

the shore, or, sometimes, only rest upon the shallows, their blocks accumulate in belts parallel to the face of the cliffs, intersected by a few narrow and sinuous channels. These icy cliffs are the more worn and broken up as they are the more remote from their original cradle; a circumstance which enables the seaman to judge approximatively of the distance of the ice-fields. The blocks of ice form, in the first place, huge prisms, or tabular masses, regular in form, and of a dull white colour; but by degrees they wear away, split up, are rounded or divided by the action of the waves which bear them onwards; their colour grows more transparent, and of a purer white. Then they float freely in a northerly direction, at the mercy of the winds and currents. From year to year they accumulate, but under different conditions, so that it is only a fortunate chance which clears a free passage among them, such as Weddell discovered. They have been discovered as high as 35° south latitude, and in the parallel of Cape Horn.

The two French vessels found themselves several times entangled in the ice collected by a northerly wind; and before they could effect their escape were compelled to wait the return of southerly breezes, which dispersed the enormous masses. In not a few instances, Dumont d'Urville was compelled to drive his ship against the ice-field that imprisoned it, and to open up by sheer force a passage, using his corvette as a battering-ram.

In 1838 he discovered, to the south of the Orkney Islands, a coast-line of about fifty leagues in length, which he named Louis Philippe Land and Joinville Land. It was crowned by enormous glaciers, which towered to an elevation of 2700 feet. Ross afterwards discovered here some very lofty peaks, such as Mount Penny and Mount Haddington, 7200 feet; he also ascertained that the supposed mainland was only a large island.

D'Urville's crew being much fatigued and stricken with disease, he returned to Valparaiso; resuming his explorations in the beginning of the following year (January 1839).

This time he advanced from a diametrically opposite point. He