ESTABLISHED 1873.

The Weekly Monitor

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H. S. PIPER,
Editor and Proprietor.

Weekly Monitor.

SALUS POPULI SUPREMA LEX EST.

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Weekly Monitor

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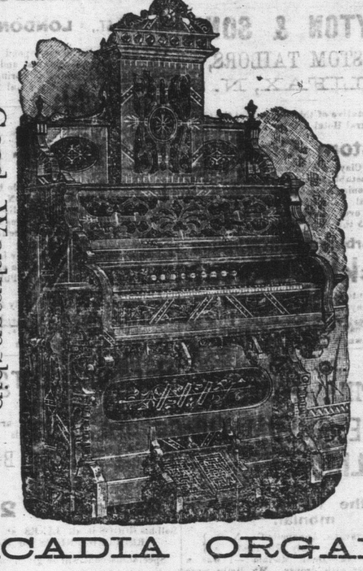

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Select Literature.

Rescue of the Greely Party.

(*From Forest and Stream.*)

[The introduction to this article was given on our inside pages last week. The following narrative commences from the time the Greely party were left by the steamer Proteus at Discovery Harbor, in August 1881.—ED. MON.]

I.—CAMP CONGER.

They named the station Camp Conger in honor of the Michigan senator, who had been instrumental in securing the Government appropriation for the expedition. Scientific observations (meteorological, astronomical, magnetic, etc.) were begun immediately and continued while they were at the post. The long Arctic winter was necessarily monotonous, but the regular routine of observations coupled with such military discipline as was not inappropriate to the climate and the mode of living rendered it more tolerable. One hours' exercise daily was exacted of all. The men were required to bathe once a week, and great care was taken by frequent inspection to see that the quarters and particularly the berths were kept clean. The efficiency of the hygienic arrangements adopted is fully demonstrated by the fact that there was no scurvy in the expedition, notwithstanding that the water used was from melted ice invariably obtained from the floe. Thanksgiving and national holidays were always celebrated by a good dinner, and the first Christmas was rendered pleasant by presents for every member of the expedition from unknown but thoughtful friends.

Meanwhile they were making expeditions to explore the country in different directions. The number of dogs had been sadly reduced by sickness and death, but those left were carefully looked after and by breeding, Lieut. Greely was able, in the spring of 1882, to put two good teams in the field. In nearly all of his explorations, as ever in Arctic expeditions, the dogs were found most useful and almost indispensible accessories.

The exploring trips were always attended with peril, often with great suffering. The men at one time, under Sergeant Brainard, experienced the lowest corrected mean temperature ever known in the annals of Arctic travel—viz., minus sixty-one degrees. On another trip by Dr. Pavy, Mr. Rice, with the Esquimau Jens Edwards, and a team of dogs, to discover land to the north of Cape Joseph Henry, Rice and Jens travelled fifty miles on foot in a temperature of—40°, without sleeping bag or tent, and later the party were adrift on an ice pack and driven miles from land, escaping as by a miracle over the grinding, crumbling ice.

Again, Lieut. Lockwood with Brainard and Frederick Christensen with a dog team, set out to explore the northern shore of Greenland, crossed the Polar Ocean direct to Cape Brittannia, thence through regions never before trodden by man, to a point they named Lockwood Island, the highest northern latitude ever yet attained, 83 deg. 23.5 min, in longitude 40 deg 45 min. west—and would have gone yet further, but that the long shadows of Arctic cliffs prevented a determining of the latitude, so their instruments failed them before their courage. They found animal life abundant with scant vegitation similar to that met with in Grinnell Land. Traces of hares, lemmings, ptarmigan and snow bunting, and the tracks of a bear were seen, and droppings of the musk ox as far as twenty miles north of Cape Britannia. Looking to the northeastward from an elevation of about two thousand feet, the land was seen for about fifteen miles, the furtherest point, Cape Robert Lincoln, being in about in latitude 83 deg. 35 min. and longitude 28 deg. west. Although the weather was unusually clear, no other land could be seen, the horizon being examined carefully to the northward and northwestward. On the 15th they started south, picking up *en route* the union jack and sextant left by Lieut. Beaumont, of the Nares expedition, during his extraordinary retreat with a scurvy-stricken party, in 1875, and returned to Fort Conger, where they arrived on June 1, after an absence of fifty-nine days, all in good condition except that two were snow blind and had to be led into camp.

