

94 CRUISE OF THE ESQUIMAUX.

good heads. They had a very lively time of it, walking in the dark up to their chests in snow at times. The boat's crew who went back to fetch the deer missed R. and Brown, who, it seems, had got tired of waiting, and returned to the boat. There was some fine talking when the two parties met again. R. and his crew went off again at 9 a.m. to bring the meat back. C. and self paid a visit to the tupecks, where I gave the men and women some shooting with my '303. C. went for a run in a seven-dog sleigh, and brought back a hare. I bagged a brace of ducks with my '303. Boats returned at 5 p.m., the meat boat coming back shortly afterwards. The natives all came on board for the gramophone, which pleases them immensely. Dull, and snow in the afternoon.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11TH.—Four boats away. Blowing fresh from the S.E. Snow and frost all day. One boat taken on board, and one given to the natives, the latter is a very old boat, and done for, but we are to get four large bearskins for it next year. We are short of paraffin and it is time to move homewards. Boats returned at 3-30 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12TH.—Four boats away. Decided to start homewards. Had some difficulty in clearing port anchor, but got under weigh at noon. The natives rowed out to see the last of us. We soon picked up two boats and took them on board. We were some time in finding the other two, owing to heavy snow showers, but we found them at 3-30 p.m. and had them on board by 4 p.m. Started on passage at 4-15 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13TH.—Strong North wind, with nasty swell from N.E. and snow. Fore and aft canvas set, engines half speed. Fine night, with less wind. A few icebergs in sight. Course S.W. by S.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14TH.—The Aurora was very fine early this morning. Four sword-fish were seen during the day. Wind N.E., squally and dull. 133 miles by log at noon.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15TH.—Wind increased at midnight, and we had half a gale from the N.E. all day; engines stopped, and we did well under canvas. The "Esquimaux" is decidedly lively, although we have taken a lot of water ballast on board in the oil tanks. 180 miles at noon.