chapter 6

# ‘FARTHER SOUTH THAN ANY (KNOWN) HUMAN BEING HAS BEEN’

# 无人抵达的南方

As human contact receded astern, squally rain lashed the ship and a helpful breeze propelled her south. It had been nearly fourteen months since the officers and crew of HMS *Erebus* had left London, and although the voyage had been eventful and often dangerous, they had at least been in well-charted waters where, no matter how remote, someone had been before them. Soon they would be going beyond the known, into a part of the world for which there were no maps.

一阵狂风暴雨拍打着船身，并推动着船向南方驶去，而人类文明的痕迹也逐渐地消失在身后。距离*厄瑞玻斯号*船上的军官和船员离开伦敦已经过去了将近14个月，尽管之前的航行充满了危险，但至少他们经过的水域有明晰的海图上，哪怕再遥远也都是已经有人到达过的地方。而如今，他们将走出已知的区域，踏入一片地图尚未有记载的地方。

The routine of life at sea was re-established. There were sails to be rigged and decks to be scrubbed, food to be prepared and watches to be maintained, but although it may have looked like business as usual, Surgeon McCormick certainly sensed that these were far from normal times. A greater destiny lay ahead of them. ‘Our future for the next few months,’ he wrote in his journal, ‘is so exceptionally novel, so full of interest, so promising in the prospective of great discoveries in a region of our globe, fresh and new as it was at creation’s first dawn.’ What Ross would have made of this kind of talk around the captain’s table is not known. Heroics and high emotions were not for him. His mind would have been concentrated on the practicalities.

甲板上的生活又恢复了往日的常态。大伙们依旧还是有船帆需要操纵，有甲板需要清洗，有食物需要准备，有手表需要保养，尽管看起来船上一切如常，但McCormick医生还是很明显地感觉到，现在已经进入了特殊时期。他们即将背负起更伟大的使命。他在日记中写道：“未来的几个月，我们的旅程将会是充满新奇和趣味的，我们很有可能在地球上的某个区域的探索过程中有重大发现，这就像创世后的第一次黎明一样令人感到新奇。”我们不知道Ross在船长餐桌会谈时面对这种言论会作何反应。但他既不是那种感情用事的人，也不会逞能做英雄，大概他的心思会聚焦在一些更实际的问题上吧。

And particularly the consummation of what one historian has called the ‘Magnetic Crusade’. A few hundred miles south, a lifetime’s ambition lay waiting to be realised. If all went well, James Ross would complete a most extraordinary feat: planting a British flag at the South Magnetic Pole as he had done at the North Magnetic Pole ten years earlier. This, he felt convinced, was his destiny.

尤其是抵达极点，这一行为被某位历史学家称为“地磁界的十字军东征”。而就在此处往南几百英里的地方，就有一个值得人们用一生去追逐的梦想等待着被实现。如果一切顺利，James Ross将完成这一项非凡的壮举：正如十年前他在北极所做的那样——在南极点插上英国国旗。而他确信，这就是他的命运。

Around 50°S, Australasia peters out in a chain of small uninhabited volcanic islands. The Aucklands had been discovered in 1806 by a whaler, Abraham Bristow, who had been working for the Enderbys, a whaling family whose ships were mapping the Southern Ocean long before Barrow and the Admiralty made Antarctic exploration into official business. Now, on 20 November 1840, they were the first port of call for *Erebus* and *Terror* on this new leg of their journey.

大约从南纬50°左右开始，大洋洲就开始逐渐消失了，取而代之的是一连串无人居住的火山岛屿。奥克兰群岛是在1806年被一个名叫Abraham Bristow的捕鲸人发现的，这位捕鲸人一直为恩德比家族工作。而恩德比家族是一个捕鲸家族，早在Barrow和海军部把南极探险作为政府公务的很久以前，这个家族的船只就已经在着手绘制南大洋的地图了。而现在，也就是1840年11月20日的时候，这里成为了*厄瑞玻斯号*和*恐怖号*在开始这段新旅程中的第一个停靠港。

Landing was a nightmare, and it took Ross and the master five hours of fighting fierce winds to gain the harbour – known, deceptively, as ‘Sarah’s Bosom’. The first things Ross noticed on the windswept beach were two poles with boards nailed to them. He took a boat through the crashing surf to investigate.

着陆的过程是一场噩梦般的存在，Ross船长在经历了与狂风五个小时的搏斗后，才最终抵达港口。在大风吹过的海滩上，两根钉着木板的杆子率先引起了Ross的注意。随即他乘船穿过汹涌的海浪前去调查。

One of the boards bore details of a recent visit to the island by Dumont d’Urville, the last sentence of which must have stuck in Ross’s craw: ‘*Du 19 Janvier au 1 Février 1840, découverte de la Terre Adélie et détermination du pôle magnetique Austral!*’ (from 19 January to 1 February 1840, discovery of Adélie Land and determining of the South Magnetic Pole). Ross, of course, knew by now that d’Urville had not in fact reached the South Magnetic Pole, but this reminder that the Frenchman might so easily have beaten him must have raised a shudder. To add insult to injury, the second board bore the message that one of the ships involved in Wilkes’s expedition, the US brig *Porpoise*, commanded by a Lieutenant Ringgold, had also been here ‘on her return from an exploring cruise along the Antarctic circle’. There was even a bottle with a message in it, to the effect that *Porpoise* had coasted along the ice-barrier. The only comfort Ross could draw from it all was that there was no mention of Wilkes, or his claim to have discovered an Antarctic continent.

木板的其中一块上写着Dumont d'Urville最近访问该岛的细节，其中最后一句话一定让Ross记忆犹新：“*Du 19 Janvier au 1 Février 1840, découverte de la Terre Adélie et détermination du pôle magnetique Austral!*” (1840年1月19日至2月1日，发现阿德利之地并测定南磁极点)。此刻的Ross当然已经明白d’Urville其实并没有到达南磁极，但这也警醒着他，法国人本可能轻而易举地击败他，这一点让他感到不寒而栗。更加雪上加霜的是，第二块木板上留下了来自Wilkes的探险队中的其中一艘船——由Ringgold中尉带领的美国双桅帆船*海豚号*——的一段话，“已经从南极圈探险巡航归来”。甚至还有一个瓶子，里面的内容大意是*海豚号*已经在沿着冰障航行了。而唯一令Ross感到安慰的是，里面没有提到Wilkes，也没有提到他已经发现南极大陆的说法。

With these slights absorbed, the by now well-practised ritual of landfall took place. All hands were called upon to clear trees and dig foundations for the construction of an observatory. While this was going on, the terminally curious McCormick took the opportunity to explore the island. He noted that ‘throughout this excursion I met with scarcely any signs of animal life’. But when he did, of course, he put a gun to it, bagging a shag, a black-backed gull and ‘a fine falcon’ before he returned to the ship.

稍微消化了一下这些信息后，大伙就又开始熟门熟路地进行登陆的准备。所有人都需要去清理树木，并为建造观测台挖地基。与此同时，好奇心旺盛的McCormick趁机探索了这座岛屿。他的记录中指出，“在整个探索过程中，我几乎没有遇到任何动物生命的迹象”。当然，当他遇到的时候，他就会用枪瞄向它，最终在回到船上之前，他捕获了一只长毛鸥、一只黑背鸥和“一只漂亮的隼”。

Hooker, meanwhile, was having a wonderful time. Far south though they were, the climate here was a mild and humid one, where mosses, lichens and ferns grew large and luxurious. Before they left the Auckland Isles, eighty species of flowering plants had been discovered, more than fifty of which had never been classified before. ‘The whole land seemed covered with vegetation,’ Hooker enthused. Captain Ross seemed equally taken with the botanical profusion, noting how fortunate it was that the medical officers had no sick to attend to and could spend their time collecting. He registered wholehearted approval when Hooker brought a 4-foot tree-fern onto an alreadycrowded ship.

与此同时，Hooker也在过得乐不思蜀的。虽然他们身处遥远的南方，但这里的气候温和湿润，苔藓、地衣和蕨类植物都生长得十分高大而繁茂。在他们离开奥克兰群岛之前，总共发现了八十种开花植物，其中有五十多种是以前从未遇见过的。“整片土地都似乎被植被覆盖住了，” Hooker对此感到十分兴奋。而Ross船长似乎也对如此丰富的植物十分感兴趣，他在笔记中提到，正巧赶上医务人员没有病人需要照顾，可以时间充分地进行收集，这真是莫大的机遇。当Hooker把一棵4英尺高的树蕨带到已经拥挤不堪的船上时，他表示十分地赞同这一点。

Ross was attracted by the islands for other reasons, too, seeing in them great potential for an enormous penal settlement. Convicts from the now-free colonies of New South Wales, New Zealand and Van Diemen’s Land could all be accommodated here. He would get in touch with Franklin about it. There were also rich stocks of black and sperm whales around the islands, which he felt could be commercially exploited, and he was pleased to hear later that Charles Enderby’s whaling business had applied for permission to do just that.

Ross被这些岛屿吸引其实还有其他原因，他认为这些岛屿还蕴藏有巨大的潜力，可以用来作为罪犯流浪地。新南威尔士、新西兰和范迪门斯之地等自由殖民地上的犯人都可以安置在这里。他打算和Franklin联系这件事的。群岛周围还有大量的黑鲸和抹香鲸，他觉得可以对此进行商业开发。后来他很高兴地听说，Charles Enderby的捕鲸公司已经申请到了开发许可。

Nowadays our inclination would be to leave the natural beauty of such islands untouched, but the motive of Ross, and those who commissioned his expedition, was to expand and improve and enlighten.

如今的我们会极力避免改造这些岛屿上的自然美景，但Ross和委托他远征的人的动机是为了发展、改善和启蒙。

What we might now see as shameless exploitation, they saw as bringing, wherever possible, the benefits of science to a savage and benighted world. McCormick shot birds so that he could better understand them. Ross, like Abraham Bristow before him, decided to leave livestock on Auckland Island, because he felt it was his duty to those who would inevitably come after him to begin the process of cultivating wild places, and to continue the process of spreading Western values across the globe. Pigs, chickens, goats and rabbits were accordingly offloaded from the ship, along with some strawberry and gooseberry bushes that Franklin had given Ross in Hobart. Today most of the descendants of the livestock have either died out or been removed, and Auckland Island remains uninhabited. Ironically, in view of McCormick’s activities, it is now a bird sanctuary.

