

POOR DOCUMENT

THE JEANNETTE EXPEDITION.

(From the N. Y. Herald.)

In 1878, the steam yacht Pandora, then returned from a brief but successful Arctic voyage, under the command of Capt. Loring, was purchased by Mr. Bennett and sent to San Francisco, to be fitted out for an expedition in search of the North Pole. One year later she was ready for sea, and on the 8th of July, 1879, she sailed out of the Golden Gate, attended by a great number of small boats bearing various committees and delegates of citizens and the honest good-will of the American people. Her Commander, Lieut. G. W. DeLong, had already seen service in the Arctic, whither he went in 1875, in the Juniata, to search for the survivors of the ill-fated Polar. The Juniata reached Upernivik, the most northern settlement in Greenland, but was unable to progress any further, so he organized and commanded an expedition in a small steam launch and proceeded northward. Here he fell under the fascinating influence of the northern Sphinx, like Franklin and so many other famous explorers who have essayed a solution of its mystery. There is a legend of the south that whoever drinks the water of the Rio Grande will return again to life before he dies, and there is another not phrased, but as truthful, that one who beholds the eternal ice will return again to look at it. Lieutenant DeLong was selected for the command of the Jeannette expedition on account of his rare fitness for such a work. A man of magnificent physique, iron will and perfect knowledge of the problems to be solved by the successful issue of such a journey, he was fitted in all ways for the task. Although he had investigated the Baffin's Bay route and was informed, from personal conversation with Weyprecht and Payer, of the advantages and disadvantages of the Franz Josef route, he preferred to try to reach the supreme spot by an untried way, and so selected the route via Behring Street. In the adoption of this route he was influenced by a number of considerations. In the first place it was the cherished theory of Petermann's that Wrangell Land was a continuation or extension of Greenland, reaching across the Polar basin, and one not without foundation in the analogies of physical geography. The faith once reposed in an open Polar sea had waned, and it was the conviction of scientists and mariners that if the Pole was to be reached it would only be done alighting. Now the character of the ice about Wrangell Land was such that it presented less difficulties than the fields about Smith's Sound or Franz Josef Land, and this was a powerful inducement to attempt the journey by that route. When DeLong left civilization it was supposed, of course, that Wrangell Land was a considerable territory, but last summer Lieut. Berry, in the Rodgers, proved it to be an insignificant island, and this discovery disconcerted all the theories that had been formed as to her whereabouts. Some scientists supposed that, having sighted Wrangell Land, the Jeannette was driven in the ice pack away to the eastward and forced down on the American coast, and when this theory was subject of moot, the report, brought to America by a San Francisco whaler, that a party of white men were making their way down the Mackenzie River, seemed to prove the validity of the theory, for it was at once concluded that the white men could be no other than a remnant of the Jeannette's crew. It was objected that these men might be survivors of the wrecked whaler, the Mount Wallaston or Vigilant, but the answer was made that it was highly improbable that ordinary sailors would select such a scientific method of release, and with some show of validity it was said that when whalers are wrecked they remain wherever they land, and wait for help rather than fight their way out over a country where death lurks at every step to gather them in. There was gradually forming conviction that these white men, who were reported as ascending the Mackenzie River, were none other than the survivors of the Jeannette, when Lieut. Hoogaard, of the Danish navy and one of Nordenskjöld's companions on the memorable passage of the Vega, started the world with the information that the Smolyedes, itinerant along the Northern Siberian coast in the neighborhood of the mouth of the Yenisei River, had reported to the Norwegian whaler hunters that they had found the bodies of two Europeans on the coast during their summer march. This news completely upset the theory, which even the Royal Geographical Society of Great Britain did not disdain to entertain, and with such force as to suggest that the government instruct the Hudson's Bay Fur Company to make a search along the Mackenzie River.

All the ascertained facts about the Arctic currents in the vicinity of Wrangell Island were against the conclusion that the Jeannette, when ice-bound, was forced to the eastward, but still it was admitted that such might be the case. When, however, Lieut. Hoogaard made his statements the rational theory that she had been forced westward again assumed away, and it now finds demonstration in the facts reported by cable.

LAST ACCOUNTS.

