

All observations taken at the most northern position in which civilized man has ever wintered, must be regarded with much interest. The amount of information furnished by the expedition regarding the zoology and botany of those regions, though not large, is important. Unhappily the collections of natural history were lost on the ice, with the exception of two small cases. The character of the fauna is North American, as indicated by the occurrence of the lemming and musk-ox. Twenty-six of the latter were shot. Only one white bear was seen, but foxes were often observed. Three kinds of seals were met with—the common Greenland seal, the ground seal, and the fetid seal—even as far north as  $82^{\circ} 16'$ ; but no walrus or narwhal to the north of  $79^{\circ}$ . Musk-oxen were reported by the Esquimaux to be very plentiful on the western side, in Ellismere and Grinnel Lands. Before the winter set in the birds all migrated south, but ptarmigan and a species of snipe re-appeared early in spring, and the usual Arctic species were abundant. It is remarkable that, with the exception of a salmon in a fresh-water lake, no fish were met with. Altogether, nine species of mammals were found, four of which were seals. The number of species of insects is about fifteen, viz.: one beetle, four butterflies, six diptera, one bumble-bee, and several ichneumons, parasites in caterpillars. Two species of spiders and several mites were found. The flora was found to be richer than could be expected, as not less than seventeen phanerogamic plants were collected, besides three mosses, three lichens, and five fresh-water algae.

The prevailing winds were found to be from the north-east, although there were occasionally tempests from the south-west. Light winds were noticed from all points of the compass. The lowest temperature registered was  $48^{\circ}$  Fahrenheit. The fall of snow during the two winters passed by the *Polaris* in Smith's Sound was remarkably small. During the summer the entire extent of both low lands and elevations were bare of both snow and ice, except patches here and there in the shade of the rocks. "The soil during this period was covered with a more or less dense vegetation of moss, with which several Arctic plants were interspersed, some of considerable beauty, but entirely without scent, and many small willows scarcely reaching the dignity of shrubs. The rocks noticed were of a schistose or slaty character, and in some instances contained fossil plants, specimens of which