During the season of 1882 Lieut. Greely made two journeys into the interior of Grinnell Land, leaving Fort Conger on April 23 and June 24 respectively. Winter quarters of Esquimaux were found and some relics showing that they had possessed dogs, sledges and iron. Two ranges of mountains running nearly parallel with the United States range were called respectively Conger and Garfield range, and a lofty peak, the highest in Grinnell Land, Mount Arthur, of glaciers there were many, the largest of which was called Henrietta Nesmith Glacier. Great hardships were endured on the second of these journeys, when Greely and Linn, leaving the supporting party, travelled with packs, which weighed on starting about eighty pounds, fording and swimming many streams and being otherwise subjected to much exposure, without, however, any eventual ill resulting therefrom.

Game was abundant, more than one hundred musk oxen being seen, besides hares and birds. From the summit of Mount Arthur, Lieut Greely, who was alone able to make the ascent, was satisfied from the trend of the mountains and the appearance of the country that Grinnell Land ended but a short distance to the westward, and that its coast line must run nearly southwest from the extreme point reached by Lieut. Aldrich, Royal Navy, in 1876. Later in August Lieut. Lockwood made two journeys in the launch, on the first to the head of Archer Fiord, bringing back large quantities of game, and on the second he entered Weyprecht Fiord, but was unable to advance far on account of the ice.

Much disappointment was felt at the non-arrival of the expected relief ship, with, first, stores, and above all, news from home, and many were the conjectures as to the cause of her failure to come; but no discouragement was felt, and feeling a pardonable pride in their achievements of the past year, they prepared to attempt even more in the next. The winter passed away more rapidly and pleasantly than would be supposed possible. There was plenty of reading matter. Lieut. Greely and Dr. Pavy delivered occasional lectures, and holidays were celebrated as before. Another feature suggested by Lieut. Greely did much to promote contentment and good feeling. Each man was allowed on his birthday to select his dinner of which all partook—a privilege which was greatly appreciated and never abused.

On Feb. 1, 1883, twenty-six days before the sun reappeared, a cache of provisions was made at Cape Baird, and those were increased from time to time during the month with a view to retreating southward in the fall should the relief vessel again fail to arrive.

II.—THE RETREAT.

Finally all hope of a relief vessel failed them and early in 1883 they made ready to retreat southward, where in accordance with the directions he had sent home by the Proteus, Lieut. Greely was confident a cache of supplies would be found awaiting them. But it was not until August that the ice broke up so they could move. The boats taken were the steam launch Lady Greely, the whaleboat Narwhal, both built in the United States, the jolly boat Valorous, left at Cape Hawkes by the English and brought up in the Proteus in 1881, and an iceboat which had been left by Beaumont at Thank God Harbor. Two tons of coal and about eight months supplies were left in a secure place, to be ready should a return be made necessary. A number of barrels of blubber, spoiled meat and bread were broken up to serve as food for the twenty-three dogs which were left in possession.

At 2 o'clock on the afternoon of Aug. 9, 1883, the party of twenty-five bid farewell to the place which had been to them for two years not only a home but a home fraught with so many pleasant recollections that they still speak of it as the paradise of the Arctic. The steam launch towed the other three boats. Three tons of coal and a quantity of provisions had been stowed at Cape Baird, and that was, therefore, the first objective point. Arriving on the morning of the 10th, they took on the provisions and left at midday with fifty days' supplies. Passing around Cape Leiber they entered a moving pack from the northward, and were compelled to run in to Cape Crocroft and tie up to the land ice. Here they took up forty-eight pounds of corned beef, left by Lieut. Greely the previous year, and, the tide having drifted the ice off shore, they ran on to Cape Beck and Carl Ritler Bay, finding comparatively open water.