我们现在可能会认为这是一种无耻的剥削行径，但他们认为需要尽可能地把科学的好处带给这个野蛮而仁慈的世界。 就像McCormick射杀鸟类，也是为了更好地了解它们。Ross和之前的Abraham Bristow所做的一样，都决定留一些牲畜在奥克兰岛上，因为他觉得为了必然存在的后来者们，自己有责任进行荒地的开垦，并持续在全球范围内传播西方价值观。各种猪、鸡、山羊和兔子也都相应地从船上卸下，此外还有在霍巴特镇时Franklin送给Ross的一些草莓和鹅莓。如今，这些牲畜的后代大多已经消亡或被迁走，而奥克兰岛上仍然常年无人居住。颇具讽刺意味的是，考虑到McCormick的种种行径，这里现在变成了一个鸟类保护区。

With the magnetic observations completed, *Erebus* and *Terror* weighed anchor and headed 160 miles south-east to Campbell Island. It was another promising anchorage, with a large, deep-water harbour and plentiful supplies of wood and water, but for the first time since the embarrassment of that initial day at Sheerness, both *Erebus* and *Terror* ran aground, misjudging a muddy shoal near the harbour entrance. Those aboard *Erebus* warped her free by hitching ropes to the trees onshore, but *Terror* was left high and dry, and her crew spent the night pumping fresh water out of her tanks and unloading stores, so that she could be lifted off at high water the next morning.

随着观测任务的完成，*厄瑞玻斯号*和*恐怖号*再次起锚，向东南方向160英里的坎贝尔岛进发。那里是另一处很有潜力的锚地，周边有一片宽阔的深水港，还有充足的木材和水资源。但是仅仅第一天就发生了一件尴尬的事情，*厄瑞玻斯号*和*恐怖号*都因为误判，而搁浅在了港口入口处附近的一处泥泞浅滩。*厄瑞玻斯号*船上的船员们将绳子系在岸边的树木上，然后把船拖了出来，但*恐怖号*却被抛在了一边。她的船员们花了一晚上的时间抽出水箱里的淡水，并且卸下货物，以便在第二天早晨涨潮时船能浮起来。

Whilst Ross measured the rise and fall of the tides, McCormick marvelled at the sheer number of nesting albatrosses on the island, ‘their beautiful white necks seen above the grass . . . studding the hills in all directions’. He found only one egg per nest, several of which he took out and back to the boat. He was pleased with himself for despatching three Arctic skua, the albatross’s foe, as he called them, but next day several of them fought back and ‘fiercely attacked me, circling round my head and darting with open beak at my face’. From the deck of the re-floated *Terror*, Sergeant Cunningham marvelled at the sight of thousands of penguins ‘ranged along [the beach] like soldiers’. There were plants in abundance, too: with the help of Captain Ross, Hooker collected more than 200 species in the two days they were there. It was as if the natural world was putting on one last bravura display of profusion and fecundity. On 8 May 2018, Campbell Island witnessed a bravura display of a different kind, when the tallest wave ever recorded in the southern hemisphere broke onto her beaches. It was measured at 78 feet high.

当Ross测量潮汐的涨落时，McCormick也对岛上筑巢的信天翁的数量之多感到十分惊奇，“在这周围连绵不断的山丘间……它们美丽的白色脖颈在草地上随处可见”。他发现每个巢都只有一颗蛋，他还拿走了几颗蛋带回了船上。他自娱自乐地干掉了三只北极贼鸥，他称呼它们为“信天翁克星”，但第二天，就有几只贼鸥就进行了反击，“它们凶猛地攻击了我，在我的头上盘旋，甚至张开嘴向着我的脸猛扑过来”。 回到重新浮起来的*恐惧号*甲板上，Cunningham中士惊奇地看到成千上万只企鹅“像士兵一样排列在海滩上”。这里的植物种类也很丰富：在Ross船长的帮助下，Hooker在两天内就收集了200多种植物。仿佛是大自然世界在最后一次地展示它的富饶与生生不息。2018年5月8日，坎贝尔岛见证了一场别具一格的壮观表演，当时她的海滩受到了南半球有记录以来最高的一次海浪冲击。据测量表明，那次的海浪足足有78英尺高。

At nine o’clock on the morning of 17 December, anchors were weighed and the sails were set. A fresh wind became a gale and Campbell Island, their final landfall before the Antarctic, had vanished from sight by midday.

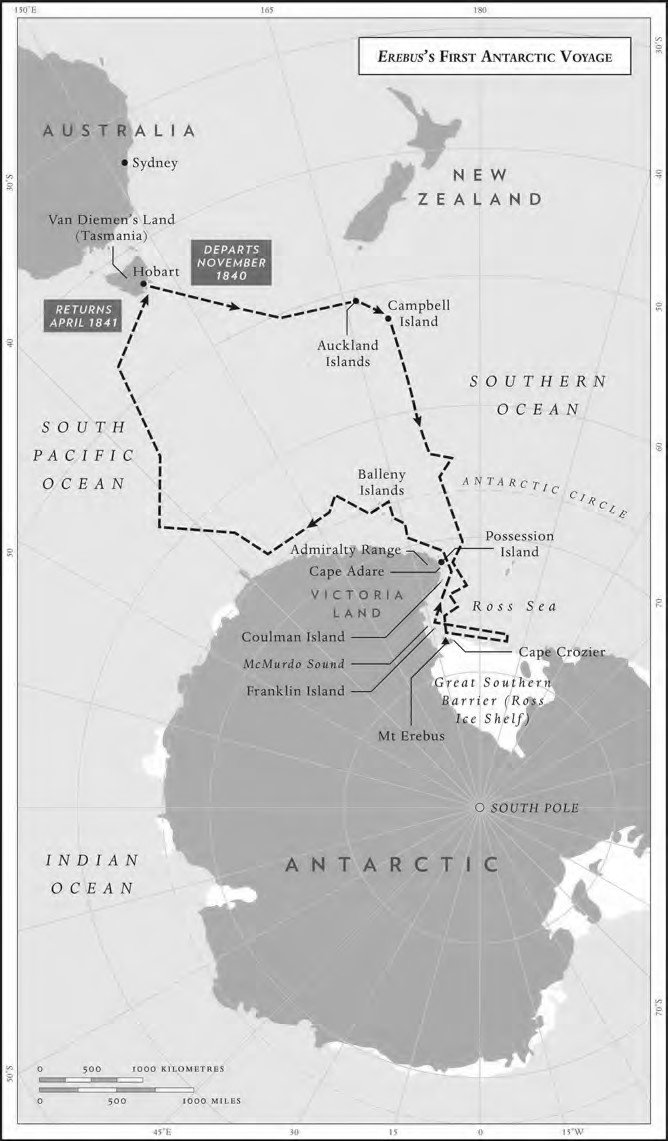
12月17日上午9点，船只起锚扬帆，伴随着逐渐增强的海风，坎贝尔岛在中午时分就消失在了人们的视野里——那是他们在到南极前停靠的最后一个陆地。

*Erebus* and *Terror* were now in waters that only a handful of people had ever crossed before. British interest in these far southern waters was almost entirely due to the demand for whale oil, which kept the nation’s lamps lit and hands washed. The Enderby Company encouraged her captains to explore as far south as they could. One of them, John Biscoe, had circumnavigated Antarctica between 1830 and 1832, reaching 67°S, and in 1838 John Balleny, engaged by the Enderby Company on a sealing expedition, found a small archipelago near latitude 66°S and 163°E, later named the Balleny Islands.

*厄瑞玻斯号*和*恐怖号*现在所处的海域，只有很少的人曾经穿过。英国人之所以对这些遥远的南方海域如此感兴趣，完全是出于对鲸油的需求，这些鲸油使得英国人可以在灯火通明的情况下盥洗。恩德比公司鼓励船长们尽可能地往南探险。其中一个叫John Biscoe的人，在1830年到1832年之间曾环绕了整个南极洲，抵达了南纬67°的位置。而在1838年，John Balleny在恩德比公司的雇佣下进行了一次针对海豹的猎捕探险，并在南纬66°东经163°附近发现了一个小群岛，那里后来被命名为巴雷尼群岛。

Ross had much in common with the whaling captains. He, too, was a practical man. His account of the atmosphere on board as they headed south is unromantic and businesslike. It is also defiantly positive. ‘We were in possession of the best of human means to accomplish our purposes,’ he wrote. ‘Our ships were in every respect most suitable for the service, with three years provisions and stores of the best kind, and supported by officers and crews in whom I had reason to entertain the utmost confidence.’ Looking around him, as the temperatures dropped and rain became sleet, then sleet became snow, he saw that ‘Joy and satisfaction beamed in every face.’

Ross和那些捕鲸船船长有很多相似之处。他也是一个十分务实的人。他在描述他们南行途中船上气氛时，显得既不浪漫，还充斥着满满的商业气息。当然其中所包含的积极情绪是毋庸置疑的。“为了达成目标，我们的准备做到了目前的人类最高规格，”他写道，“我们的船无论从哪个方面来看都是最适合的服役对象，船上存有三年的补给和最好的储备，再加上军官和船员们的支持，我有理由对这次旅程充满信心。”随着气温下降，雨变成了雨夹雪，雨夹雪又变成了雪，他环顾四周，看到“喜悦和满足之情洋溢在每个人的脸上。”



Their second Christmas Day at sea was spent in the teeth of a northerly gale. ‘A very disagreeable day,’ Cunningham recorded, before adding more cheerfully, ‘[we] had plenty to eat and drink’. McCormick spent the day, as he had done every day since they left Campbell Island, skinning birds, drying plants and then arranging and stowing away the recent additions to the expedition’s naturalhistory collections. In order not to miss an opportunity to augment these collections, he was working on a technique for shooting passing birds so that they fell onto the deck and not into the water. On 30 December he added a snow-white Antarctic petrel to the specimen cases.

他们在海上的第二个圣诞节是在凛凛北风中度过的。“非常令人不悦的一天，” Cunningham如此记录道，好在后来又开心地补充道，“（我们）敞开了肚皮的大吃大喝。” 自从他们离开坎贝尔岛后，McCormick每天都一直在剥鸟皮，晾植物，然后整理最近探险队新增的自然历史收藏品。为了把握好每一次积累收藏品的机会，他正在研究一种射击飞鸟的技术，确保它们会掉到甲板上而不是水里。12月30日，他在标本箱中多了一只雪白的南极海燕。

The days were getting colder and the icebergs were getting bigger. Late on 28 December, Cunningham described one of them as having ‘Something after the shape of a dismasted Ship’. He reckoned it was 2 miles in circumference and 100 feet high. Ross, who’d had plenty of experience of Arctic icebergs, saw their southern counterparts as being very different: much more monolithic, with less variety of form, and being on the whole larger and taller. They also passed a lot of whales, mainly sperm and humpbacks, of unusually large size, in such profusion and so tame that the ships could sail by without disturbing them.

