

presumption. I now therefore return to the details of our proceedings during the month just elapsed.

My last letter stated that having taken on board all the instruments employed on shore, for astronomical or other purposes, and the ice being sufficiently open, at one P. M. of *Tuesday 1st August*, we weighed anchor and stood out of Winter Harbour. We entered it on *Friday*, the 24th of *September* last year: we consequently passed in that desolate and dreary station upwards of ten long months. Our proper discovery-voyage was of still longer duration; for the very day of our deliverance from imprisonment in Melville Island was the anniversary of our passing from Baffin's Bay into Sir James Lancaster's Sound, of which little more than the entrance had been formerly explored.

Having cleared the points of Winter Harbour and the ice-hummocks off Cape Hearne, in $6\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms of water, we had the gratification to observe the coast of Melville Island to the south-westward, the direction of our course, much clearer of ice than had been expected, and than it was a month later when we were here last year. The late winds off the land from W. and NW. had driven the ice four or five miles out from the shore; and the small fragments floating in the channel were not of such a size or weight as to give much interruption to our navigation; for the fair-way was in breadth from 1 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles, as far as could be discovered to the westward from the mast-head. On rounding Cape Hearne the wind drew more to the westward than in Winter Harbour, which, with the necessary operations to keep clear of floating ice, rendered our navigation slow and tedious. We had also to contend with a current or tide to the eastward, which, as it stopped about 7 P. M. was supposed to be the flood-tide; for high-water in Winter-Harbour would be about $7\frac{1}{2}$ P. M.

During our preparations for sea on board the *Griper*, the commander adopted and introduced every improvement which was practicable, to correct the known defects of the ship in sailing. But the original defects in her construction and rigging were, in our circumstances, incurable. The consequence was that, when we got out of the harbour, she sailed and worked in some respects worse than before, although we had a fine working breeze and smooth water, just the situation in which she used to make the best way. From this it happened that at midnight the *Hecla*, which had got eight miles to the westward of us was obliged to ly-to; for the weather becoming hazy and the open channel wider than before, there was danger of our parting company. At three A. M. of the 2d, having joined the *Hecla*, both proceeded to the westward. In the morning our commander received a letter from Captain Parry, desiring to have a particular account of the state of the *Griper*, that if found incurable, the ship's company, provisions,