

detached icebergs often reach a great size, and are characterized by the frequency of a flat tabular form (Fig. 166).

II. Geological Work.—(1) Influence on Climate.—Were there no agencies in nature for distributing temperature, there would be a regular and uniform diminution in the mean annual temperature from equator to poles, and the *isothermal* lines, or lines of equal heat, would coincide with lines of latitude. But no such general correspondence actually exists. A chart of the globe, with the isothermal lines drawn across it, shows that their divergences from

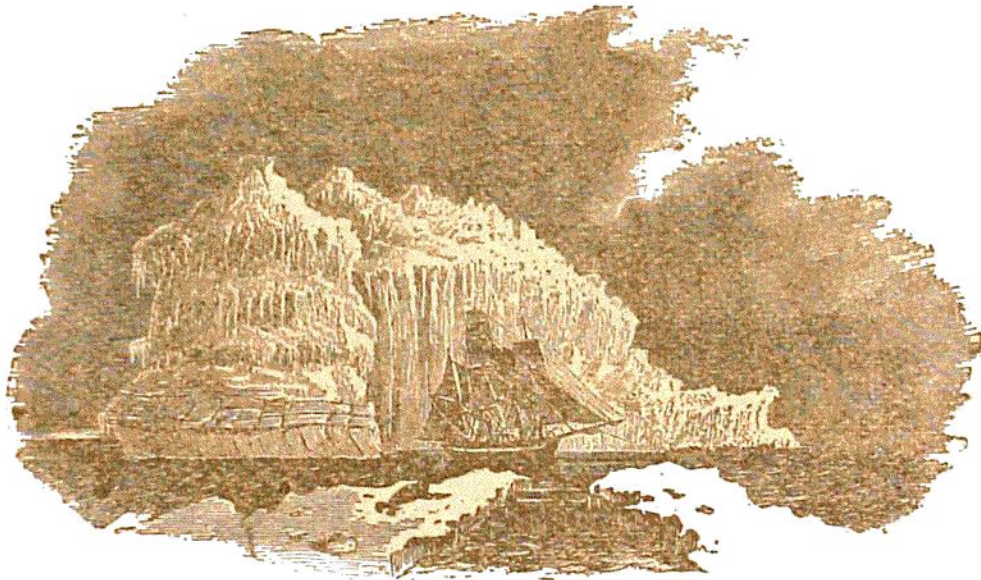


Fig. 165.—Arctic Iceberg seen on Parry's first voyage.

the parallels are striking, and most so where they approach and cross the ocean. Currents from warm regions raise the temperature of the tracts into which they flow; those from cold regions lower it. The ocean, in short, is the great distributor of temperature over the globe.

As an illustration, the two opposite sides of the North Atlantic may be taken. The cold Arctic current, flowing southward along the northeast coast of America, reduces the mean annual temperature of that region. On the other hand, the Gulf Stream brings to the shores of the northwest of Europe a temperature much above what they would otherwise enjoy. Dublin and the southeastern headlands