

Heard Island<sup>1</sup> (see Sheet 22), discovered by Captain Heard of the American ship "Oriental" in November 1853, is of considerable extent, being 25 miles in length, and 9 miles in width, occupying an area of 100 square miles. Its northwestern extremity (Cape Laurens) is in lat.  $53^{\circ} 2' 45''$  S., long.  $73^{\circ} 15' 30''$  E., and its southeastern in lat.  $53^{\circ} 14'$  S., long.  $73^{\circ} 52'$  E.

The summit of the island was not seen from the Challenger, but is estimated as being at least 6000 feet above the level of the sea; the mountain is called "Big Ben" by the sealers, and from it large glaciers descend, and in many places reach the sea; but, as the temperature of the surface water is above  $32^{\circ}$ , the waves dashing against the edge of the glaciers wear away the base, and so form overhanging ledges of ice, which break off by their own weight when forced sufficiently forward by the gradual descent of the glaciers. Here and there low hills, separate from the main mountain mass, offer an obstruction to the ice, and prevent its covering the land on their lower

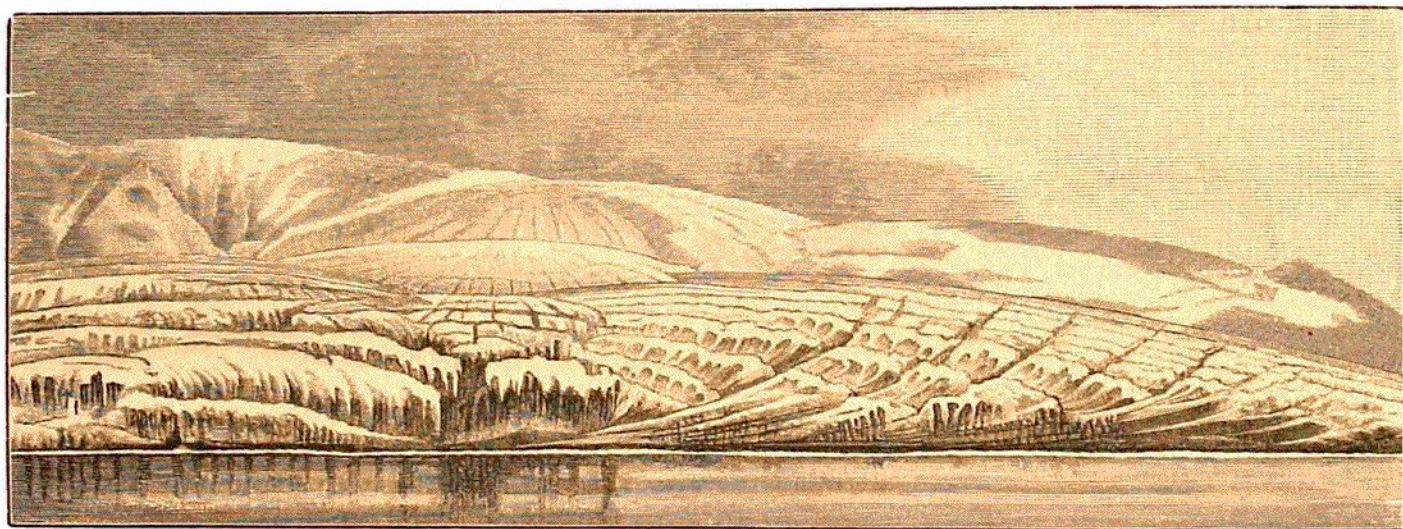


FIG. 135.—Glacier, Corinthian Bay, Heard Island, as seen from H.M.S. Challenger, 6th February 1874.

sides; such a hill blocks the glacier on the southeast side of a narrow low isthmus 5 miles from Cape Laurens.

To the southeast of the ship as she lay in the small bay at anchor was seen the succession of glaciers descending right down to the beach from this mountain, and separated by lateral moraines from one another; six of these glaciers were visible from the anchorage, forming by their terminations the coast line eastwards. They rose with a gentle slope with the usual rounded undulating surface, upwards towards the interior of the island, but their origin was hid in the mist and cloud.

One of them, that nearest to the ship, instead of abutting on the sea shore directly with its end as did the others, presented, towards its lower extremity, its side to the

<sup>1</sup> *Nautical Magazine*, vols. xxiii., xxiv., xxvii.; *Mercantile Magazine*, vols. v., xii.; *Petermann's Mittheilungen*, 1858; *Personal Observations by Members of the Expedition*.