气候逐渐变低，所遇到的冰山也越来越大。12月28日的晚些时候，Cunningham形容其中有座冰山“很像一艘桅杆折断的船”。他估计那冰山身长2英里，高约100英尺。Ross对北极的冰山十分熟悉，而他认为南极的冰山非常不一样：它们更单一，形态更少，整体上更大更高。他们还碰见了许多鲸鱼，主要是抹香鲸和座头鲸，它们的体型非常大，数量也非常多，而且非常温顺，所以船只可以安然地在它们身旁驶过。

I greatly envy their opportunity to see so many of these hypnotically watchable creatures. When I made a journey to the Antarctic Peninsula in 2014 the sight of a single whale was enough to bring everyone out on deck, reaching for cameras and binoculars. Sometimes, if you were very lucky, two or three would surface. Watching them was both compulsive and strangely soothing. Of all God’s creatures, they seemed the least prone to hurrying. Their lives seemed to be the human equivalent of taking very long baths. When they did move, it was a performance of beauty and grace, of great weight moved with minimum effort. And there can surely be no better final bow than the languid, quietly powerful rise, flick and fall of the fluke. I like to think that those aboard *Erebus* drew similar comfort from the whales’ company on the long and increasingly hazardous journey south.

我非常羡慕他们能有机会看到这么多赏心悦目的动物。在我2014年去南极半岛旅行时，所有人都拿着相机和双筒望远镜站在甲板上，只为能亲眼看到一条鲸鱼。如果你足够幸运，有时还会遇到两三头鲸鱼浮出水面的景象。看着那些鲸鱼，我的心中既觉得有种盎然的趣味，也平白添了几分莫名的宽慰。在上帝创造的所有生灵中，它们似乎是最悠哉的。它们的生活就像长时间处在沐浴中的人类。而当它们真正动起来的时候，又展现出了一种无与伦比的美丽与优雅，含有一种四两拨千斤的韵味。落下锚爪，感受那静谧、悠闲、轻盈而有力的起伏，没有什么比这更能代表人们对此情此景的折服之心。我想，那些登上*厄瑞玻斯号*的人们，在漫长而又危机四伏的向南航行中，应该也从鲸鱼的陪伴中得到了同样的慰藉。

The year of 1841 arrived in dramatic fashion. As the midnight sun climbed over the horizon, the main brace was spliced and double rum rations were issued, to celebrate not just the New Year, but the crossing of the Antarctic Circle. They had reached 66°S 30'E, ‘farther south than either “French” or “Yankies”,’ noted Cunningham, with some satisfaction. Conditions were changing fast. The ships were now on the edge of pack-ice, and the temperature by day barely rose above freezing. Extra provisions were available to celebrate the New Year, and extra-cold weather gear was handed out to the crew, consisting of a box-cloth jacket and trousers, two pairs of hose, two comforters (scarves worn around the throat to protect it from cold), a pair of water boots and a woollen cap known as a ‘Welsh wig’, the Royal Navy’s equivalent of a beanie.

1841年在一阵喧闹中到来了。当午夜的太阳爬上地平线的时候，人们把主转桁索拼接起来，并为每人提供了两份朗姆酒，因为这次不仅是为了庆祝新年，也是在庆祝成功横渡南极圈。他们到达了东经66°S 30'E，“比那些‘法国人’或‘美国佬’都要更深入南方，” Cunningham的记录中透露出几分满意。周围的环境也变化很快。船只现在已经接近浮冰的边缘，白天的温度几乎不会超过冰点。为了庆祝新年，船上还准备了额外的补给，并向船员们分发了抗寒的装备，主要包括一件缩绒厚呢的夹克和裤子,两筒长袜,两条围巾(围在喉咙处御寒),一双防水靴和一种被称为“威尔士假发”的羊毛帽，其实也就是一顶皇家海军式的无檐小便帽。

Captain Ross seemed to enjoy the excitement of those who had never been in the ice before. He hadn’t expected to see so much of it so soon, and looked out over the freezing ocean with satisfaction: ‘for it presented none of those evidences of impenetrability we had been led to expect’.

Ross船长似乎很享受那些以前从未来过极地的人流露出的兴奋。他没有料到这么快就能看到这么多冰层，他望着冰冷的海洋，十分满意地记录：“因为它很显然没有我们所预料的那么坚不可摧。”

It was not until 5 January that a change in wind direction offered an opportunity to test his assessment. As they ran along the edge of the pack-ice, Ross, relying on word from the masthead, judged there to be enough leads, or ice-free channels, to risk an attempt to get through. It was a crucial moment, the first big test of the ability of these former bomb ships to push their way through close-packed ice, with no engines of any kind to help them. *Erebus* led the way in, slowly but surely slicing her way through, despite some heavy resistance as they went. After about ‘an hour’s hard thumping’ they broke through to much lighter ice and were able to make faster progress, albeit ‘at times sustaining violent shocks, which nothing but ships so strengthened could have withstood’. The ships had passed their first examination.

直到1月5日，风向的变化让他得以有机会进行测试和评估。当他们沿着浮冰的边缘航行时，Ross根据桅顶上传来的消息，判断那里有足够宽阔的航道或无冰通道，可以冒险通过。这是一个至关重要的时刻，对于这些前炸弹船来说，能否在没有任何引擎的情况下冲破密布的冰层是她们所面临的第一次重大考验。*厄瑞玻斯号*带路而入，尽管途中遇到了重重障碍，她还是缓慢而坚定地在航道里穿行。经过了大约“一个小时的横冲直撞”，他们冲破了逐渐变薄的冰层，并进一步加快了速度，尽管“经常会遭遇只有加固过的船只才能承受住的猛烈撞击”。但无疑的是这些船已经通过了第一次考试。

Over the next few days, as they made good progress to the southeast, Ross’s aim of reaching the South Magnetic Pole was looking increasingly attainable. The ships’ reinforced bows were having little trouble carving through ice some 6–8 inches thick, though the helmsman and the lookouts had to be constantly on alert to find the channels and avoid the occasional icebergs. These took McCormick’s fancy: one, he noted, resembled a village church. On 7 January he shot a penguin, and later in the day four more: ‘two with one shot’. This brought him satisfaction in more ways than one: ‘I had thus an opportunity afforded me of landing on a piece of Antarctic ice for the first time, to pick up a penguin.’

在接下来的几天里，随着他们向东南方向逐步推进，Ross到达南磁极的目标也变得没那么高不可攀。虽然舵手和瞭望员必须时刻保持警惕，寻找航道并规避偶尔出现的冰山，但经过加固船头能轻而易举地凿穿约厚达6-8英寸的冰层。McCormick对这些冰山很感兴趣：他注意到，其中有座冰山很像是一座乡村教堂。1月7日，他射杀了一只企鹅，随后又接连射杀了四只：“一枪打死俩”。这给他带来了更多的满足感：“为了捡起一只企鹅，我也因此有机会第一次真正地站在南极的冰面上。”

Gradually the ice thickened and progress slowed. On 8 January a violent storm brought them to a standstill. But before the storm broke, Ross had worked out – from the darkening colour reflected in the sky – that there must be open water ahead. Sure enough, by noon on the 9th they found themselves once again in open sea, making four knots in a strong breeze.

随着冰层的逐渐变厚了，前进的速度也变得越发缓慢。1月8日，一场猛烈的暴风雨使得他们变得寸步难行。但是在暴风雨来临之前，Ross根据天空中反射出的黯淡颜色，提前判断出前方一定有开阔的水域。果然，在9日中午的时候，他们重新回到了能够自由航行的海面上，并在一阵强风的伴随下以四海里的速度航行。

*Erebus* and *Terror* had achieved something remarkable. Under sail alone, the two ships had successfully negotiated 134 miles of pack-ice and come out the other side.

*厄瑞玻斯号*和*恐怖号*取得了举世瞩目的非凡成就。这两艘船在孤立无援的情况下，成功地从134英里的大片浮冰区中穿行出来。

Ross was not a gambler, but in this case he had taken a calculated risk. He had led his ships into the unknown. The ice could have trapped them or crushed them. And there was no Plan B. Once committed, turning back would have been virtually impossible. Judicious, understated, ever pragmatic as he was, Ross could not disguise his elation as he set course for the Magnetic Pole: ‘Our hopes and expectations of attaining that interesting point were now raised to the highest pitch.’

Ross不是个赌徒，对于这件事，他已经提前考虑好了利弊风险。他带领着他的舰队进入了这片未知的领域。冰层可能会困住或压垮他们。而且他们没有备选计划，所以一旦付诸行动，那就是拉弓没有回头箭了。Ross是个谨慎、低调、务实的人，但他在向磁极进发时，依然无法掩饰自己的得意之情：“对于到达那个万众瞩目的地点，我们的希望和期待得到了空前的高涨。”

McCormick, by contrast, seemed less concerned about the heavy hand of history and more concerned about Billy, the ship’s goat and a great pet of the sailors, who had spent the day in his barrel, after having been given port wine in the gun-room. ‘Paying the penance for his debauchery,’ joked McCormick, only to add a poignant coda: ‘Very unexpectedly during the first watch I found our poor young goat “Billy” dying.’

相比之下，McCormick似乎不太关心这些沉重的历史，相比之下他更关心的是Billy。Billy是船上的一只山羊，也是水手们的宠物，Billy在炮室里喝了波特酒之后，他在自己的桶里呆了整整一天。“为他自己的放荡行径进行了忏悔，” McCormick开玩笑地写道，然后留下了一个令人心酸的结尾处:“头班守夜的时候，我非常意外地发现我们可怜的小山羊Billy死了。”

Ross and his helmsman had for a while been observing a polar phenomenon known as ‘ice-blink’, by which, owing to the refraction of light, clouds and sky can appear as solid physical features. It had manifested itself most famously in 1818, when John Ross had, embarrassingly, confused clouds for mountains on his expedition to discover the Northwest Passage. Given the furore that had ensued, it’s not surprising that Sir John’s nephew should now be rather more curious, assuming that what appeared to be a long, white coastline on the horizon might well be another instance of a polar mirage. That was until, at two in the morning, Lieutenant Wood, the officer on watch, roused the captain to report the unmistakable presence of a solid land mass.