Since the Jeannette left San Francisco in July, 1879, she has been heard of but twice and then through the Herald correspondent on board, who wrote long and interesting letters from Illiolonk station, in the harbor of Oonalska, and St. Lawrence Bay, detailing the doings of the

party up to August 27. In September of the same year it was reported that the Jeannette had been seen in Kotzebue Sound, but this was denied later in the year. In 1880, according to Danish authority a steamer's smoke was seen near the mouth of the Lena River by the Yakuts living there, but in the transmission of this story from tribe to tribe, from the mouth of the Lena west to the Kara Sea, where the walrus hunters heard it, it was no doubt somewhat damaged. Some said that the story was one concerning the Vega, and that the report was an old one, originating with the natives who had not been in communication with Nordenskjöld, but who had seen his vessel pass.

IKORUTS, Dec. 10.—6.55 p. m.—The Governor of Ikorutak writes that on the 14th of September three natives of Hagan Oulouss de Zigane at Cape Barhay, 140 versts north of Cape Bikoff, discovered a large boat with eleven survivors from the shipwrecked steamer "Jeannette." They had suffered greatly. The Adjunct of Chief of the District was immediately charged to proceed with a doctor and medicines to succor the survivors at Ikorutak and to search for the rest of the shipwrecked crew. Five hundred rubles have been assigned to meet the most urgent expenses. The engineer, Melville, has sent three identical telegrams—one addressed to the London office of the Herald, one to the Secretary of the Navy, Washington, and the third to the Minister of the United States at St. Petersburg. The poor fellows have lost everything. Engineer Melville says that the "Jeannette" was caught and crushed by the ice on the 23d of June, in latitude 77 degrees north and 157 degrees east longitude. The survivors of the "Jeannette" left in three boats. Fifty miles from the mouth of the Lena they lost sight of each other during a violent gale and dense fog. Boat No. 3, under command of Engineer Melville, reached the eastern mouth of the Lena on the 29th of September and was stopped by icebergs near to the hamlet of Idolaciro Idolator on the 20th of October. There also arrived at Bolongga boat No. 1, with the sailors, Nidermann and Norsa. They brought the information that Lieutenant De Long, Dr. Ambler and a dozen other survivors had landed at the northern mouth of the Lena, where they are at present in a most distressing state, many having their limbs frozen. An expedition was immediately sent from Bolongga to make diligent search for the unfortunates, who are in danger of death. No news has as yet been received of boat No. 2. In the communication addressed to Mr. Bennett, Melville adds a request that money should be sent immediately per telegraph to Ikorutak and Irkutsk. Will you urgently request that 6,000 rubles be transmitted immediately to the Governor of Ikorutak for researches for the dead and assistance and care, as well as for the return and conveyance of the shipwrecked men to the house of the Governor. There is a surgeon, who will bestow upon them all possible care.

(Signed),
FREDERICK PEDACHENKO,
Counter-signed by Minister of the Interior Obreskoff.

INSUFFICIENT CLOTHING FOR WINTER.

There are at the present time numberless children and young girls to be met with who are not sufficiently dressed for the present season. You can see it by their faces, that they suffer, although, perhaps, they would not own it themselves.

The want of smoothness and moisture in the skin, the hectic spot on the cheek, the narrow compressed chest, the sharp breath, the dull eyes, the wan cheeks—all show that there is not enough warmth in the blood to keep up vitality, and that they are insufficiently clothed.

You see short skirts on children, allowing the air to go up their tender limbs. A jacket is believed all that is needed when these children pass from an overheated house to the cold atmosphere without, and that is not sufficient for their protection. Many mothers leave the chest of their little ones unprotected. It would be far better to send very young children more out in the winter than keep them in-doors and be afraid to let them be in the cool air. If properly clothed, the youngest baby will be the healthiest for inhaling fresh air.

There is a kind of children's clothing which we would highly recommend for outdoor wear. Knitted or crocheted worsted clothing. We do not see why frocks and dresses should not be worn of it. It is elastic, ventilates the body, will not conduct away the heat from the body and is pliable. Nothing can be better for children, and it allows them free movement.

The hygiene of clothing is as yet little understood, but the time is approaching when it will be, and when we shall know that the texture of the material may either make it a bad or good heat conductor, and, consequently, a fit or unfit substance to wear in winter weather.

Nothing is for children more necessary than that the trunk of the body should be well protected; the arms and legs from the knee downward, will be warm if the trunk of the body is thoroughly covered and warmed. There is no necessity to have ugly garments on the contrary, these knitted coverings can be

made of the prettiest colors and of nice clinging shapes.

