

obtained. On the afternoon of the 28th, to their unspeakable joy, they saw the smoke of a steamer at a distance, but soon lost sight of her. This was one of the Newfoundland sealing fleet, out on her second trip. On the next day they saw her again, but failed to attract the attention of those on board, notwithstanding every effort made by firing guns and hoisting signals. Towards evening she disappeared, and the hearts of the poor cast-aways sank within them. Were they doomed to perish so near human aid, after all their wonderful escapes! Next morning at 5 o'clock as the fog cleared away,—O joy for ever!—they saw a large steamer within a quarter of a mile of them. She proved to be the *Tigress*, Captain Bartlett, of St. Johns, out on a sealing voyage. In a short time they were on board, and received the utmost kindness and attention. A few days after, the *Tigress* reached St. Johns.

The whole party were looking wonderfully well, notwithstanding their privations and hardships. They had been six months and a-half on the ice. Few of them, in all that time, had been able to change any portion of their clothing, and not one of them had been able to enjoy the luxury of a wash, the little water they were able to obtain by melting the ice, being all required for drinking and cooking purposes. We can fancy the pleasurable sensations of these poor voyagers, when once more they tasted a warm, well-cooked meal, got a thorough wash, and lay down to sleep in a clean bed.

There is no reason at present to be apprehensive regarding the safety of the *Polaris*. In all probability she was frozen in and wintered in Whale Sound, as she was last seen in harbour at Northumberland Island, at the entrance of the Sound. Fourteen men were left on board, and although only two of them are seamen, the crew are quite equal to the working of the ship, under ordinary circumstances. She had ample stores on board, and being so far south when last seen, there is the strongest probability of her being released from the ice before July.

It is to be feared that some of the most important records of the voyage are lost, especially the meteorological and part of the astronomical, as they were on the ice, in a box, when the *Polaris* was driven away, but not on that portion of the floe on which the castaways were. It is possible they may have been recovered afterwards, as no doubt those on board the *Polaris* would make strenuous efforts to save such precious documents.