

bounded to the westward for 5 or 6 leagues, the view to the eastward intercepted by other high grounds. The fog which covered the plain being opened up by the wind we discovered a rocky island in the middle. Coming to a ravine which terminated at the frozen plain we found it of very difficult access. The sides which were exceedingly steep were covered with blocks of sandstone of all sizes, and yet over them we found that we must certainly descend to the bottom. This was attempted; but in a pass which the best-constructed carriage could not long stand, it is no wonder if our awkward cart soon gave way; and when it was got about half way down the bank, all at once our axle-tree broke over in the middle. The baggage was therefore unloaded and carried down to the bottom, where we encamped a little before noon, in north latitude $75^{\circ} 12' 50''$, and in west longitude by chronometer $111^{\circ} 50' 05''$. The variation of the magnetic needle $125^{\circ} 12' 22''$ easterly. The wind being high from NNW, and the weather cold and raw, a wall was built to windward of the tents, to supply the place of our unfortunate cart, which, when tilted, used to afford tolerable shelter. The whole party being a good deal fatigued, the halt was lengthened till near midnight, and then all were employed in dividing and sorting the baggage, so as to carry it on during the remainder of the journey. When this arrangement was made, in which every one, officer and man, was to carry his fair proportion, and which every person excepting one, certainly not the chief person of the party, most cheerfully undertook to carry, it was happily discovered that the loss of the cart was not much to be regretted. The ground was so swampy, and wet or rugged, that it would have been almost impracticable to drag it forward, and our progress must of course have been greatly retarded.

Monday 12th, part of the light frame of the cart being employed as fuel, we cooked our grouse and supped with a delight which can be conceived by those only who have experienced what it is to have a warm meal after so long exposure to cold and wet, with no other comfort than preserved meats in what might be called a frozen state. Proceeding eastward along the shore to a point advancing into the bay, the rocks overhanging the beach, consisting of the usual sand-stone, were so shattered and steep as to have more the appearance of ruined buildings than of natural cliffs. The adjoining cove, called after Mr. Bushnan, midshipman of the Hecla, was undoubtedly the most pleasant and habitable spot met with in all our voyage in the arctic regions. It is sheltered from the bitterest winds, and well situated for game. Grass, moss, dwarf-willow, and saxifrage are more plentiful than in any other place we had seen in the island, and a ranunculus was met with in full flower.