The provisions left here by the Proteus in 1881, 200 rations, and those cached at Cape Cullinson by Nares in 1475, 240 rations, were taken on board. The small stores in the Nares cache, such as tea, tobacco and sugar, were bad, as well as a barrel of bread. About midway between Capes Leopold, Bon Bouche and Lawrence they were frozen in for five days, when they forced their way out, and after various detentions from the boats grinding ashore, and several severe nips, which the launch stood well, the other boats being hauled up, they finally reached Cape Hawkes on Aug. 26. They landed and left a record on the summit of Washington Irving Island and took on the small quantity of potatoes, pickles and bread found in the English cache, except about three or four hundred pounds of the latter, which were too mouldy for use. At 4 p. m. the same day they started for Cape Sabine, having clear water until 10 p. m., when the wind off shore drove the pack out and compelled them to make fast during the night. Young ice several inches thick formed off the mouth of Allman Bay, so that they were unable to extricate the launch, but drifted slowly to the southward with the pack. The tide occasionally would open a lane and they worked through it a short distance only to be brought up again. For the season of the year the temperature was unprecedently low, being generally below zero, and the party suffered much with cold. In order that they might not be missed by the expected relief vessel a tripod was erected on the ice and a flag hoisted at an elevation of thirty feet to attract attention. They were finally driven to within six miles of Cape Albert.

Here Lieut. Greely determined to abandon the steam launch and Valarous, two small sleds being made from the inside of the launch. With these and the twelve-man English sled, which had been recovered from Thank God Harbor, where it was left by Beaumont, and had been brought along to meet such an emergency, the party set out across the ice for the nearest point of land above Cape Sabin, some eleven miles distant. It was a weary journey, the ice was rough and hummocky, and two journeys were required with the small sleds for the provisions and two with the larger ones to transport the boats. Even then they accomplished only about one mile daily. Officers and men worked alike at the drags. On Sept. 13, finding that the large sled was weakening, the whaleboat was abandoned and only the Beaumont remained. Twice driven back into Kane Sea by south westerly gales, and fearing as much that they would be driven to the southward past Cape Sabine as that they would not reach that point, the floe on which they were traveling was driven, on Sept. 22, by a northwest gale, down by Brevoort Island to the mouth of Baird Inlet, where it was stopped by grounded bergs and so broken up that they were left on a small piece only about fifty yards in diameter. The floe continued to come down from the northward, and grinding and crumbling together, piled up in some places to a height of twenty-five feet. Their encampment of snow houses and tents was broken up and they were forced to attempt a landing, which they finally effected on the north side of Baird Inlet on Sept. 29

Two men, Rice and Esquiman Jens were at once sent to Cape Sabine to examine into the state of affairs there, while the remainder, except Long and Esquiman Frederick, who were detailed as hunters, set about constructing winter quarters. Game however, was very scarce and only three seals and a few ptarmigan were obtained. Rice and Jens returned on the 9th of October with the discouraging news of the Proteus disaster and the scanty supply of provisions at Sabine. That meant that the store of provisions on which they had counted, in leaving Fort Conger, had not been furnished, and this meant, in all probability, ultimate starvation. Lieut Greely upon hearing their report announced that the party must abandon Esquiman Point, as he had named it, and transfer the camp, to a place nearer the base of supplies.

A start was made on the next day, when one load of provisions were advanced as far as Rose Bay, and on the 11th the remainder. They then travelled along a strait discovered by Rice, and named after him, which connects Rose Bay with Buachanan Straits, placing Cape Sabine on an island instead of the mainland, as was formerly supposed. Rice and Jens having gone to Cape Isabella to ascertain whether any supplies had been left there last year, found only 144 pounds of meat left there by the English in 1875.

The people had been on reduced rations since September 25th, when the allowance of meat was made twelve ounces, and at Eskimo Point one-half that quantity. On the evening of October 15, they reached the Proteus wreck cache, with all their provisions except one load, which had been cached at Cocked Hat Island, and set to work on winter quarters.

III.—CAMP CLAY AT CAPE SABINE.

