

THE OASES GREELY AND LOCKWOOD SAW IN GRINNELL LAND.

Setting romance aside, there are good reasons for believing that oases are still occasionally found in the Arctic regions; and, as we have already shown, the coal beds and other signs which have been discovered there, afford indubitable evidence that, in some distant epoch, a luxuriant vegetation and genial climate prevailed at or near the Pole. Lieut. GREELY, in his lately published book, describes the oasis he found in GRINNELL LAND, within the ice walls of the coast regions. Sir JOSEPH HOOKER, in 1876, expressed the opinion that Grinnell Land is not ice-capped, as a large part of Greenland is, but that it is an ice-girt island within which vegetation and game flourish. The district corresponding with this description, where Lieuts. GREELY and LOCKWOOD saw little snow or ice even in April, is north of  $81^{\circ}$  north latitude, extending about 50 miles north and south, and nearly from sea to sea east and west. Here they discovered a large freshwater lake, a big river, and many long valleys where, later in the season, flourished a "luxuriant vegetation," which served as pasturage for a good deal of game, including many herds of musk oxen. In these grassy valleys, within about 600 miles of the Pole, were found abundant animal life, and numerous butterflies, bumble-bees, and "devil's darning needles" enjoying the warm summer day. The old legends of the North and South Pole, which novelists and poets have depicted with such picturesque effect, may yet be verified by future explorers, if not by Col. GILDER himself.

