

was necessary to extend a small rope between the two ships, to guide those who had occasion to pass from the one to the other, although it was only about 120 yards.

On *Saturday*, the 16th of *October*, was the last opportunity we had of observing the sun's meridian altitude, although he still continued to rise above our horizon for some time afterwards. On the 18th, the parties in quest of game on shore, found the deer collected together in large bodies, as if arranging matters for leaving the island, and migrating to the American continent to pass the severity of the winter: for after this time very few were ever seen. Their removal was a clear proof that the seas and channels to the southward of our station are completely frozen over. One deer was shot this day, and it has been several times remarked, that all the deer seen in this quarter seem to be travelling westward, and they always make off in that direction when pursued. Whether this ought to be considered as indicating the existence of land in that direction, in which they can exist more conveniently than here in winter, or by which they can better pass over to America, it is impossible to say: but the fact deserves notice. For some days past parties have been employed in digging moss-peat for fuel; but we find it difficult to dry it for use.

The ships have now for some time been as completely united with the ice in the harbour as if they were a part of it. Apprehensions begin to be entertained that, in the case of the ice being pushed above its present level by any change out at sea, the vessels may be exposed to danger. It has, therefore, been considered whether it would not be best to cut away the ice round the ships, to allow them to rest wholly on the water below. But even at spring tides in *WINTER HARBOUR*, (for that is the name by which we distinguish our present quarters, a circumstance I ought to have sooner mentioned) the difference between high, and low water is only a little more than 4 feet. It has also been remarked that at full tide the whole sheet of ice separates from the shore, raising and sinking the ships along with it, which, of course, are not exposed to any strain by the motion. It was also feared that the ice, by pressure on the ship's sides, might start a plank or otherwise injure them, but it may be doubted whether such lateral pressure exists. Water, we know, expands in the act of freezing; but ice, once fully formed, is subject to no more enlargement, and consequently can exert no pressure. As, however, no possible harm could result from cutting away the ice adhering to the ships, the crews were employed for two days in the operation; for the ice was within a trifle of 2 feet in thickness: this is to be repeated every day.

We are now and then visited by a wolf, or a white fox; but