

diary (Vol. II, pages 588 *et. seq.*) where is inserted the copy of a digested synopsis of the cruise of the *Jeannette*, up to her foundering, dated on the ice-floe, Friday, June 17th, 1881, and signed by him officially. This, it is recorded, he prepared and sewed with great care in a piece of black rubber, rendering it as impervious to moisture as possible, and caused the whole to be headed up, inside of an empty water-breaker, or small cask used for carrying water in boats. When thus securely packed, he left it with the debris of their first camp on the ice-floe to which they escaped when their vessel sunk. Capt. De Long must have observed the tendency of small articles to work their way into the ice, and it seems more than likely, that in accordance with the especial care otherwise manifest in regard to this precious record, that he had it covered over before his departure, with some of the clothing, bear skins and other material, which Noros states was left behind on the ice-floe. If covering a large surface of ice with a thick covering would protect it, what course seems more natural for a careful and scientific commander to pursue. This may account for its preservation for so long a period, in good condition.

The men first camped in *six* tents, on the ice-floe, which De Long describes (Vol. II, page 582) as follows: Tent "A., Headquarters; B., De Long; C., Chipp; D., Melville; E., Danenhower; F., Ambler;" in front of which were placed three boats and four sledges. Accepting the statement now made by Noros, "that the party carried south *five* tents, De Long's party having two, Melville's two, and Chipp's one," it is apparent that, as De Long records, *six* as landed on the ice-floe, *one* must have been left there when the retreat began.

This accounts for the partly destroyed tent which Captain Wilson says was found on the floe. He reported that the natives saw a bearskin covering something resembling in size and shape a human corpse. This probably covered some provisions which could not be carried and were abandoned on the ice, and he fully "believes that what was covered up under the bear skin, was only apparently in the