

went to perform any duties. His two boats were built at York Factory, and as soon as the ice broke up at the end of June, they started and sailed along the western coast of Hudson's Bay for nine hundred miles in these little open boats with no decks or other covering except a piece of oil-cloth. They lived almost entirely on ducks and seals, keeping their pemmican for future use. Immense quantities of ice were encountered along Repulse Bay early in August. Taking one of the boats across the land, and finding the bay so full of ice that even their small boats could not get along, they decided to winter. The party numbered fifteen altogether, including two Esquimaux as interpreters. There was very little sign of living creatures; they obtained scarcely enough venison to keep them, and were obliged to consume a considerable part of their pemmican. Observing, however, the tracks of reindeer, which had passed up north in the spring, he came to the conclusion that they would return later in the autumn. Not desiring to expose his men to danger without their consent, he asked them whether they would winter there with him, as if they went back to the woods for winter they would be too far away from their work in the spring. All agreed to stay. They then built a store house, with the door composed of skin on a frame, and took up their quarters while the clay was still wet. In fact it never dried; but after a time it froze, so that the place became quite comfortable. A curious effect produced was that it rather destroyed the lecturer's library. He had put his books on a piece of board on the wall where they became so damp from the moisture of the house, that when the frost came they froze solid. As their fuel was heather which they scraped up and which required much blowing to do their cooking, it would have destroyed the books to put them near the fire; so the only resource was to put them beside him. Having thawed out two or three in this way he distributed the others among his men who did the same; so that all came out right in the end, though the books still bore marks of the experience. All their drink was tea and water, not a drop of wine or spirits being used. In practise he was not a teetotaller, but he knew that spirits were very injurious in a cold climate. The deer having begun to return, one hundred and twenty were killed before the end of October. Their skins were used for clothing, and the lecturer became easy and comfortable in his mind, knowing that the party were now saved from starvation, though real hard work had been required to get the animals. Although he had been brought up rather a keen sportsman in the north of Scotland, he had never shot deer before; yet he himself killed about half of the deer which kept them all winter. About a ton of stone had to be piled upon every one of the animals to keep the wolves and foxes from eating them. Sometimes the deer were hauled about a mile to the stones; at other times it was more convenient to haul the stones to the deer. Sometimes six or seven deer were taken in a day; and precious care was taken to save every bit of them. The blood was found to make beautiful soup, and it was saved by being put into the stomachs of the animals, which were prepared for the purpose by being turned inside out and rubbed with snow. When

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