

## NOTE 15. — Page 328.

I visited the locality of the abandoned vessel in March, 1861, and found that at some unknown period the ice of Rensselaer Harbor had broken adrift and carried the *Advance* out to sea, where it was, no doubt, crushed and sunk. The appearance of the bay was greatly changed, on the occasion of this visit, from what it was in 1853-1855, for the ice had again drifted into it. There had been an extensive crushing of the tables, and a disturbance of the general smoothness of the frozen waters. The following description of the bay, written at the period, is quoted from my "Open Polar Sea":—

"How changed was everything! Instead of the broad, smooth ice over which I had so often strolled, there was but a uniform wilderness of hummocks. In the place where the *Advance* once lay, the ice was piled up nearly as high as were her mast-heads. Fern Rock was almost overridden by the frightful avalanche which had torn down into the harbor from the north, and the locality of the storehouse on Butler Island was almost buried out of sight. No vestige of the *Advance* remained, except a small bit of a deck-plank which I picked up near the site of the old Observatory. The fate of the vessel is of course a matter only of conjecture. When the ice broke up,—it may have been the year we left her or years afterwards,—she was probably carried out to sea and ultimately crushed and sunk. From the Esquimaux I obtained many contradictory statements. Indeed, with the best intentions in the world, these Esquimaux have great trouble in telling a straight story. Even Kalutunah is not to be depended upon if there is the ghost of a chance for invention. He had been to the vessel, but at one time it was one year and then again it was another. He had carried off much wood, as many other Esquimaux had done. Another Esquimaux had seen a vessel drifting about in the north