Ross和他的领航员有段时间一直在观察一种被称为“冰原反光”的极地现象，由于光线的折射，云和天空可以展现出固体的物理特征。这种现象最著名的一次例子是在1818年，John Ross在发现西北航道的探险中，非常尴尬地把云和山脉混为一谈。考虑到那件事之后引起的各种骚动，因此John爵士的侄子现在对这种现象十分好奇，他认为地平线上看似长长的白色海岸线很可能是一种极地海市蜃楼现象。直到凌晨两点钟，值班的Wood中尉叫醒了舰长，并很确定地报告称发现了一片坚实的陆地的存在。

With a cry of ‘Land Ahoy!’, Lieutenant Wood confirmed that not only had *Erebus* and *Terror* become the first sailing ships to break through the ice-pack, but they were now the first ships to come faceto-face with irrefutable proof that an Antarctic continent existed.

随着一声“陆地！啊嗬！”，Wood中尉确信，*厄瑞玻斯号*和*恐怖号*不仅成为了第一支冲破冰层的船队，而且是第一支真正面对南极大陆存在的船队，现在大陆的存在有了无可辩驳的证据。

Surprisingly, Ross’s first reaction was less than ecstatic. All he could see was that this ‘coastline’ had effectively blocked the way to his most coveted goal, the South Magnetic Pole. Nevertheless he was, like everyone else, humbled and overawed by what he saw as they drew closer to land. ‘We had a most enchanting view of . . . two magnificent ranges of mountains . . . The glaciers that filled their intervening valleys, and which descended from near the mountain summits, projected in many places several miles into the sea . . .The sky was a clear azure blue, with the most brilliant sunshine . . . all that could be desired for giving effect to such a magnificent panorama.’ For Joseph Hooker, it was simply ‘one of the most gorgeous sights I have ever witnessed’.

令人惊讶的是，Ross的第一反应并不是欣喜若狂。他所能看到的是，这条“海岸线”切实地阻挡了他通往那梦寐以求的目标——南磁极的道路。尽管如此，随着他们逐渐接近陆地时，他和其他人一样，都折服并敬畏于眼前的景象。“我们看到了美轮美奂的景色……两座雄伟的山脉……从旁边山顶处滑落的冰川填满了两山之间的山谷，星星碎碎的亮光投射到几英里外的海面。清澈蔚蓝的天空下，有着最为炫彩夺目的阳光。所有的这一切共同描绘出了一幅气势磅礴的山河画卷。”对于Joseph Hooker来说，那称得上是“我从未见过的巍巍壮观的景象”。

And there was another cause for celebration. Measurements showed that *Erebus* and *Terror* had reached latitude 71°14'S, passing Captain Cook’s furthest south. ‘We have now but Weddell’s track to get beyond,’ wrote Captain Ross, referring to the whaling captain’s 74°15'S, a record that had stood since 1823.

还有另一个值得庆祝的理由。根据测量表明，*厄瑞玻斯号*和*恐怖号*已经到达南纬71°14'，超过了Cook船长的最南航行记录。Cook船长写道：“我们现在只能追随Weddell的足迹了。”那是自1823年以来一直保持的南纬74°15'的记录。

Ross’s first gesture of gratitude was not to the boat-builders, or even the crew who’d brought him here, but to those who had commissioned the expedition. He named the highest mountain of the range ahead of him Mount Sabine, after Edward Sabine, his childhood friend and most vocal supporter of the expedition, and then christened the majestic sweep of mountains to his north-west the Admiralty Range, in honour of his paymasters. In so doing, he was following a long-standing tradition. The giving of names to physical features seems to have been in the captain’s remit and was done very much on the spot, without formal consultation or official approval – hence the reason Dumont d’Urville, for example, should have named his corner of the Antarctic after his wife.

Ross首先表示感谢的不是造船工人，也不是陪他来到这里的船员，而是那些委派他进行远征探险的雇主。他把前方山脉中最高的山峰命名为萨宾（Sabine）山，那是以他的儿时好友，也是这次远征最有力的支持者Edward Sabine的名字命名。然后他将位于西北方向的雄伟连绵的山脉命名为阿德米勒尔蒂（Admiralty）山脉，以纪念他的老板。这种做法，其实遵循了一种长期存在的传统。给自然界一些有特色的事物取名字似乎是船长的职权范围内的事，而且是可以当场就做的，不需要经过正式的商量或官方批准——例如Dumont d’Urville就曾用他妻子的名字来命名南极的一角。

As the expedition entered an unmapped world, a positive frenzy of namings was unleashed. Individual peaks along the range were given the names of the Admiralty Council: Mount Minto, after the First Lord; Mount Adam and Mount Parker, after senior naval lords. A long list of junior lords became mountains, too. At Captain Crozier’s request, a nearby cape was called Cape Downshire, after the Marquis of Downshire, a wealthy Irish landowner and friend of the Crozier family. ‘A remarkable projection of high, dark, probably volcanic cliffs’ became Cape Adare, after Ross’s friend Viscount Adare; and yet another became Cape Barrow, in tribute, as Ross put it, to ‘the father of modern arctic discovery’.

随着探险队进入一片没有被地图标注的区域，一股命名的兴奋热潮逐渐兴起。沿着山脉的每一座山峰都被命名为各个海军部议会成员：以海军司令的名字命名的明托（Minto）山；以高级海军大臣命名的亚当（Adam）山和帕克（Parker）山。各方权贵也都被用来命名。应Crozier船长的要求，附近的一个海角被命名为唐郡（Downshire）海角，那是以Crozier家族的朋友、富有的爱尔兰地主Downshire侯爵的名字来命名的。“一块高耸黑暗、疑似火山峭壁的显著突起”成为了希伯来（Adare）角，这是以在罗斯的朋友Adare子爵命名的；还有一个突起变成了巴罗（Barrow）角，套用Ross的话来说，这是在向“现代北极发现之父”致敬。

When in West Antarctica filming *Pole to Pole* for the BBC, I remember being intrigued by the nearby presence of the Executive Committee Range, named by the Americans in the 1940s. What next, I wondered: Chief Accountant Plateau, Water-Cooler Peak? Now I know they were just following an honourable tradition. Dull, but honourable.

当我在南极洲西部为英国广播公司拍摄《极地之旅（*Pole to Pole*）》的镜头时，我记得我对附近的执行委员会山脉（Executive Committee Range）很感兴趣，那里是美国人在20世纪40年代命名的。下一个会是什么呢，我在心里寻思：总会计师高原？饮水机山峰？现在我才明白他们只是在遵循一个光荣的传统。有些枯燥，但值得尊敬。

The next thing to do was to formally annex this newly discovered land, which required more than head-scratching for names: it demanded positive footfall. On the morning of 12 January 1841, boats were therefore made ready to go ashore, but because there was such heavy surf crashing onto the ice, it was decided to detour to one of the small offshore islands. Thomas Abernethy skilfully steered one of the cutters through strong currents and they were finally able to scramble ashore on what turned out to be a guano-bed. McCormick described the peculiar sensation of making landfall on a pile of penguin droppings, which had been there a very long time. ‘It had attained such a depth,’ he wrote, ‘as to give an elastic sensation under the feet, resembling a dried up peat-bog.’ The Union Flag was duly planted, and glasses of sherry were raised to Queen Victoria and Prince Albert and their newest acquisition, Possession Island.

接下来要做的就是正式将这块新发现的土地占为己有，这不仅需要为起名字抓耳挠腮，还需要真正地迈出脚步。在1841年1月12日的早晨，船只已经做好了上岸的准备，但因为有强劲的海浪拍打着冰面，所以大家决定绕道前往其中的一个离岸的小岛。Thomas Abernethy熟练地驾驶着其中一艘快艇穿过激流，最后终于爬上了后来被证明满是鸟粪床的海岸。McCormick描述了在一堆已经存在很久的企鹅粪便上着陆的奇妙体验。“已经很深了，”他写道，“脚下能感觉到有一种弹性，就像干涸的泥炭沼泽。”英国国旗被插在合适的地方，人们举杯畅饮雪利酒，并向维多利亚女王、阿尔伯特王子和他们最新占领的岛屿致敬。

Ross records that the ceremony was witnessed by vast numbers of penguins, which showed their resistance to colonisation by ‘attacking us vigorously as we waded through their ranks, and pecking at us with their sharp beaks’. Those ashore also had to cope with the stench of decades of ordure. While aware of the foul smell, the ever-practical Ross also noted that the guano ‘may at some time be valuable to the agriculturalists of our Australian colonies’.

Ross的记录表明，大量企鹅见证了这一仪式，同时它们也表现出了对殖民统治的反抗，“当我们费力地穿过它们的队伍时，它们会用锋利的喙啄猛烈地攻击我们”。那些上岸的人还不得不忍受几十年来积累的排泄物带来的恶臭。Ross虽然知道那些鸟粪很难闻，但一向务实的他也指出，“对于我们澳大利亚殖民地的农业学家来说，这些鸟粪在某些情况下可能会很有价值”。

Confirming that ‘the perfume arising from this colony was certainly not of an Arabian sweetness’, McCormick observed the activity of the penguins more sympathetically than his captain did, describing their way of emerging from the water with a fine sense of wonder. ‘I observed one bird make a most extraordinary leap upwards from the sea to the top of a perpendicular piece of ice . . . alighting on its feet like a cat.’ I was glad to read that, because on my own excursion to the Antarctic I found their gravity-defying leaps *out* of the sea a similarly extraordinary trick of evolution. But whereas, for me, the penguins were charming entertainment, for McCormick they were specimens: ‘Knocked down an old penguin with my geological hammer and put him in my haversack . . . with a few hastily-collected specimens of the black lava rock.’ And for the appreciative Cunningham, they were dinner: ‘very fine [penguin] it was,’ he noted; ‘it was cooked in a Sea Pie [and] had no taste whatever of fish as some of them had I have eat’.

