

THE OUTCAST.
Frogs him out from the warmth and light—
Only a vagrant, feels it and gray—
Let him reel through the stormy night—
With a muffled curse on the wind and rain.
He crept along through the muddy lane.

Lonely the pathway, and dark and cold;
Sister he sought 'neath a ruined wall;
Round him sleep there her mystic pall;
Then an angel came with pitying tears,
And lifted the veil by-gone.

Gaily he sported by a rippling brook;
Soft is the breath of the summer air;
Flings him into the sun and the sun,
Sunshine and happiness everywhere.
He is *Willum* now, just four years old.

Willum is Willum, and the world is cold.

Here to the boy of the war-like drum—
See the brave soldiers go marching by!
Home from the battle a young *Willum* has come,
Courage and joy in his sparkle eyes.
And the world is cold, and the world is cold.

For he soon will greet his promised bride.

Now in the frosts the tickling glow—
Calmly he's taking his evening's rest;

Footsteps, and the world is cold.

Keeping secure on its mother's breast,
(And the dreamer stirred and family smiled):

He is *Willum* now, with his wife and child.

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The curtain dropped—the morning broke—
Faint was the flush in the eastern sky;

Bringing the world a new day.

Braving a storm from his bloodshot eye,
To his equal home behind the hill,

With a saddened heart kept poor old *Willum*.

EXPLORING IN THE FAR NORTH

The ice region of the North is full of marvelous grandeur and mystery. It is not only mysterious in itself, but likewise in much of its history.

It is a region of ice and forbidden, it yet possesses charms and even beauties that are especially its own. For nearly the whole year, its frozen waters and frozen land present phenomena startling almost beyond imagination. Turn the eye whether you will, in a space of some 1,500 miles diameter around the geographical pole, immense masses and fields of ice only are seen in every direction. The ice is broken into the tiniest hidden land, or all but completely covered sea. On the one hand may be seen towering mountains of rock, soaring high in majestic grandeur, and encircled or divided from each other by mighty glaciers and fields of ice; on the latter, there may be presented a seemingly limitless level of solid ice varying from eight to forty feet in thickness, these fields drawn into enormous ridges, sometimes forty feet high, and of irregular lengths, with huge ice-islands called bergs scattered about upon its surface.

If it be the open season of summer, these bergs may be seen floating about in stately splendor, or occasionally, when caught in currents and eddies, tearing along with violence and violence. It may be a storm, and the world has burst in and broken up the ice, the scene presented is a very wild one, and the utmost dexterity is required on the part of the mariner to avert danger from the masses dashing against the vessel's side.

If it be calm or moderate weather, the pictures nature puts before the eye are marvellous. If the sky is clear, then through the fairies-like canes of the great cities thrown in the air appear to view. Refracted images of all imaginable forms dance before you. In the air may be seen, inverted, some distant object which in reality is far below the line of ordinary vision. Sometimes the sun does not look round but oval; or perhaps there may appear to be four suns, or at night four moons, lighting up the icebergs. In winter, the pale glow of one part of the horizon is often illuminated by the aurora borealis. In summer, according to the latitude, there is no sunset for weeks; and during winter there is total darkness for a like period. The cold is intense, except occasionally. Even in autumn, thick ice will sometimes form in one night; and in winter or spring the region is generally from thirty to sixty degrees below zero.

Still, if proper precaution be taken, even this extreme temperature is bearable.

Now, it is through such a region as this that explorers have to make their way. How they do it is a story often told, yet always interesting. In the first place, their locomotive built in their ships are more than ordinarily strengthened to withstand ice; yet even so, the men still have to use their power of an arval, and constant watchfulness of ice-movements is needed.

Then, throwing themselves down on the covered floor, packed like herrings in a barrel, they seek in slumber a forgetfulness of their strange and far from enviable position.

What they endure may be gathered from the following quotations. In one official report it is stated that "the men agreed in voting noses a nuisance into this country from the fact that the position they are usually the first part frost-bitten; also, whalers and the like are sent sentence as not only being useless but very inconvenient, the former catching the snow-drift, and one's breath freezing on the latter forms an ice not easily removed."

"April 30—Near 1 o'clock a. m., the temperature was below zero, and the sun had set at 4 p. m. The fast salt pork became hard and brittle like snet; and as the temperature falls below minus 25 degrees, our rum becomes thick. To drink out of a pannikin, without leaving the skin of one's lips attached to it, requires considerable experience and caution. The bottle of rum is laid upon the ice, and upon this is placed another of canvas. The whole party, officers and all, then make themselves as comfortable as they can together. The provisions are stored out, and, after being fed in morsels or dashes, and, without undressing, get into bags made of stout blankets and about seven feet long, so as to cover head and all. Then, throwing themselves down on the covered floor, packed like herrings in a barrel, they seek in slumber a forgetfulness of their strange and far from enviable position.

