

soon found himself in the midst of the ice, under the Antarctic Circle, and discovered Adelia Land (*la Terre Adélie*). Its long line of lofty cliff was surrounded by a belt of numerous threatening islands of ice. Dumont d'Urville, without hesitation, pushed forward into the perilous labyrinth, where, at times, his ships were so enclosed by icebergs, that he incessantly dreaded a terrible and fatal shock. Around these floating reefs the sea raged in formidable breakers, which would have instantly capsized any vessel drawn within their violence. It

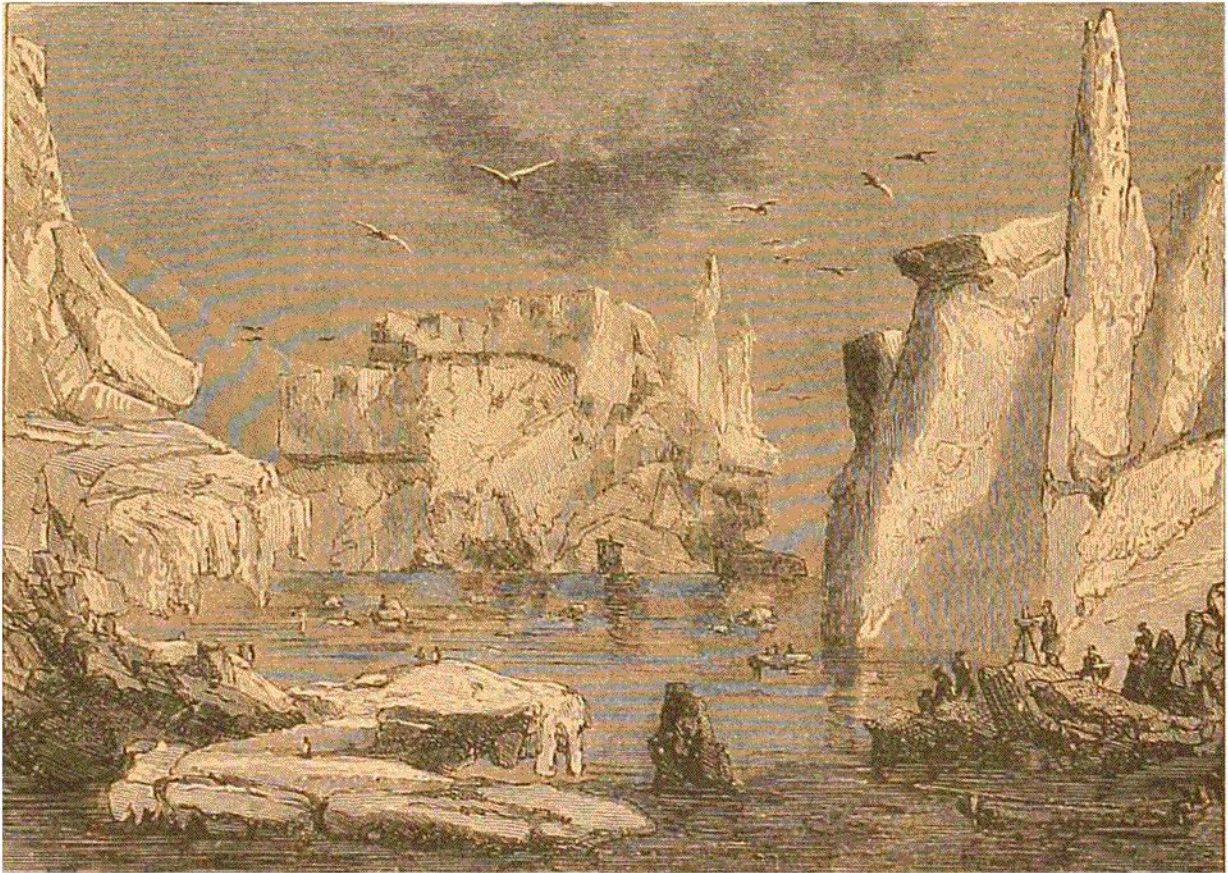


FIG. 243.—DISCOVERY OF LA TERRE ADÉLIE BY DUMONT D'URVILLE, IN 1839.

was in passing below the icy cliffs he was enabled to judge of their altitude.

They rose high above our masts, he says, and impended over our barks, whose dimensions seemed ridiculously dwarfed by the contrast. They might, in truth, have been taken for narrow streets in a city of giants. At their foot yawned tremendous caverns, excavated by the waves which raged within them thunderously. On the immense walls of ice, which shone like crystals, the sun darted its oblique rays, producing truly magical and enchanting effects of light and