相比于船长，McCormick怀着更强烈的同情之心去观察着这些企鹅的活动，并确定“这个企鹅群散发的香味绝对不是那种阿拉伯式的甜味”，他还出于敏锐的好奇心描述它们从水里出来的方式。“我看到一只企鹅从海里通过一种非常特殊的跳跃方式，跳到一块陡峭的冰面上……然后像猫一样站起来。”读到这些的时候我很高兴，因为我自己到南极的旅行的时候，我就发现它们冲破重力跳出海面，是借助了一种进化后得到的高超技巧。但对我来说，企鹅身上有着让人欲罢不能的趣味性，而对McCormick来说，它们只是标本：“用我的地质锤把一只老企鹅干倒，然后把它放进我的背袋里……还有一些仓促收集的黑色熔岩标本。” 而在饱含感激之情的Cunningham面前，它们就是一顿晚餐:“（企鹅）非常美味，”他说;“它被做成了肉馅饼，和我以前吃过的鱼的味道完全不一样。”

Weather conditions ruled out any possibility of their making landfall on the continent itself, or Victoria Land as they had named it. Indeed, their main focus for the next few days was avoiding being blown against the shore by ever more violent gales. They progressed gingerly south. Ross noted the great number of whales they passed – thirty in one day. Observing them ‘blowing or spouting’, he wrote prophetically, and ominously, ‘Hitherto . . . they have here enjoyed a life of tranquillity and security; but will now, no doubt, be made to contribute to the wealth of our country, in exact proportion to the energy and perseverance of our merchants; and these, we well know, are by no means inconsiderable.’

天气状况限制了他们登陆这片大陆——或者说是他们所命名的维多利亚大陆——的可能性。事实上，在之后的几天里，他们的主要任务是避免被逐渐肆虐的狂风吹到岸上。他们小心翼翼地向南行进。Ross注意到他们所处的地方周围有大量的鲸鱼出没——一天内就有三十头。他观察到它们“吹气或喷吐”，于是他带有不祥的语气预言性质地写道，“迄今为止……他们都在这里享受着宁静安全的生活；但是现在，毫无疑问的是，面对商人的精力和毅力，它们将逐渐转变为我们国家的宝贵财富；而这些，我们很清楚，决不能说是微不足道的。”

An apparent trick of the light turned out to be another island, which, because it was discovered on his fiancée’s birthday, Ross, ever the pragmatist, named Coulman Island, after his prospective fatherin-law. Anne Coulman herself was allotted a cape at the southern tip of her father’s island.

本以为又是一次光的小把戏，没想到大家又发现了另一座岛，因为这座岛是在Ross未婚妻生日那天发现的，所以这位永远的实用主义者，以他未来岳父的名字为这座岛起名为库尔曼（Coulman）岛。而Anne Coulman本人的名字则用在了她父亲的岛屿南端的一个海角。

By now, everyone aboard must have realised this was why they had set out. This was exploration. Every nautical mile, every break in the clouds brought with it something no one on earth had ever seen before. At the same time the conditions were becoming harsher. The temperatures had dropped away further and an unhelpful southerly wind had strengthened. To ride it out, *Erebus* had to reef her sails, which must have been bitterly uncomfortable work for the crew. ‘Freezing very sharp,’ wrote Cunningham, ‘every Rope frozen and Icicles hanging from all the Rigging and Gear.’ By tradition, the men who had to trim the sails wore no gloves, for these were felt to impede a secure grip.

现在，船上的每个人都已经意识到了他们出发来此的意义。那就是探索。每前进一海里，每冲破一次迷雾，都会发现一些之前地球上从未有人见过的事物。与此同时，气候条件也变得越发恶劣。气温进一步下降，南风也在雪上加霜地逐渐加强。为了渡过难关，*厄瑞玻斯号*不得不把帆收起来，这对船员来说肯定是一项苦不堪言的工作。“冻得太厉害了，” Cunningham写道，“每根绳子都被牢牢冻住，所有的索具和装备上都挂着冰柱。”按照传统，调整船帆的人是不能戴手套的，因为人们觉得手套会导致船帆的抓握不牢靠。

Fortunately, a brief spell of better weather followed, which, with a breeze behind them and every possible sail set, helped them make steady progress. Ross was encouraged as they headed towards their next goal: ‘The adverse winds and weather were forgotten in the full expectation we now enjoyed of soon passing into a higher latitude than had ever before been attained.’

幸运的是，不久之后就出现了短暂的好天气，徐徐微风吹动着所有风帆，为他们的稳步前进助上一臂之力。在朝着下一个目标前进的过程中，Ross的内心备受鼓舞：“过往恶劣的天气和不利的方向都将可以抛诸脑后了，我们现在满心期待着快速到达一个前人未及的高纬度地区。”

On Saturday 23 January 1841 he reached his goal. Weddell’s record had been 74°15'S. Now *Erebus* and *Terror* were at 74°23'S or, as Sergeant Cunningham put it in his diary, ‘farther south than any (Known) human being has been’. He added, with a nice touch of understatement, ‘which is a feather in our Caps’.

1841年1月23日，星期六，他实现了自己的目标。Weddell的记录是南纬74°15'。而现在，*厄瑞玻斯号*和*恐怖号*都已经到达了南纬74°23'，或者用Cunningham中士在日记里的话来描述，“比（目前已知的）任何人类都要往南”。他略带保守地补充道：“这是属于我们的荣誉。”

The double rum ration with which they celebrated this momentous feat can rarely have seemed sweeter, nor the traditional toast ‘Wives and lovers, may they never meet!’ have been shouted more lustily. No matter that the weather had turned again, with persistent snow and gale-force winds. McCormick recorded that that night Captain Ross dined with his officers in the gun-room and raised the toast: ‘Better luck still!’

他们提供了双份的朗姆酒来庆祝这一重大壮举，这酒喝起来也似乎比往日更甜一些，往日里传统敬酒的喊声“敬妻子和情人们，愿他们永远不相见!”也更响亮了。但是天气又急转直下，狂风和大雪仿佛永远不会停歇。McCormick的记录显示，那天晚上Ross上尉和他的军官们也在炮室吃饭，并举杯敬酒：“愿好运常伴!”

Ross’s hope now was that there might be a point at which the wind and the current would shift the surrounding pack-ice sufficiently to create a gap and give them their first chance to explore the Antarctic mainland. And on 27 January he saw just such an opportunity. He and a number of officers therefore embarked in one of *Erebus*’s cutters, whilst Crozier and his men from *Terror* followed in one of their whaleboats. The whale-boat proved to be the more stable of the two, and Ross transferred to join Crozier. When they were near enough to the shore, the boat crested a wave and Ross leapt onto the rocks. Using a rope that he had secured, several of the officers followed, ‘but not without getting thoroughly wetted’. Joseph Hooker, missing his footing, fell between the stern and the rock face and was yanked out just as he was about to be crushed.

Ross现在的希望是，季风和洋流能充分地移动周围的浮冰，并形成一个突破口，从而给他们提供一次探索南极大陆的机会。1月27日，他把握到了这样一个机会。因此，他和几位军官登上了*厄瑞玻斯号*的一艘快艇，而Crozier和他的部下乘坐*恐怖号*的一艘捕鲸划艇紧随其后。那只捕鲸划艇相比之下更为稳定，所以Ross转而去和Crozier会合。当他们接近岸边时，船顶起了一阵浪头，而Ross趁势跳上岩石。几名警察借助他系好的绳子紧跟了上去，“但也不是没人被淋湿”。在经过船尾和岩面之间时，Joseph Hooker就不小心失足落水，幸运的是他在即将被浪花吞没之前被拽了出来。

Ross stayed long enough to take possession of what proved to be another island, which he named after Sir John Franklin. With one of the men on the verge of freezing to death, there was only time to grab a few rock-samples, reboard the whale-boat and row hard for the ship. They arrived on board ‘thoroughly drenched to the skin and painfully cold’. Few of Her Majesty’s possessions would be as hard-won as Franklin Island.

Ross在上面待了很长时间，并在后来又占领了另一个岛上，还以John Franklin爵士的名字命名。不过由于其中一名船员快被冻死了，所以他们只是争分夺秒地采集了一些岩石样本，就重新返回捕鲸划艇，并奋力地往回划。他们回到船上时一个个都“浑身湿透，寒意彻骨”。女王陛下的财产中很少会像富兰克林（Franklin）岛那样如此地来之不易的。

The wonders kept on coming. Heading yet further south before a favourable breeze they made out, on the starboard bow, the shape of another spectacular peak. But this one was very different. As the skies cleared, a column of smoke could be seen drifting from its summit. And it was no trick of the light. They were looking not at spindrift from an exposed mountain top, but at a 12,500-foot active volcano. Joseph Hooker, who had clearly recovered from his near-death ex perience, breathlessly recorded: ‘a sight so surpassing every thing that can be imagined . . . that it really caused a feeling of awe to steal over us, at the consideration of our own comparative insignificance and helplessness, and at the same time an indescribable feeling of the greatness of the Creator in the works of his hand’.

奇迹依然在不断发生。他们继续向南行驶，伴随着一阵微风助力，他们在右舷船头看到了另一座雄伟壮观的山峰。并且这次的山峰别具一格。当天空放晴时，可以看到一缕烟柱从山顶冉冉飘来。这也不是简单的光线小把戏。他们看到的烟柱不是来自光秃秃的山顶，而是来自一座12500英尺高的活火山。Joseph Hooker显然已经从之前与死神擦肩而过的经历中恢复过来，他气喘吁吁地记录道：“那景象已然超越人类的想象……一种敬畏感在心里油然而生，提醒着我们的渺小和无助，同时，我们也对造物主的神奇和伟大产生了一种难以形容的感觉。”

Cunningham, in equal wonderment, watched the volcano’s activity from the deck of the *Terror*. ‘It would Shew first with a volume of Smoke, as dark as Pitch which would gradually become of a lighter hue and then the Flame would burst forth with great fury for some time, after which it would Subside for a few minutes and then reappear again.’ He called it the Burning Mountain. Another witness to this astonishing sight was the blacksmith on *Erebus*, an Irishman called Cornelius Sullivan, who wrote down some memories of the voyage for a friend who served on *Erebus* later. For Sullivan, it was the Splendid Burning Mountain. ‘We did not land here nor did we deem it Safe to land either. Our nearest approach to this Phenomena of nature was eight miles.’

Cunningham站在*恐惧号*的甲板上，同样惊奇地观察着火山的活动。“它先是冒出一大堆黑烟，像沥青一样的黑色，之后颜色会逐渐变浅，然后火焰会突然猛烈地喷发一段时间，之后会再消退几分钟，然后又重新出现。”他称那座山为火焰山。而另一个见证了这一惊人景象的人是*厄瑞玻斯号*上的铁匠，他是一位叫做Cornelius Sullivan的爱尔兰人，他为后来在*厄瑞玻斯号*服役的朋友写下了一些关于这次航行的回忆。对Sullivan来说，那是辉煌壮丽的火焰山。“我们没有在这里登陆，也不认为在这里着陆是安全。我们最近的时候也离这种自然现象有八英里。”

It fell to James Ross to give it a name. Setting aside all his friends and bigwigs back home, he chose to call it after the tough little ship that had brought them so safely, so far: Mount Erebus. The smaller, extinct volcano beside it he called Mount Terror. Erebus’s hellish name seemed genuinely appropriate when, in November 1979, Air New Zealand flight 901 crashed into the mountain; 250 lives were lost.

