

56th degree of latitude; there still remained to us a long distance to make, on a sea which is dangerous because of the icebergs that are usually found in it, amid which it was necessary to force our way as far as the 63rd degree.

On the 28th, about eight o'clock in the evening, a slight east wind arose—which, striking us from the stern, caused us to make a good run during the two or three days that it lasted. On the 31st the wind changed a little, without, however, ceasing to be favorable to us; but it brought us a heavy fog that prevented our seeing the shore, which we believed to be not far distant, and to which in reality we were quite near. Toward noon the weather cleared, and we easily saw the coast, bordered with a great number of rocks that are called “sugar-loaves,” because they have that form; they were all still covered with snow. About evening, we saw the entrance of the strait that must be passed through in order to reach *Hudson's bay*.

This strait, which is called *North channel* or *strait*, is very difficult of access on account of the ice—which is continually coming from the cold regions, and which rushes into the open sea through this channel. The shores of the strait generally run *West-Northwest* and *East-Southeast*. At the beginning and at the end of the strait there are islands, lying on the *South* coast. The islands that are found at the entrance of the strait in the direction of Europe are called *Iles Boutons* [Button's Islands]; they are at about the 60th degree and some minutes. Those which are at the other extremity of the same strait are called *Iles Digues* [Diggs Islands]; they are at about the 63rd degree. Besides these, there are