A hut was built of stones, roofed over with the whaleboat from the Beebe cach, the oars serving as rafters and covered with canvas, the sides being banked up with snow. Of course, there was no means of heating it, as barely fuel enough was left to warm the food. It was never cooked. On the ground canvas was spread and over this buffalo overcoats, on the top of which the sleeping bags were placed, and yet these were generally frozen stiff throughout the winter. The boat left by Beebe was in good condition, except for a hole about ten by six inches, made probably by the paw of a bear. As soon as the state of the ice permitted the stores from the different caches were collected at Camp Clay. These may be summed up as follows; viz., Beebe cache and English cache, 240 rations each. In the latter considerable tea, sugar, chocolate, bread and dog biscuit unfit for use. The rum and alcohol were missing. Garlington cache, 500 pounds of bread, ninety of pemmican and a few cans each of roast mutton, peas, string beans, green corn, and two boxes of lemons. These last were in excellent condition and proved a rare treat in more respects than one.

On the 2nd of November a party were sent to Cape Isabella to secure the meat which had been found there. It was composed of Rice, Linn, Ellison and Fredericks, with the small sled and several days provisions. On the 9th about midnight, Rice returned and reported the party at the head of Rose Bay suffering severely with cold and Elison dying with frost-bites. Relief was at once sent, and about noon of the 12th Brainard reached them in a severe gale with food and medicine, and found Ellison badly frozen and delirious. Fredericks and Linn were in the sleeping bag with him trying to keep him warm, and the three were literally frozen in the bag and had to be cut out. They would undoubtedly have perished but for Brainard's timely arrival, as the temperature was minus 30° Fahrenheit, and they where without a tent. With the assistance of a party under Lieut. Lockwood, which had also come to the rescue, they were gotten to Camp Clay, Elison having both hands and feet frozen so that he never used them again. They had been compelled to abandon the meat at Baird Inlet, with everything not absolutely necessary to save life.

During the latter part of October, Long, with the two natives, were stationed at the juncture of Rice and Bauchanan straits for the purpose of hunting, and suffered greatly with cold and hunger. They had only a tent to live in and were on reduced rations. They returned about November 8, badly frost-bitten, having only killed three seals. From November 1 the command was placed on further reduced rations which had been accurately estimated to last until March 1, with a reserve of ten days' rations for the trip to Littleton Island when the sound should freeze over. this reduced ration was composed as follows: Meat and blubber, four and one third ounces; bread and dog biscuit, six and one-half; canned vegetables and rice, one and two-fifths; butter and lard, three-quarters; soup and beef extracts, nine-tenths; cloud berries, pickles, raisins and milk, one ounce; making a total of 14,88-100 ounces per day. About this time the whaleboat Narwhal, which had been left on the floe, drifting down near Cape Sabine and was wedged in the ice between Brevoort Island and the main land. She was secured and used during the winter for fuel. After the middle of November hunting became impossible on account of the darkness and cold besides being useless, as there was no game to be had, so they waited patiently for the closing of the sound by ice, but waited in vain.

Throughout the entire winter open water separated them from Littleton Island, where there was an additional cache of provisions, which, though not large, would have been sufficient with economy, to pull the entire party through, and near at hand were natives on whom they might have relied for assistance, as did Kane and Hayes. Every effort was made to preserve cheerfulness in that little band, so necessary to its very existence. Conversations were kept up on all sorts of subjects, however frivolous, and they talked when they felt like it, because they deemed it their duty. The few books they had were read and re-read by the dim light of a blubber lamp with moss wicking, and a statistical almanac was a perfect mine of wealth. The survivors speak in the warmest terms of Greely's powers of conversation and the gallant efforts which he made to keep up the spirits of his little band. Notwithstanding their destitute condition, Thanksgiving and Christmas days were observed as usual. For more than a month they saved from their scanty rations in order that they might have, at least by contrast, a good dinner on those days. It consisted principally of rice pudding, with a glass of rum to wash it down. March 13, 1884, Long was sent with Frederick and Jens to Alexandria Harbor to look for game, the English expedition of 1875 having reported abundant traces in that quarter. They returned almost exhausted, however and empty-handed. Long, however, had made the important discovery of new land in Hazen Sound, having seen from the western side of Mount Carri three capes beyond the furthest reported by the Nares expedition.