James Ross给它起了个名字。先撇开那些亲朋好友、地方权贵不谈，他最终选择用那艘把他们安全运送至此的船只的名字来进行命名：厄瑞玻斯山。而旁边那座较小的、已经熄灭的火山则被他命名为恐怖山。1979年11月，新西兰航空公司的901号班机就撞上了这座山，并导致了250人遇难，厄瑞玻斯山这个地狱般的名字似乎真的很贴切。

Both ships were now making rapid headway south, past 76°. As they swung round a small island, briskly christened after Sir Francis Beaufort, the Hydrographer of the Navy, they found, ahead of them, a natural phenomenon every bit as impressive as the volcano they had just passed. ‘We perceived,’ wrote Ross, ‘a low white line extending from its eastern extreme point as far as the eye could discern.’ It was a sheer-sided cliff of ice, flat on top and towering above the ships to a height of 200 feet.

如今两艘船都在快速向南航行，甚至已经超过了76°。他们绕过一座小岛——这座小岛是以海军水文学家Francis Beaufort爵士的名字命名的——时，发现前方出现了一种自然现象，跟他们刚刚经过的那座火山一样令人印象深刻。“我们看到，”Ross写道，“一条低矮的白线从东边的端点出发，一直延伸到肉眼所不能及之处。”这是一处陡峭的冰崖，顶部平坦，比船只整整高出200英尺。

The sight brought everyone to the gunwales. On *Erebus*, McCormick clambered up to the crow’s nest, ‘but could see no termination to the great ice-wall, which we have named the Great Southern Barrier’. Sullivan the blacksmith was overwhelmed: ‘no imaginative Power can convey an adequate idea of the Resplendant Sublimity of the Antarctic Ice Wall . . . this noble battery of Ice that fortifyd. The Land two hundred feet high . . . The bold masses of Ice that walld. In the Land Rendered this Scene Quite Enchanting.’ It was the length of the barrier that he found most astonishing: ‘As far and as fast as we run the Barrier appeared the Same Shape and form.’

这一景象把大家都吸引到了船舷边。在*厄瑞玻斯*号上，McCormick爬上了守望处，“但是我们看不到那巨大冰墙的尽头，我们把它命名为南极大屏障。”铁匠Sullivan也感到无比震惊：“常人根本无法想象出南极冰墙的辉煌和壮观……宏伟的墙体看起来坚不可摧。两百英尺高拔地而起……难以估量的冰墙。在这番景色勾勒下的天地是如此的令人着迷。”最让他吃惊的是屏障的长度：“无论我们跑得再快再远，那屏障似乎是永远一成不变的。”

The discovery of such a massive obstacle effectively decided one outstanding issue. Further progress towards the South Magnetic Pole could be finally ruled out. ‘We might with equal chance of success try to sail through the Cliffs of Dover,’ admitted Ross. But they had come close. It would not be until the next century, and Shackleton’s *Nimrod* expedition, that anyone came closer.

如此巨大的障碍出现直接决定了一个悬而未决的问题。那就是已经不可能再进一步向南磁极进发了。Ross承认：“我们成功的几率就和航行穿过多佛白崖一样低。”但他们已经很接近了。直到下个世纪，Shackleton带领下的*猎人号（Nimrod）*远征队，才实现了更进一步的探索。

Not that the expedition had been short of achievements. They had discovered and named a new land mass and new islands. They had found two volcanoes. And there were still further landmarks to be marked up on Ross’s charts. Having acknowledged his bosses back in London, Ross turned his attention to those closest to him, to name two significant promontories that he could see. One of them he named Cape Bird, after his First Lieutenant. Another, the cape at the foot of Mount Terror, he named after his second-in-command, Francis Crozier, ‘a friend of now more than twenty years standing . . . to whose zeal and cordial cooperation is mainly to be ascribed, under God’s blessing, the happiness as well as success of this expedition’.

这并不是说这次探险没有取得任何成就。他们发现并命名了一块新的陆地和新的岛屿。他们发现了两座火山。Ross的地图上还标出了更多的地标。在向伦敦的雇主们致谢后，Ross又关注起了他的左膀右臂，并据此对他看到的两个重要的海岬进行命名。其中一处根据他的大副的名字命名为伯德（Bird）海角。另一处则是恐怖山脚下的海角，他根据他的副指挥官Francis Crozier的名字命名，“他是和我并肩作战20多年的朋友……在上帝的保佑下，这次远征的成功主要归功于他热情而真诚的合作。”

What Ross had discovered was to play a vital part in the future exploration of Antarctica. The Great Southern Barrier proved to be colossal, the leading edge of an unbroken sheet of ice 300 feet thick and the same size as France. First seen as an insurmountable obstacle, it was to prove a gateway to the interior of the continent, a flat and stable access that was vital to both Amundsen and Scott on their journeys to the Pole. As for Cape Crozier, an outcrop of black basalt plunging 800 feet into the sea, this was to garner a fearsome reputation among future explorers. Apsley Cherry-Garrard in *The Worst Journey in the World*, his account more than seventy years later of Scott’s polar expedition, left a powerful description: ‘It is at Cape Crozier that the Barrier edge, which runs for four hundred miles as an ice-cliff up to 200 feet high, meets the land. The Barrier is moving against this land at a rate which is sometimes not less than a mile in a year. Perhaps you can imagine the chaos it piles up: there are pressure ridges compared to which the waves of the sea are like a ploughed field.’

Ross的发现对未来的南极洲的继续探索起到了至关重要的作用。事实证明，南极大屏障是一块庞然大物，它是一块300英尺厚、大小与法国面积相当的完整冰层的前缘。它最初被视为无法逾越的障碍，但后来被证明是通往南极大陆内部的门户，并作为一个平坦而稳定的通道在Amundsen和Scott的极地之旅中起到了至关重要的作用。至于克罗泽（Crozier）海角，那是一块黑色玄武岩裸露在外的部分，这块岩石在海中深达800英尺，在未来的探险家间享誉盛名。而在Scott的极地探险的70多年后，Apsley Cherry-Garrard在其所著《世界上最糟糕的旅行》一书中 ,留下了一处震撼人心的描述：“屏障的边缘与克罗泽海角相连，屏障作为一个400海里长、200英尺高的大冰崖，正以每年不少于一海里的速度给这片陆地施压。也许你能想得出最终的结果会是怎样：因挤压而形成的大大小小的山脊就像大海里的波涛，又像是耕过的田地一般。”

*Erebus* and *Terror* sailed west beside the Barrier for some 100 miles in clear, smooth blue seas, with whales spouting and huge blocks calving off the cliffs of ice. McCormick was so taken with the stupendous scale of this ice-wall that he stayed on deck throughout the night, ‘so as to see all I could of it; and well was I rewarded for the . . . sacrifice of a night’s rest and sleep by the grand and sublime panorama . . . which arrested my gaze like some striking shifting scene on the stage’.

*厄瑞玻斯号*和*恐怖号*沿着屏障向西继续航行了大约100英里，在清澈、平静的蓝色海面上，鲸鱼在喷水，巨大的冰块从冰崖上脱落。McCormick被这巨大的冰墙所吸引，他整晚都待在甲板上，“这样我就能看到它的一切而不会错过；付出得到了很好的回报……尽管我牺牲一个晚上的睡眠，但看到了这宏伟壮观的景象……它牢牢地吸引着我的目光，就像舞台上那些引人注目的场景变换一样”。

On 2 February, Ross recorded his position at latitude 78.4°S. The next day he put a cask overboard, containing a note of their position and their recent activities, and a request that anyone who found it should pass the paper on to the Secretary of the Admiralty. The note was signed by Ross and his officers.

2月2日，Ross记录下了他在南纬78.4°的位置。第二天，他将一个木桶扔下船，木桶里装着记录了他们的位置和近况的笔记，并要求找到木桶的人将里面的笔记交给海军部部长。笔记上还有Ross和他下属军官们的签名。

Now a build-up of pack-ice and a change in wind direction caused Ross to decide, in consultation with Crozier, to turn east again and try to study the Barrier at closer range. On the pack-ice they passed seals, white petrels and Emperor penguins. Three of the latter, the largest of the species, were brought on board. But not as pets. ‘They were very powerful birds, and we had some difficulty in killing them,’ wrote Ross, adding a culinary note, ‘their flesh is very dark, and of a rank fishy flavour.’ As they were added to the larder, the process of living off the land went on. Two seals were captured and killed to provide oil for the winter. The ships’ fresh-water supplies were replenished by hacking bits off a passing ice-floe.

现在，面对堆积成山的浮冰和飘忽不定的风向，Ross在与Crozier协商后，决定再次转向东方，并试图更近距离地研究这道大屏障。在经过的浮冰上，他们遇见了海豹、白海燕和帝企鹅。其中最后一种，也是企鹅中体型最大的一类，它们被带到了船上。但不是以宠物的宠物带上船。“它们是非常强壮的鸟类，想要杀掉它们不太容易，” Ross的笔记里新增了这么一条烹饪注解，“它们的肉很黑，而且有一股难闻的鱼腥味。” 随着它们被添加到食品库中，而这种靠山吃山，靠水吃水的日子也一直在继续。他们捕获并杀死了两只海豹，提取其中的油脂为过冬做准备。船上的淡水补充则主要依靠从路过的浮冰上砍下的碎片。

The bird life, was, as ever, of great interest to ship’s surgeon McCormick. On seeing hovering over the ship what he believed to be a new species of *Lestris*, or Arctic Yager, described by Audubon, the great American bird illustrator, as an ‘indefatigable teaser of the smaller gulls’, he took a pot-shot at it. His shot failed to despatch the bird cleanly and, after descending near the deck, it recovered and flew away with one leg broken. McCormick, unusually, felt compelled to justify himself: ‘For notwithstanding that my duties as ornithologist compel me to take the lives of these most beautiful and interesting creatures . . . I never do so without a sharp sting of pain and qualm of conscience, so fond am I of all the feathered race.’

