

of the crew, with two Esquimaux men were on the ice receiving the stores and hauling them back from the ship. When thus employed, the portion of the floe to which the *Polaris* was moored suddenly broke off, and in the darkness the ship was driven away by the wind to the northward. She had fourteen men on board. Next day those on the ice saw the *Polaris* under steam, apparently approaching to take them off. Their signals, they thought, could not fail to be seen on board. Suddenly, however, whether owing to the movements of the ice, or some other cause, she passed in between a small island, supposed to be Northumberland Island, at the entrance of Whale Sound, and the main land, and the unfortunates on the ice saw her no more. The floe on which they were began to drift off rapidly; all efforts to reach the shore in the boat failed, and their long and terrible ice-voyage was begun.

On examination, the portion of the stores on the floe along with them was found to consist of eleven bags of bread, fourteen cases of pemmican (forty-five pounds in each); ten dozen cans of preserved meats, and a few hams. There were also nine musk-ox hides, one bear skin and a few seal skins, plenty of ammunition and six or eight rifles. The quantity of food on the ice was about equal to the sustenance of the nineteen persons for a month. Captain Tyson, who now took charge of the party, at once put them on short allowance. A meal for nine men consisted of $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. bread, and $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. pemmican mixed with water. This was served out twice a day. The Esquimaux shared in the same proportion. Fortunately they had two boats on the ice, the *Polaris* being left without boats. Eleven dogs were with them, and these they shot, as they could not spare food for them.

The first movement of the floe on which they were, was to the south-west, a heavy north-east wind blowing, and in a short time they found themselves thirty or forty miles south of where their ship was last seen. Owing to a heavy sea which was running, their floe broke up, and they were separated from one of their boats, six bags of bread, and some articles of clothing, which, however, they subsequently recovered. After drifting eight days they found themselves within a few miles of the Greenland coast. They made two attempts to reach land but failed; stormy weather set in, and they drifted fast towards the south. When they had passed the Cary Islands all hope of getting to land was abandoned; and, with the aid of the Esquimaux, they built three snow-huts on