

of getting into the parallel of Heard Island and then steering east. At 10 A.M. the fog lifted and an observation was obtained. The weather remained fine during the afternoon, and the evening was quite bright and clear, which enabled the men to dry their wet clothes, the ship's sails, and decks. Unfortunately the wind was very light, so that the vessel was unable to make much progress towards the island under sail, and coal could not be afforded for steaming. At 3 P.M. no bottom was obtained at 120 fathoms, nor at 11 P.M. at 130 fathoms. During the afternoon the ship was surrounded by Penguins, uttering their discordant cry.

On the 5th, at 3.30 A.M. (daylight), sail was again made to the southward; but unfortunately, at 7 A.M., the weather became as thick as ever. As at this time the ship was on the supposed parallel of Heard Island, Captain Nares stood on to get to the southward of it before "laying to" again, trying for soundings at 7.30 A.M. with 200 fathoms of line, and at noon with 300 fathoms without success. At noon sail was shortened and the ship brought to the wind. At 1.30 P.M. the mist and drizzle broke slightly, and what was thought to be land was seen in an E. by S. direction. Towards evening the breeze died away, and at 9 P.M. a westerly wind sprang up, which freshened to a moderate gale by midnight, but also fortunately dispelled the fog.

On the 6th, at 3.40 A.M., the vessel bore up for the supposed position of Heard Island, the weather fairly clear with a westerly gale blowing. At 6 A.M., just as observations were being obtained, the M^cDonald Islands were seen through the mist bearing east, distant about 13 miles. A course was immediately shaped to pass round their northern side, in fact to circumnavigate them as nearly as the direction of the wind permitted; and the horizon being clear and the sun breaking frequently through the clouds, it was possible to fix their position accurately, as, besides other observations, a longitude was obtained when they bore south, and a latitude when they bore west, and the islands are so small that little beyond this was required.

M^cDONALD ISLANDS.

The M^cDonald Islands, 24 miles west of Cape Laurens, the northwest extremity of Heard Island, consist of two small islands, N. by E. and S. by W. (true) from each other, and an outlying sugar-loaf rock named Meyer's Rock, 1 mile N. 50° W. (true), from their north extremity; the islands are very small, and appear to be inaccessible. They were discovered by Captain M^cDonald of the British ship "Samarang," in January 1854. Captain M^cDonald also sighted Heard Island, but as it had been originally seen by the "Oriental," it bears the name of her captain.

Meyer's Rock, 450 feet high, is in lat. 53° 1' 20" S., long. 72° 30' 30" E.; the highest part of the M^cDonald Islands is a saddle hill, 630 feet high, the two peaks of which are in line on a north and south bearing. The channel between the two M^cDonald Islands