船上的外科医生McCormick对于鸟类的生活一如既往地十分感兴趣。当他看到在船上盘旋的一种他认为是中贼鸥（*Lestris*）或者北极快鸥（Arctic Yager）的新品种——这类鸟被美国著名鸟类插画家Audubon称之为“不知疲倦地戏弄人的小海鸥”——时，他就对它开了一枪。那一枪没能干净利索地把这只鸟干掉，在跌落着靠近甲板时，它又调整过来并带着一条断腿飞走了。出乎意料的是，McCormick觉得有必要为自己辩护一下：“尽管我出于鸟类学家的研究职责，一直迫使自己去杀死这些美丽而有趣的生物……但每当我这样做的时候，就会感到一阵发自内心的痛苦与不安，毕竟我是那么喜欢这些带有羽毛的动物。”

So fond, indeed, that on the same night he recorded that ‘Between midnight and one a.m. I succeeded in adding two more of the elegant white petrel to my collection, one falling dead on the quarter-deck and the other on the gun-room skylight . . . a third I shot . . . fell overboard into the sea.’

他的确是真的喜欢，以至于就在当天晚上，他又写着：“从午夜到凌晨一点之间，我的收藏品又多了两只优雅的白海燕，一只落在了后甲板上，另一只落在炮室的天窗上……射到了第三只……掉到海里去了。”

On 9 February, with the ice-pack to the north closing in behind the ships and threatening to trap them against the Barrier, Ross detected ‘a remarkable looking bay’, the only indentation he’d seen in the sofar-unbroken face of the ice. He decided to take the ships in. A quarter of a mile from the entrance he paused, tacking to determine the depth. It was 330 fathoms – 1,000 feet. Approaching further, it was clear that a spur of ice projecting into the water had created this deceptively protective inlet. It was a time to hold their breath. They were now closer to the base of the Great Southern Barrier than they had ever been. Looking up, they could see gigantic icicles hanging from the summit of the cliff. Cornelius Sullivan, like others, was agog. ‘All hands when they came on Deck to view this most rare and magnificent Sight that Ever the human eye witnessed Since the world was created actually Stood Motionless for Several Seconds before he Could Speak to the man next to him . . . Then I wishd. I was an artist or a draughtsman instead of a blacksmith and Armourer.’

2月9日，一块冰山从北方逐渐向船只后面逼近，并很有可能导致船撞向大屏障，而Ross也发现了“一个看起来很特别的海湾”，那是他在坚不可摧的冰层表面上看到的唯一一处凹陷。于是他决定把船开进去。他在离入口四分之一英里处停了下来，迎风换舷并测量水深。测得水深约330英寻，即1000英尺。再走近一点，就很明显地发现，那是一根从水面上凸起的冰刺，造成了视觉上的欺骗，才让人误以为那里有入口。而这是一个让所有人都忍不住屏气凝神的时刻。他们现在比以往的任何时候都要更接近南方大屏障的底部。抬头望去，他们可以看到悬崖之下悬挂着的巨大冰柱。和其他人一样，Cornelius Sullivan显得非常激动。“所有人都来到甲板上，观看着自世界诞生以来人类肉眼所见过的最罕见、最壮观的景象，而所有人也都安静的伫立在那，过了良久才和身边的人议论起来……那一刻，我只希望我是一名画家或者制图师，而不单单是铁匠或者军械工。”

The beauty and the spectacle were, however, perilous, for the sea here, sheltered from the winds, was freezing fast and piling up in layers around the ships. Suddenly clear water could not be seen, even from the top of the mast. Ross confessed later that he had feared they might be driven to destruction against the Barrier. Fortunately, a wind blew up in the nick of time and, with the help of their crews out on the ice with picks and shovels, *Erebus* and *Terror* were shepherded to safety. When Ross looked back, their channel could no longer be seen. They had had a very narrow escape.

然而，美丽壮观的景象的背后总是危机四伏的，因为这里的海水处在避风的情况下，所以冻结得很快，在船只周围的冰层已经堆积起来了。转瞬间，即使从桅杆顶上观察也看不见清澈的海水了。Ross后来承认，他曾一度担心他们会撞到大屏障上而船毁人亡。幸运的是，一阵大风在这紧要关头刮了过来，而船上的船员也纷纷带着镐锄和铁锹来到了冰面上，护送着*厄瑞玻斯号*和*恐怖号*到了安全的地方。当Ross回头看时，已经再也看不见他们的刚刚的航道了。他们侥幸逃过了一劫。

For three more days the two ships probed the edge of the pack-ice, looking for an opening. Masts and spars and rigging became encased in ice, which, as McCormick remembered, ‘rattled down on the decks from aloft, hanging about . . . in long beads or bracelets . . . giving the ship a very hoary aspect indeed’. They failed to find a way through. Ross therefore gave the order to turn round, and before long they found themselves within sight of Mount Erebus again. Even after all they had seen, their sense of wonder was far from dulled. Mount Erebus performed obligingly, shooting plumes of smoke and flame high into the air. ‘The Landscape this first watch was the most Splendid I ever Saw,’ William Cunningham wrote, ‘– it is beyond my power of description. Between the Land and the Volcanoe the Ice and the horizon with the Sun Shining brightly above all.’

两艘船之后又在浮冰的边缘探寻了三天，尝试寻找突破口。而桅杆、桅杆和索具也都因为结冰被冰块包裹住了，据McCormick回忆，“冰从高处到甲板遍布的到处都是，甚至悬在空中……就像长长的串珠或手链……整艘船也因此显得非常苍老。”他们最终还是没能找到通过的方法。因此，Ross下达命令掉头，不久后，厄瑞玻斯山再次映入眼帘。即使已经看过这一切了，他们内心的惊奇感也丝毫没有减弱。厄瑞玻斯火山亲切地向众人进行展示表演，对着高空喷射出缕缕烟雾和火焰。 “头班守夜时看到的壮观景色是我生平仅见的，”William Cunningham写道，“我甚至难以用言语来描述出来。在陆地和火山之间，在冰层和地平线之间，就像是璀璨的太阳在闪耀着光芒。”

A bay was discovered off the land, connecting Mount Erebus to the mainland, and was named McMurdo Bay after the senior lieutenant of the *Terror*. Later it was discovered that Ross had made one of his rare miscalculations, and that Mount Erebus and Mount Terror were both on an offshore island. McMurdo Bay was renamed McMurdo Sound, and the island that Ross had misdiagnosed as mainland was eventually named after him. Few names occur so frequently as his, on the map of Antarctica. The sea he sailed into after breaking through the pack became the Ross Sea, now the world’s largest Marine Protection Area, with a fishing ban covering an area of 432,000 square miles. The massive Southern Barrier, after much argument over the definition of a barrier, is today known as the Ross Ice Shelf.

他们之后在陆地附近又发现了一处连接着厄瑞玻斯山和大陆的海湾，并根据*恐怖号*上一位高级中尉的名字命名为麦克默多（McMurdo）湾。后来人们发现，Ross很罕见地犯了一个计算上的失误，其实厄瑞玻斯山和恐怖山都在同一个离岸岛屿上。麦克默多湾也被重新命名为麦克默多海峡，被罗斯误判为大陆的岛屿最终以他的名字命名。在南极洲地图上，很少有像他这样频繁出现的名字。他突破困难惊险驶入的海域被称为罗斯海，现在是世界上最大的海洋保护区，禁渔令的覆盖海域面积达到了43.2万平方英里。而那片仿若庞然大物的南方大屏障，在经历了对屏障定义的争论不休后，现在也被称为罗斯冰架。

As the two small ships turned their backs on Antarctica, Ross recorded his disappointment: ‘few can understand the deep feelings of regret with which I felt compelled to abandon the . . . hope I had so long cherished of being permitted to plant the flag of my country on both the magnetic poles of our globe,’ he wrote. But for his crew, there was surely nothing but relief. They had been away from Hobart for more than three months, six weeks of which had been spent in the ice. Much had been demanded of them – not only furling and unfurling sails in sub-zero temperatures, but clearing, cutting and heaving their ship through the ice pack.

当两艘船掉头驶离南极洲时，Ross记录下了他的失望之情：“没人能理解当我被迫放弃时，那种深深的遗憾之情……长久以来我是如此的渴望能够将祖国的国旗同时插在地球的两端磁极上。” 他如此写道。但对于他的船员来说，这肯定是一种解脱。他们离开霍巴特镇已经有三个多月了，其中有六个星期是在冰天雪地里度过的。并且他们还需要满足很多苛刻的要求——他们不仅要在零下的温度下收帆和展帆，还要在冰层中进行清理和切割，确保船只运行的畅通无阻。

And they had achieved all this without loss of life – indeed, seemingly in the best of health. D’Urville’s expedition, only months earlier, had had to be abandoned after outbreaks of frostbite and scurvy. But as *Erebus* and *Terror* turned away from a world where, as Cunningham noted, they had never seen the sun dip below the horizon, he was able to write, ‘Both Ships companies in the best of health – thanks be to God’. Not only were the men healthy, but it was clear there was no shortage of food, if McCormick’s description of a Sunday lunch – after months in the Antarctic – is to be believed. ‘We had some fresh beef roasted for dinner today,’ he records, ‘which had been killed in December last, and suspended under the mizzen-top in a bread-bag ever since. It turned out most excellent, being more tender and juicy than when first slaughtered. I opened a jar of Tasmania honey which had been given me by my kind friends the Gregsons . . . I also broached a bottle of whisky.’

他们在没有任何牺牲的情况下完成了这一切——事实上，他们看起来各个都生龙活虎的。而就在几个月前，D’Urville的探险队曾因为冻伤和坏血病的爆发而不得不放弃。但当*厄瑞玻斯号*和*恐怖号*到那个远离尘嚣的世界后，正如Cunningham所说的那样，他们从未见过太阳落到地平线以下，他也写道：“两艘船上的伙伴们一直都很健康——感谢上帝”。 如果在南极待了几个月后的McCormick对周日午餐的描述可信的话，那他们不仅身体健康，而且很明显食物也很充足。“我们今天晚餐吃了一些新鲜的烤牛肉，”他记录道，“这些牛肉是去年12月宰杀的，从那以后就被装在面包袋里挂在后桅顶下面。现在更美味了，比刚宰的时候更嫩、更多汁。我还开了一罐塔斯马尼亚蜂蜜，那是我的好朋友Gregsons一家送的……我还准备了一瓶威士忌。”

Not that the run back to Hobart was ever easy. In the midst of one gale, Ross and Crozier found their ships being driven perilously close to a mountainous coastline that Wilkes had very recently charted. It was touch and go as to whether Ross would be able both to dodge the icebergs and clear the north-eastern point of the land mass towards which he was sure he was being remorselessly driven. The next morning, however, as the skies cleared and the wind abated, they could see no land at all. By the evening they were a few miles from where Wilkes had marked the eastern point of a mountain range, but as far as the eye could see there was only open water.

