

passed at 4 P.M. in a rain squall, and the ship then steamed into Accessible Bay, looking for Betsy Cove, which was entered at 6 P.M. The cove looked very small, but letting go an anchor in 9 fathoms in the middle of the entrance, with the east cliff of Elizabeth Head shut in behind the northeast point of the harbour, and veering three shackles of cable the ship just swung clear of the kelp that lines the shore, the stern being in 6 fathoms.

On the 9th, early in the morning, the boom boats were got out, and at 8 A.M. the surveying and exploring parties left the ship. The weather was cloudy and unfavourable, and on the tops of the hills the wind was fresh and very cold; no astronomical observations could be obtained, but angles were taken from Elizabeth Head, Mount Campbell, Cape Anne, and a flat-topped hill inshore; the distant peaks were, however, clouded over all day.

On the 10th January the weather was much more favourable, and equal altitudes and circummeridians were obtained at Elizabeth Head. A base was measured by sound between the Rocks of Despair and the observing station, and angles obtained at several prominent points. Table Mountain was not seen from Mount Campbell, as the weather was misty, but the high ranges to the southward culminating in Mount Wyville Thomson could be distinguished, as well as the glacier on Mount Richards to the westward.

Sunday the 11th was a beautiful, bright, sunny day, with a light breeze, more like a May day in England than the foggy weather of the Southern Ocean. The ship's company were allowed a run on shore to stretch their legs for the first time since leaving the Cape, and the number of ducks shot by the officers and naturalists was sufficient to provide for all hands.

On the 12th, at 4 A.M., the barometer, which had been high and gradually falling, began to do so rapidly, going down 0.25 inch between 4 and 6 A.M. At this time, although the weather was gloomy and foggy, with drizzling rain, there was but little wind, but shortly after 6 A.M. a sudden squall from N.E. came down, swinging the ship across the cove, and sending a nasty swell into Accessible Bay. The cove was too narrow to allow more than the three shackles of cable that were out to be veered, so that it was necessary to lay a hawser out to the north shore, and let go the second anchor under foot as a precaution. Had the anchor dragged or the cable parted, the ship would certainly have grounded, as the cove was so small that the stern was but a few feet from the coast; fortunately, the holding ground was good, and the wind shifted gradually to the westward and cleared up by 10 A.M., when in order to swing in less room the vessel was moored. This would have been done before had a breeze from the northeast been expected, but as strong winds were only expected from the westward, and seeing there was plenty of room with westerly winds, it was considered superfluous to do so until experience taught the necessity of taking this precaution. The weather in the afternoon was sufficiently fine to allow the survey to be proceeded with, and at 6 P.M. there was not a cloud in the sky. The barometer continued falling till 9 A.M., after which it again rose, but slowly.