\circ} W.$ The highest latitude reached by Morrell was $70^{\circ} 14' S.$, in March 1823, on the meridian of $40^{\circ} W.$, by Foster $63^{\circ} 45' S.$ on the meridian of $62^{\circ} W.$, by Biscoe $69^{\circ} 20' S.$ on the meridian of $13^{\circ} E.$, and by Balleny $69^{\circ} S.$ in $172^{\circ} E.$

It must be borne in mind that none of the ships despatched for southern exploration were properly fortified except those of Sir James Ross, and that, therefore, they were not justified in attempting to sail through a close pack as Ross did on each occasion when he penetrated to the 78th parallel.

Nearly all the Antarctic voyagers have discovered land south of the 60th parallel. Cook, as before observed, probably met with land in $71^{\circ} S.$ $107^{\circ} W.$ Bellingshausen discovered the islands of Alexander and Peter the Great; D'Urville discovered Adelie Land; Wilkes discovered land extending from the 100th to the 160th meridian of east longitude, and between the parallels of 65° and $67^{\circ} S.$ Ross discovered Victoria Land, extending from the 70th to the 78th parallel and between the meridians of 160° and 171° east longitude. Smith and Bransfield discovered the South Shetlands, Powell the South Orkneys, Biscoe Enderby's Land, and Balleny the Balleny Islands and Sabine Land. Weddell and Morrell did not discover any land, and Foster only visited the South Shetlands for scientific experiments. Although so many of these bold navigators have seen land, and numbers of them have visited the islands immediately south of Cape Horn, viz., the South Shetlands, South Orkneys, &c., which appear to be accessible nearly every season, Ross and D'Urville are the only explorers who have actually landed on any portion of the Antarctic regions proper, that is on land south of the Antarctic Circle. Wilkes, Biscoe, and Balleny never succeeded in reaching the shore, although Wilkes could not have been far from it when in the "Vincennes" he struck soundings in 30 fathoms in Pincis Bay. Neither Ross nor D'Urville remained longer on shore than was sufficient to enable them to gather specimens of the rocks, &c., for the nature of the coast, and the numerous icebergs, precluded the possibility of the vessels anchoring, so that a quick return was necessary to avoid being separated by one of the frequent fogs or short, sharp gales that prevail in the Antarctic seas. All explorers agree in describing the Antarctic land as being icebound; sometimes a line of icy cliffs 150 to 200 feet in height runs along the coast, rendering hopeless any attempt to obtain a footing on the shore, whilst in other places a solid mass of land ice, which is not more than 5 or 6 feet above the surface, and, therefore, probably not more than 50 feet in thickness, stretches a considerable distance into the sea.