

Balleny Islands and Enderby Land; but this region of vast mountains has such a barrier of impenetrable ice encircling the Pole that there appears but little probability of ever penetrating. The supposed existence of this continent was, to a certain extent, proved to be erroneous by Sir James C. Ross's expedition the following year sailing over two of the positions assigned to it. For another point of this continent (?) we are now shaping a course.

*Feb. 18th.*—The coldest weather yet experienced; temperature of air down to  $23\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ . All the forenoon, we sail through vast fields of ice, and large numbers of bergs are in sight in all directions. Some of these great perpendicular masses overtopped our mast-heads by many feet. In many places, where there happened to be a break, we could see the upper surface, which appeared quite smooth, and conveyed to the mind the idea of an immense plain of frosted silver. Following in our track were great numbers of sea-birds—albatrosses, petrels, Cape pigeons, terns, night hawks, &c. As the day advanced, we rounded the northern extremity of the pack, and stood east, intending to run on this course for about 250 miles. During the evening a beautiful view was had of the Aurora Australis extending across the zenith, of a bright yellow colour, its edges tinged with purple, exhibiting at times vivid flashes of a bright pink colour. A strong light appeared behind the dark cloud, and afterwards pink yellow, and green