

their voyage; and they hastened below to communicate the joyful news to their relatives and friends.

"The captain, however, was not deceived. A glance was sufficient to convince him that the appearance before them was neither land nor cloud, but an immense field of ice drifting with the current of the Atlantic in a direction contrary to their course. He ordered all the passengers below; the sails were close reefed, and the light spars and top hamper of the vessel were stowed on deck; and such other precautions were taken to ensure the safety of the ship as lay in his power.

"About twelve o'clock, detached lumps of ice floated past the vessel mere skirmishers from the main body; and by three o'clock the next morning nothing but ice could be seen ahead, astern, and on the star-board and larboard beam.

"Contrary, however, to his expectations the weather continued calm for several days: but the ship lay helpless, fast jammed in that moving continent of ice, and drifting along in the opposite direction to that which led to her destination. The captain foresaw a long and tedious voyage, even if the ship had the good fortune to get clear of the ice and being apprehensive that the water and provisions on board would run short, he resolved to put the crew and passengers on short allowance."

This circumstance of the Polly having been detained by ice, I have never heard alluded to by any of the people by whom information for these articles has been furnished—it probably is true.

Owen, in relating the further events of the voyage, states that, after the ship became jammed in the ice, the captain—foreseeing a long voyage before him—determined to put his passengers on reduced rations. Our friend the agent was not taken into the captain's confidence; and, as the provisions had been supplied by Lord Selkirk, Williams felt somewhat hurt at not being consulted. The relations between the two had never been very cordial, but that the quarrel between them assumed the proportions which are given in Mr. Owens relation, is open to doubt. Owen says that Williams "accordingly raised a commotion among the passengers. The captain was now the object of their sus-