

The morning was clear and bright, and no sign of land was to be seen from the mast-head.

I got good sights for position at 9 a.m. and noon, and consequently cannot have been much out of the position laid down. I am therefore forced to conclude that Green Island, as laid down by Parry, has no existence, especially as he marks it (high). Moreover, I did not see it on the passage in, though the ship passed within ten miles of it, on a fine clear morning. I have therefore taken it off the chart.

Sunday, 26th. Arrived and anchored in Port Burwell, at 4 p.m. We here found Mr. Shaw suffering from a severe attack of scurvy. He was very low, fainting at once if he sat up for more than three or four minutes, and this fainting occurred with such frequency that I greatly feared for his life.

Soon after he came on board a marked improvement was visible in his condition, and by the time we arrived in Halifax he had nearly recovered.

It is needless to say that for some time prior to the arrival of the ship Mr. Shaw had been completely incapacitated for duty, but I am happy to be able to state that the observations were very satisfactorily taken by his assistants, Telesphore and Jean Mercier.

September 27th. Employed in taking down the house and receiving on board all the unexpended stores and provisions.

The Messrs. Mercier had killed and dried some codfish, which though small were very fine and were well "made." They reported that the codfish had struck in in considerable numbers, and that if they had been able to afford the time they could have captured many more.

Mr. Shaw reported to me an incident of Eskimo administration of justice, which was, to put it mildly, somewhat summary in its procedure.

There lived between the Cape and Aulalsivick, a good Eskimo hunter, whose native name is not given, but who was christened by our station men "Old Wicked." He was a passionate man and was continually threatening to do some bodily harm to the other more peaceably inclined natives. Finding himself so successful with the natives, he, after persuading one or two others to accompany him, came to the station and demanded food and the big station boat, but was somewhat surprised to be seized by the neck and kicked out of the house. He then altered his tactics and became very subservient to our people, but his arrogance and petty annoyances to the other natives became at length unbearable. It appears that these unfortunates held a meeting and decided that "Old Wicked" was a public nuisance which must be abated, and they therefore decreed that he should be shot, and shot he was accordingly one afternoon when he was busily engaged in repairing the ravages which a storm had made in his "igloo" or snow house. The executioner shot him in the back, killing him instantly. The murderer or executioner (one hardly knows to which title he is the more justly entitled) then takes both of "Old Wicked's" wives and all his children and agrees to keep them. The last act in this drama is when the now much married executioner reports the whole case to the Hudson's Bay officer at Nachvak, merely mentioning that he will keep the women and children so that they shall be no burden on the company.

September 28th. Blowing a fresh easterly gale. All stores and lumber are now on board and we only wait for the weather to clear up before going to sea.

September 29th. Left Port Burwell at 9.30 a.m. and passing through Gray Strait made running survey of the Button's Islands and the Cape Chudleigh coast, taking soundings regularly every half hour, and although on the passage to Nachvak Bay we were at one time more than 30 miles off the coast, at no time did the water deepen to as much as 100 fathoms.

This showed that the bank which we discovered here on 8th July extends off Eclipse Harbour to nearly 30 miles off shore. A bank situated as this one is, on the south side of a deep water channel, is of the greatest value to ships making the Straits in thick weather. The bank can be made and then steering north, true, a sufficient distance to clear the Button's Islands steam in fearlessly about the parallel of 61° N.

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