

ous trick upon two others who, with him, were lying by a small "patch" of seals one Sunday night, awaiting for the midnight hour. Skipper No. 1 put the hands of his clock fifteen minutes ahead, called his assistants into his cabin for their last instructions, then, when the clock struck, rushed his whole crew over the side and gobbled up the whole "patch" ere his rivals realized how they had been jockeyed.

A naive story is told of the religious simplicity of some of these sealmen. One captain had taken a

nals of the sealing trade is the wreck of the "Greenland," in 1898, when forty-eight men lost their lives and sixty-five more were fearfully frost-bitten, but this is only one of the disasters of the icefields, and the sealmen are always harried by the horror of the long and melancholy list of past tragedies. Misadventures often occur, when the floes are driven in on the shore, as they are some years, giving a chance to the settlers on the northern coast to reap a portion of the harvest. Its advent is gleefully hailed by them,



"BACHELOR DIGGINGS."

crew composed almost wholly of Catholics. A few "black sheep" were, however, included, and one of the former, after the ship's return, was telling that it was the first time he had ever been shipmates with Protestants. "But," he observed, "they were first-rate fellows. I didn't see any great difference in them from ourselves. They used to come down every night and say the rosary with us." Then, as an afterthought, he remarked, "*But it was mighty lucky for them that they did!*"

The most awful story in the an-

for a seal taken in this way is as good as three taken at sea, there being no shipowner to claim two shares. And yet it has the element of danger more fearful perhaps than the other. No position could be more perilous than that of the men who go forth on these dazzling, treacherous floes, to seek the spoil they bear. If the wind change, the ice is driven to sea as suddenly as it appears, and there are no steamers among the fleet, to which the men can make for rescue. Usually they go several miles from the shore, where the ice is not packed tightly,