The life at Camp Clay during that terrible winter and spring is simply indescribable. Rice discovered salt shrimps, with which they eked out their suppers, but they contained very little nutriment, and the labor of catching them may be imagined when it is known that it required 1,300 to fill a gill measure. This fishing was done by hauling bags or nets from the ice with bare hands and with temperature 20° below zero. The suffering entailed was tremendous. Lichens gathered from the rocks, saxifrage and boiled sealskin were also eaten. Twenty-four foxes, weighing about four pounds each were killed with shot guns as they prowled around the camp, and with the return of daylight fourteen ptarmigan, sixty foxes, a small seal, and in April, a bear which netted them 257 pounds of good meat, nothing was wasted, and this last undoubtedly saved the lives of the few who survived. Sergt. Brainard had charge of the issue of provisions, which were carefully weighed in the improvised scale, cartridges serving as weights, and equitably distributed. In March it was found necessary to again reduce the ration, there being nothing left them but bread, meat and tea.

The first death was that of Sergt Cross, who had been the machinest on the steam launch, and then there was a long lapse of time until Esquimau Frederick gave in. This last, together with the death of the other Esquimau, Jens Edward, by drowning, proved a serious loss, as they were both good hunters, and without the kyak much of the game that was killed could not be secured. Long, however was the main reliance of the party as a hunter. He is an old frontiersman and a dead shot. Had it not been for the scarcity of game he would have had no difficulty in providing for the entire party.

Sergt. Julius R. Frederick relates a mournfully tragic story of the sad death on the ice covered ground of George Rice, the artist of the expedition, on April 6. Rice and Frederick volunteered to leave the camp to proceed a distance of twenty five miles for some meat that was cached near Cape Isabella. They had a sled, rifle and hatchet, and provisions for five days. They travelled for three days, but failed to find the cache. On the way toward the camp Rice became weak, and finally gave up. he was attacked by a blood flux that gradually wore him down, and he succumbed on the floe. His last words were: "Tell Lieut. Greely that I tried very hard to get the meat, but could not succeed." Frederick remained with Rice until he died, and camped out that night under the fragment of a boat, and next morning revisited his companion to pay a last tribute to his remains. Frederick retained sufficient strength to drag back the sled, with the hatchet, rifle and cooking utensils to the camp. During his absence Cross and Lockwood had died. Others followed in rapid succession.

On May 4 the winter hut, which was only six feet from high water mark, was abandoned, and the party took up their quarters in a wall tent further up the hill.

On May 14, the last issue of provisions was made. This consisted of six ounces of meat, everything else being exhausted. Some ate at once, others hoarded it as long as possible. Then some lived and some perished on a starvation diet of seaweed, shrimp and lichens.

The rest is heart rending. They burned the hair off their sealskin boots and coats, cut them into strips, boiled them into a stew and ate voraciously of them till the stomach rebelled, and nausea and weakness ensued in several cases. Nature gave no call for twelve, fifteen and eighteen days, and then bloody hemorrhage and consequent weakness ensued, prostrating the victims for several days. The difficulty of keeping heat in the body was very great. The rule of the camp was to permit no one to sleep longer than two hours. As was awakened roughly and called upon to shake himself, beat his hands and pound his feet and restore circulation. This was found absolutely necessary to prevent torpor and possible death, the usual accompaniments of intense cold.

Mr. Israel, the astronomer, perished on May 27, Lieut. Kislingbury died on June 1, and Dr. Pavy, the naturalist, slept into death on June 6. Not one of the victims realized that death was near. They all died a tranquil, painless death. On June 18, Schneider, the nineteenth manded.

Of the twenty-five only seven were left: Lieut. Greely, Sergt. Long, Sergt. Fredericks, Sergt. Brainard, Steward Biederbeck, Private Connell, and Sergt Ellison. Finally all strength fails them. On the 23rd of June the tent blew down upon them and they did not attempt to raise it. The seven starved wretches lay helpless beneath its folds, waiting for death to end their terrible agony.

IV.—THE RESCUE.

But succor was at hand. The relief ships sent out from New York in May, were breaking their way through the ice, and making all speed to Cape Sabine. On the 22nd of June the Thetis and Bear lay off the shore, while their crews were exploring the land for traces of the Greely party. The Thetis whistled to their boats. The half-conscious men in in the tent heard it. Sergeant Long and Sergeant Brainard were the first to hear the sound, and they helped each other to crawl out of the tent, which had been swept to the ground, he rose to his feet with great difficulty and succeeded in clambering up to a rock that gave the most extensive view in that neighborhood. In

Continued on second page.

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