



The discovery of the North-west passage

Robert John Le Mesurier McClure

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This historic book may have numerous typos, missing text or index. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. 1857. Not illustrated. Excerpt: ... APPENDIX. 409 NARRATIVE OF COMMANDER MAGUIRE, WINTERING AT POINT BARROW. In accordance with my last communication, I proceeded to sea from Port Clarence on the morning of the 21st of August, and with a favourable breeze passed through Behring's Straits by the eastern passage, on the following day at noon. A succession of contrary winds delayed our progress to the N. E. to a much greater extent than was considered favourable to ensure our complete success of rounding Point Barrow, at that advanced period of the season. In our passage to the northward we passed several whale ships cruising in squadrons, a caution they seem to have prudently adopted, for the benefit of affording mutual assistance in the event of disaster. Their success up to that time seemed to be indifferent; and we have been since informed by natives from Point Hope that whales have become very scarce on the coast, since the ships have come in pursuit of them. The last whale ship (French) seen by us, was on the morning of the 25th of August, in lat. 69° 30' N., long. 167° 43' W., carrying all sail to the southward. We soon afterwards made the ice in heavy floes, and tacked inshore to ascertain its distance from the land, when we found the contrary winds had done us good service by opening a free passage of from ten to fifteen miles, in which we beat to the N. E., making but slow progress until the night of the 2nd of September, when a slant from the southward, with a fast-falling barometer, warned us that a change of weather was at hand. Our distance from Point Barrow, now reduced to fifty miles, I thought we could accomplish before the ice set inshore, and therefore pushed forward under all sail and rounded it at the distance of one mile, on the following day at noon, September 3rd. T...

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