

derived. Although Cook and Ross afterwards visited here, and added certain information, still the chart is very vague, except in the delineation of the east side of the island, which is very much cut up by fiords, forming a chain of magnificent, well-sheltered harbours. It is thirty years ago that Ross anchored his vessels, the *Erebus* and *Terror*, in Christmas Harbour, which he describes as being nearly a mile wide at its entrance, between Cape François on the north, and Arch Point on the south, on which side is a small bay, that increases the breadth for nearly half the depth of the inlet, when it suddenly contracts to less than one-third of a mile, and thence gradually diminishes to the head of the bay, which terminates in a level beach of dark sand, extending across for a distance of 1200 feet. Here we pitched our magnetic tent for observation. The shores on each side are steep, and rise in a succession of terraces to the height of more than 1000 feet; the highest hill being on the north side, which attains an elevation of 1350 feet, and from its form received the name of Table Mountain. * * * The weather being favourable, it was determined to make a running survey of the west coast.

Jan. 8th.—Steamed out of Christmas Harbour, on a course S.S.E., along the coast, surveying and sounding as we go. The land is made up of rough sterile rocks; the shore indented with bays and rivulets. The vegetation that exists is composed of