Let us warn mothers against having no skirts for young children, or perhaps only one for the outer dress. A double or treble skirt, even if short, will not allow the wind or cold to play round the trunk of the body, and it is that which must be kept warm, especially in girls. Boys would do very well, till they are six or seven years old, to keep up the thick pleated short skirt, of the Scottish Highlander, in their outer garment. Made of plaid material, it is pretty and exceedingly warm-giving.

See with what easy grace a well-clad woman, girl or child bears the wintry weather and freely breathes the exhilarating air!

How they enjoy it, and how, instead of shivering with cold, their blood is warmed and bounds in their veins, tingling their cheeks with a beautiful faint red, and not discoloring their lips with that bluish color, which bespeaks a defective circulation.

Three layers of clothing are needed in winter, and if these are to carry out a thorough heating system, they should be of different textures. It is almost a crime to allow children and young girls insufficiently dressed to go out from rooms, kept by far too hot, into an atmosphere which must be a sudden and severe shock to them.—*Food and Health.*

TO THE POLE BY BALLOON.

Commander Cheyne starts for Montreal to-morrow, by invitation of Sir John MacDonald and Sir Samuel Leonard Tilley, to interest the Canadian public in his scheme for reaching the North Pole by a balloon expedition. Mr. Tilley is already a member of the London committee which is getting subscriptions. Com. Cheyne said yesterday:

"The idea is that it shall be an Anglo-American expedition, to be fitted out by popular subscription. It will require \$80,000 to fit it out, and \$40,000 is to be raised in each country. I shall be in Canada until January 20, and in my absence the interests of the expedition here will be looked after by Mr. Henry Walter Grinnell, who will be the secretary of the committee that is being gotten up in New York. The Hon. John Davidson has formed a committee in Elizabeth, N. J. It is my intention to form similar committees in the principal cities of the country in connection with my lecturing tour. The ship of the expedition is to be called the Grinnell, after Mr. Grinnell's father, the celebrated patron of Arctic exploration. Lieut. Schwatka has arranged to accompany the expedition, provided he can obtain the consent of the Government. The three balloons, which will cost \$20,000, will be made in England and will be shipped in this country. New York will be the starting point of the expedition, and we expect to leave in June next. We shall go to St. Patrick's Bay, where, Capt. Nares found an immense bed of the coaly oil on the surface. We shall build a house directly upon the coal. We shall put up apparatus and manufacture hydrogen gas for the balloons. The place is six miles away from Capt. Nares's ship, the Discovery, wintered in 1875-6, and is 496 miles from the pole. When we get the right wind, it will take us eighteen or twenty-four hours to reach the pole."

Commander Cheyne says that the experience of the Jeannette is only another confirmation of the fact that it is impossible to reach the pole by means of vessels. In his opinion the region of the pole is an archipelago bound in a solid ice pack, presenting no opening for navigation. Each balloon will be provided with a sledge, boat, and provisions for fifty-one days, and will reel out telegraph wire as it travels, keeping in communication with the main station. If during the stay of the party at the pole the gas should escape so as seriously to impair the levity of the balloon, the gas of one can be used to inflate fully the two others. The balloons will be weighted so as to travel low, and Commander Cheyne is confident that he can land within ten miles of the pole. He anticipates no difficulty from cold during the balloon voyage, which is to take place in June of the summer after the expedition sails. "The occupants of the balloons," said Mr. Cheyne, "will have to work with their coats off to keep cool." The expedition will be composed of seventeen men, who will be joined by three Eskimauks at Greenland. Orders have already been sent from Denmark to Greenland, directing the authorities there to aid the expedition in every way possible.—*N. Y. Sun, Dec. 22.*

HAD A HALUCINATION.—They were sitting beside the grate when all at once she looked up and said:

"Richard, do you believe that people ever labor under hallucination?"

"Of course they do," he replied.

"It was just reading of a husband who went to bed supposing he had \$20 in his wallet, but on awakening in the morning there was but \$18. He at once charged his wife with robbing him, and a separation resulted. Wasn't it awful?"

"Yes, rather."

"If you should suspect me of getting up in the night and going to your wallet that would be awful, too, wouldn't it?"

"Not any too awful, for I haven't had a cent in it since I can remember," he said as he turned to his paper.

That was all she wanted to know. She got up that night and went through the hind pocket of his pants, and next morning he had a hallucination that he was \$4 short.

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