The following is the account of one of the whalers of Arctic explorers may be of interest at a time when the recent American search expedition has drawn public attention once more to the subject of Arctic exploration.—Chambers' Journal.

run in between the men's legs. Presently, however, all the party have arrived at the place appointed. There, the chief of the entire expedition carefully examines their several equipments, and addresses them in appropriate terms, pointing out what each has to do. The several sledges are named, and large flags with certain mottoes selected by the officers attached to them. Many of those mottoes bear upon the subject of the search, and several of the flags are shown on account of the fair hands at home—some sister, or some one still dearer—who lovingly made them. Every sledge has an officer, and from six to eight men. All the officers desire to go; but the post of honor is given first to the highest—ever to the *Coldwater* ships—then to the *Alaska* and *Turn*. And now all have received their orders, and been addressed as to their respective duties, and, after a few kind and sometimes tender partings between old comrades, the hardy explorers buckle to their work, and shortly separate, each band on its way to traverse hundreds of miles of frozen ocean or of bleak, inhospitable coast.

Away they go! Over miles and miles of dreary waste, toiling and searching and whenever aught presents itself that would seem to have been placed there by others than themselves. Weary, footsore, snow-blind, lame, weak, strong again, often frozen nearly stiff, and battling with wind and sleet and icy particles that cut the face as though with a keen razor. Still they trudge on, through barren and hitherto-unseen places. Occasionally they break out into a song, and thusrouse themselves and perform renew their flagging strength.

The sledge, when loaded with provisions, tents, spare clothing, instruments, dreams, and spirits of wine-for-fuel, generally weighs 1,200 pounds, or say 190 pounds per man. This weight, then, the men have to pull over the ice, smooth or rough, and over snow, ice, and sleet, as best they can. A bolt round each man is then attached to the sledge, and thus should it happen, as is sometimes the case, that one of the party falls through a broken hole in the ice, is speedily pulled out again. In such cases some rapid exercise is necessary to prevent the serious consequences that might otherwise ensue.

When dinner hour arrives, the party halts for a short time to eat the allowance already made up for each person. Then they drink their small quantum of grog, a proceeding which is usually accomplished while running up and down the ice to keep up the circulation and escape being frost-bitten. The port which has been cooked on board is almost always so hard that it breaks like biscuit, and the drinking utensils are usually covered with a non-conducting substance to prevent the cold from fastening on the skin of the lips.

But night is the worst part of the time in the sleeping period; for we should mention that sometimes the party travels by night and sleeps by day, on account of the greater advantage from the absence of glare, etc. In one place were 5200 pounds of oil, nearly 10,000 pounds of salt meat, over 10,000 pounds of preserved meats and soups; beside vast quantities of groceries, vegetables, fruits, pemican, wines, spirits, tobacco, clothing, boots, etc. So far as the relieving of the missing expedition was concerned, the fore-going operations, etc., were left in vain. Years afterward they were found untouched.

These few notes of what is to be faced by the Arctic explorers may be of interest at a time when the recent American search expedition has drawn public attention once more to the subject of Arctic exploration.—Chambers' Journal.

Mrs. Partington Says

Don't take any of the quack nostrums, as they are regrettful to the human censor; but put your trust in old *Hostetter's* and all other nostrums, and habits will be cured.

They saved Isaac from a severe extract of tripod fever. They are the *plus* um of medicines.—Boston Globe.

BITS OF INFORMATION.

Six dolls were invented 550 B. C.

The sextant was invented in 1550.

The first locomotive built in this country was at West Point in 1830. It was named the *Phoenix*.

Calico received its name from Calicut, a city of India, which was discovered by the Portuguese in 1498.

The English is the most difficult of all modern languages for a foreigner to learn with accuracy. The German comes next. The French is easier to acquire, and the Italian easier still.

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A Rich Puff.

A manufacturer and vendor of quack medicines wrote to a friend for a strong recommendation of his (the manufacturer's) product. In a few days he received the following, which we call pretty strong:

"DEAR SIR: The land comprising this farm has hitherto been so poor that a Scotchman could not get a living off it, and so stony that we had to slice our potatoe and plant them edgeways; but, hearing of your balsam, I put some on the corner of a ten-acre field surrounded by a fence, and the next day found that the rock had entirely disappeared. The rails were split into firewood, and piled up symmetrically in my back yard. I put half an onion in the middle of a huckleberry swamp; in two days it was cleared off, planted with corn and pumpkins, and a row of peach trees in full blossom through the middle. The next day I found a wild peach-tree growing in the middle of a mill-pond; drew a blister all over his stomach; drew a load of potatoes four miles to market, and eventually drew a sum of \$97 in a lottery."

"I have,"

"On the buck."

"Well, then just you fit skinning, and then just you fit the way these breeches did."

"About midnight Bill stole up between the block-house and cabin and raised the war whoop. My Gee, what a stir there was. An attack from the Indians had been momentarily expected, and the whole garrison sprang to arms. Women crept with their children into the safest corners of the fort, while the men prepared to repel the expected skirmish. In the little cluster of cabins outside of the block-house the coming savages were awed by the sight. The frightened whoop continued, chilling the blood of all.

"My father's friends hastily struggled on with their breeches, and the small one got on my father's and had room to move. New clothes, and the like, were given to those of us who were to be left, so he was naked as the day he was born."

"The Indians had no mind to be left, so he was naked as the day he was born."

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