

sledges very rapidly, and the whole of the party then rode ; but when the wind fell, the sledges were dragged along by the men.

After eight or ten hours' march, the party halted ; the tents were pitched, and attempts were made to light fires, which attempts very often proved successful. On such occasions, the dinner was carefully thawed. A Macintosh floor-cloth was laid down ; and after the uneasy meal had been devoured, each retired into a long flannel bag, which he cautiously tied with a running string above his head ; and then dropping on the Indian-rubber carpet, slept as best he could.

Dining within the Arctic Circle, when such a thing as a dinner is to be had, is a much more serious matter than when one undergoes that pleasing ceremony at the Travellers, or the United Service Club ; and yet we have known men to dine at both the latter places under very adverse circumstances. In Arctic banquets, the cheerful glass is often frozen to the lip, or the too ardent reveller splinters a tooth in attempting to gnaw through a lump of soup. When Boileau said, that

“ Qu'un dîner réchauffé ne valut jamais rien.”

he wrote for that charming little world, whose Arctic