回到霍巴特镇的途中并不轻松。在一场大风中，Ross和Crozier发现他们的船只被推向了一处海岸线，那处海岸线是Wilkes在最近绘制，山脉较多，十分危险。当时的情景可谓是千钧一发，惊险万分，Ross即使避开冰山，却也躲不过撞到大陆的东北角，因为Ross已经确定他肯定会被无情地推向那里了。直到次日清晨，天放晴了，风也停了，他们也依然没看见陆地。直到傍晚的时候，即使他们已经离Wilkes所标记的山脉东侧不足几英里了，可是肉眼所看到的地方还是只有一片开阔的水面。

On Sunday 7 March McCormick confirmed that all he could see from the deck of *Erebus* was a procession of icebergs on the port side. ‘We have passed over the spot where the American Arctic Expedition have laid down land, but we found only an open sea,’ he wrote. Clearly Wilkes Land had been an illusion.

3月7日星期天，McCormick证实，他在*厄瑞玻斯*号甲板上唯一能看到的只有左舷的一处冰山群。“我们刚刚经过了美国北极探险队曾经登陆的地方，但我们只发现了一片开阔的大海，” 他写道。很显然，威尔克斯地只是一个幻想。

The realisation must have come as a relief to Ross, but it must also have been the cause for some quiet self-satisfaction. When he came to write about it, he generously surmised that Lieutenant Wilkes must have ‘mistaken for land some of the dense well-defined clouds which so continually hang over extensive packs of ice – a mistake which we had ourselves, on many occasions, to guard against’. But even the phlegmatic Ross must surely have had the hint of a smile as he wrote about their next move: ‘Before midnight [we] gained the position of the eastern point of the supposed land, and shaped our course . . . under moderate sail, along the mountain range.’

这一发现肯定让Ross松了一口气，但一定程度上成了他自鸣得意的缘由。当他来写这件事的时候，他慷慨地猜测Wilkes中尉一定是“把那些悬浮在大量冰层上的浓稠紧密、纹理清晰的云层误认为是陆地了——这是我们多次强调需要提防的一个错误”。 但即使是冷漠的罗斯，在写到他们的下一步行动时，嘴角也肯定挂着一丝微笑：“在午夜之前，(我们)到达了所谓的大陆东端的位置，并决定了我们的航线……沿着山脉顺风航行。”

The weather proved erratic. In the ever-changing conditions no two days were the same, as entries from Cunningham’s diary for the first days of April reveal.

事实证明，天气是如此地变化无常。Cunningham的4月份日记显示，在这么多变的气候条件下，没有哪两天是相同的。

1st Thursday: Fine: a rattling breeze going right before it . . . Ship going very steady 7 Knots

2nd Friday: A calm . . . both ships lowered boats down . . . got Soundings in 1500 fathoms [9,000 feet]: washed decks and Scrubbed paintwork

3rd Saturday: Stiff gale: going before it: rolling heavily: closereefed topsails: averaging 7 knots . . . Fine clear night

4th Sunday . . . Set topgallant sails going 7 knots: both ships rolling very heavily. In the morning watch the *Erebus* had her port Quarter Boat washed away which came floating past us apparently not injured with her mast and oars in all nicely scraped.

1日星期四：天气晴朗：一阵轻快的微风迎面而来……船只航行稳定在7节

2日星期五：风平浪静……两艘船都放低船身……测得水深1500英寻（9000英尺）：冲洗甲板，擦洗涂漆

3日星期六：大风：在风到来之前：船身剧烈摇摆：近帆：平均7节……晚上天晴气朗

4日星期天……打开上桅帆设定在7节：两艘船都起伏得很厉害。守夜的时候，*厄瑞玻斯号*左舷船尾的小艇被海水冲走了，这只船的桅杆和桨都保留完整，安然无恙地从我们身边漂过

Cunningham foresaw trouble here: ‘Should she be picked up by any Ship it will be inferred that the *Erebus* is lost – but she’s not.’

Cunningham在这里预见到了麻烦：“如果它被其他船只发现，就可能推断*厄瑞玻斯号*失踪了——但其实她并没有失踪。”

She certainly wasn’t. Even now, Ross continued with his magnetic observations. Edward Sabine had told him that the regions in which they were now sailing would contain a focus of maximum magnetic intensity. Ross therefore duly took the measurements, only to find that, as at Wilkes Land, the strong magnetic forces that had been predicted didn’t exist (they were actually much further south). McCormick, meanwhile, continued to prepare his collections for their storage boxes. The least happy of the ‘scientists’ on board was Joseph Hooker, who complained at being confined on the ship for so long, and finding so little of botanical interest south of the Antarctic Circle. ‘The utter desolation of 70 South could never have been expected.’

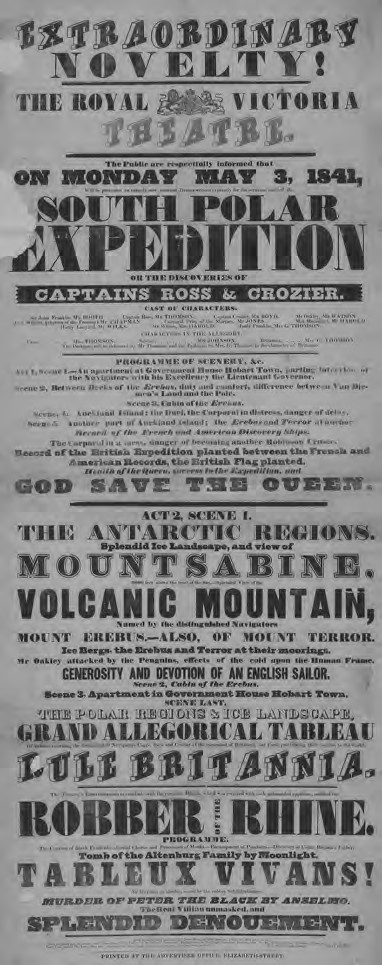
她当然不会有事啦。直到现在，Ross还在继续他的磁场观测。Edward Sabine曾告诉他，他们现在航行的区域应该有一处位置磁场强度是最大的。因此，Ross一直按时进行测量，结果却发现，正如威尔克斯地一样，预言的强磁力点其实并不存在（实际上它们在更南的位置）。与此同时，McCormick则在继续为他的收藏品准备储物箱。船上的“科学家”中最不开心的大概就是Joseph Hooker，他抱怨着被困在船上这么久，而且在南极圈以南也几乎没有发现什么有价值的植物。“南纬70的地方如此荒凉是我们始料未及的。”

This first Antarctic foray had been a voyage into the unknown for all 128 men, and the fact that they had achieved so much and returned, as Ross put it, ‘unattended by casualty, calamity, or sickness of any kind’ is a remarkable tribute to the men and their leaders. For *Erebus*, which for the first thirteen years of her life had seen no more of the world than the clear blue waters of the Bay of Naples and the Tyrrhenian Sea, it was a triumph. She and her sister ship had, with only the loss of a few spars and a quarter-boat, overcome conditions that no ship in history had had to contend with. It’s not recorded whether Rice and his team at Chatham Dockyard were kept informed of her successes, but they should have been deservedly proud of what they had achieved in turning bomb ships into polar pioneers.

对于全体的128人来说，这首次的南极之旅是一次进入未知区域的航行。而他们切实地取得了巨大的成就，并成功返航，正如Ross所说，“没有出现任何伤亡、灾难或任何疾病的困扰”，这是对他们这些领导者的最高致敬。对于*厄瑞玻斯号*来说，在她生命的最初十三年里，她只见过那不勒斯湾和第勒尼安海的湛蓝海水，而今凯旋而归。她和她的姊妹船，在只损失了几根桅杆和一艘船尾小艇的情况下，克服了历史上任何一艘船都没遇到过的恶劣条件。并没有记录表明Rice和他在查塔姆船坞的团队是否得知了她的成功，但他们应该为能将炸弹船改造成这艘极地先驱而感到自豪。

On 6 April 1841, a week before Easter, they had their first sight of the coast of Van Diemen’s Land, and at midnight the Iron Pot light shone out, guiding them up Storm Bay to the mouth of the Derwent. The pilot came aboard at half-past nine next morning. It was an unsettled day, with strong squally cross-winds, but that didn’t stop Sir John Franklin turning out to meet them, and three cheers rang out from *Erebus* as he clambered aboard from the *Eliza*, which had brought him down the river to welcome them. It was late in the afternoon by the time they reached Ross Cove and sent the anchors tumbling. Cornelius Sullivan greeted their safe arrival with an equally tumbling rush of relief and joy: ‘All hands were in good health and Spirits Fresh grub and Liberty on Shore with a drop of the Creator – soon made our jolly tars forget the Cold fingers in the Frozen Regions, for very Little they thought of 78 South while Regealing themselves at Charley Probins the Sign of the Gordon Castle Hobart Town.’

1841年4月6日，也就是复活节的前一周，他们第一次看到了范迪门斯之地的海岸，午夜时分，铁锅灯塔的灯光照向了他们，指引他们沿着风暴湾到达了德文特河口。第二天早晨九点半，领航员上船。那天天气十分多变，有强烈的横风，但这并没有阻止John Franklin爵士亲自出来迎接他们。他乘坐*伊丽莎号*顺流而下前来欢迎他们，当他登船时，*厄瑞玻斯号*响起了三声欢呼。当他们到达罗斯湾并下锚时，已经是接近傍晚了。Cornelius Sullivan为他们的安全返航表达出了同样高涨的慰藉和喜悦之情：“所有人都十分健康，精神饱满，得益于造物主赐予我们的食物与自由——我们快乐的水手很快就忘记了在冰天雪地里冻得冰凉的手指，其实早在看到Charley Probins 的戈登堡-霍巴特镇的标志的时候，他们就已经把南纬78区域的种种困苦抛诸脑后了。”

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*The people of Hobart reacted ecstatically to Erebus’s return, throwing a celebratory ball and – as this theatre poster advertises – even a dramatic re-enactment of her first Antarctic voyage.*

*霍巴特镇的人们对厄瑞玻斯号的归来感到欣喜若狂，他们举行了庆祝舞会，甚至正如这张海报所宣传的那样，还通过戏剧的方式重现了她的第一次南极之旅。*