

Zembla. No man had entered that lonely dwelling for nearly three centuries. There stood the cooking-pans over the fireplace, the old clock against the wall, the arms, the tools, the drinking vessels, the instruments, and the books that had beguiled the weary hours of that long night, two hundred and seventy-eight years ago. The most touching of the relics was a pair of small shoes which had belonged to a little cabin-boy among the crew, who died. There was a flute too, once played by that poor boy, which will still give out a few notes. These interesting relics are now in a museum at the Hague.

The English and the Dutch were competitors in whaling adventures, around the Spitzbergen coasts, during the early part of the seventeenth century. The English mariners especially did excellent geographical work, and as shown in Purchas's Chart in the 3rd volume of "His Pilgrimes," they discovered and traced the outlying islands off eastern Spitzbergen,—Edge Island, Wiche's Land, North East Land, and several others. Within the last few years no less than five consecutive Swedish expeditions, between 1858 and 1872, have been despatched to Spitzbergen and have made very valuable collections and observations, chiefly on the southern and western coasts, but also extending to the eastern shores. The gallant enterprise of English yachtsmen has also been directed to this quarter, and in 1861, Mr. Lamont, and in 1867, Mr. Birkbeck made yacht voyages to Spitzbergen, with excellent results. Most interesting of all, however, have been the voyages of Mr. B. Leigh Smith, with the view of attaining the highest possible latitude, and of exploring the unknown lands to the eastward of Spitzbergen. A few weeks ago the newspapers informed us that he had started from Dundee, in the steamer *Diana*, in order to press further eastward, extend his important discoveries, and attain a high northern latitude. Thus England still retains her reputation as the leader in Arctic exploration. But we must not pass over the German expeditions, of the results of which as yet little is known. These expeditions owe their origin to the ardour of Dr. Augustus Petermann, the distinguished German geographer, and have been directed along the east coast of Greenland. The first of them took place in 1868. A tiny vessel, called the *Germania*, under the command of Captain Koldewey, with a crew of only eleven men, was despatched to the east coast of Greenland, but was soon beset in the great ice-stream which is ever pouring