

SATURDAY, 25TH SEPT.

A.M.
N.W. S.
a.c.
Temperature zero.
Thick drift.
Detained this day by a north-west gale.

Still blowing a strong gale; the temperature in the tent is + 10, outside it is at zero. As the present detention added to the slow progress we have hitherto made was rather a serious matter, I felt obliged to reduce such portions of our provisions as we could most easily spare or our depôt could not supply to one-half and two-thirds allowance. Endeavoured to work up my courses and distances from the ship to the north coast, but having no navigation tables with me cannot place much dependence upon my result. I make the course and distance from the ship to the depôt N. 33° W. 32 miles, and to accomplish this we have travelled 38 or 39 miles; the variation allowed is 137° E.

In the afternoon the wind abated considerably, but the weather was so misty that I could not recognize our position; by my reckoning we are two thirds of a mile east of our outward track.

On examining the ravine before us, I found its sides were nearly perpendicular, and that the tracks of our cart wheels over its glacier were nearer to the edge than we should have deemed prudent in clear weather. At a turn in the ravine the glacier extended right across it in an immense arch. The tunnel beneath was about 80 yards in length, and 70 or 80 feet wide, its height at each end was about 60 feet, and the lowest part which was about half way through was fully 40 feet high; with the exception of a few masses which had fallen from above, the bed of the ravine beneath the arch was an unobstructed dry river course. Icicles of every possible size and of the purest ice were disposed in clusters from fissures in the roof or in rows along the sides of this icy cavern, with which their lustrous appearance contrasted beautifully; the icicles were so transparent, and the interior of the cavern or tunnel of an opaque bluish white glazed upon the surface resembling real china; the under surface of the roof was rippled in the form of mimic waves. It was quite an enchanting scene, but the fissures in the roof and immense blocks of ice which lay as they had fallen from it, warned me that it was not a desirable place to loiter in; these fissures brought to my recollection the cracks we passed over yesterday.

SUNDAY, 26TH SEPT.

A.M.
N.W. 4 c.m.s.
Temperature + 15.

Eleventh Journey (on return).

7 miles travelled.
9½ hours.

P.M.
Westerly 2. b.c.m.
Temperature + 3.

Less wind this morning but still much snow and drift. At 7.45 Mr. Scott and I set off to the westward in search of our outward track; in this he was successful, and shortly after I found my little cairn on the stony rise W.S.W. of the tents. The carts started at half-past eight, and by 10 o'clock were up to the cairn. There was just sufficient of the outward track remaining, either on the bare ground or in the exposed and hardened snow drifts, for us to distinguish and follow it.

Lunched at 12.45; found my thermometer broken in my pocket. At three o'clock we passed the encampment of last Tuesday near the sandstone block. Encamped a quarter of a mile north of the cairn and pike near the depôt ravine at half-past six; the evening was tolerably fine but cold.

MONDAY, 27TH SEPT.

Twelfth Journey.

Outward, with second half of depôt.
N.N.W. 2 miles.
Hours travelled 5.
Detained by weather 2.

P.M.
N.W. 7 to 9. c.m.
Temperature + 3.
Thick drift.

Has been a windy night, much snow-drift collected about the tents. Started with an empty cart at nine o'clock to bring up the remainder of the depôt from the ravine, and returned with it at 11 o'clock. We then packed the carts and started a second time for the north shore, a very sharp N.W. wind blowing strong in our faces. Persevered until four o'clock, when the weather had become so severe and frost-bites so frequent that we were obliged to encamp; we had, however, reached our old position close to the sandstone block. As it was too severe weather to halt for lunch to day, we now had an early supper. As night advanced the wind increased.

TUESDAY, 28TH SEPT.

N.W. 9 to 5. c.m.s.

A heavy gale all night; although it has moderated considerably this morning, yet we are unable to proceed. The men are employed patching up their mocassins with a spare blanket bag, cut up for that purpose. At noon there was much less wind, so prepared to start, thick snow falling. Started at two o'clock, every one glad to be released from the confinement of the tent, and to become again thoroughly warm with exercise. We soon found that the recent gales had bared the stony hill-tops and filled every depression in the land with soft snow, more or less deep. The consequence