

we can push forward our provision dépôts by sledge and launch, and thus prepare for the final efforts of our search.

In this I am strengthened by the valuable opinion of my friend, Mr. Murdaugh, late the sailing-master of the *Advance*. He has advocated this very sound as a basis of land operations. And the recent journey of Mr. William Kennedy, commanding Lady Franklin's last expedition, shows that the fall and winter should no longer be regarded as lost months.

The sledges, which constitute so important a feature of our expedition, and upon which not only our success but our safety will depend, are to be constructed with extreme care. Each sledge will carry the blanket, bags, and furs of six men, together with a measured allowance of pemmican; a light tent of India-rubber cloth, of a new pattern, will be added; but for our nightly halt the main dependence will be the snow-house of the Esquimaux. It is almost incredible, in the face of what obstacles, to what extent, a well-organized sledge party can advance. The relative importance of every ounce of weight can be calculated, and the system of advanced dépôts of provisions organized admirably.

Alcohol or tallow is the only fuel; and the entire cooking apparatus, which is more for thawing the snow for tea-water than for heating food, can be carried in a little bag. Lieutenant M'Clintock, of Commander Austin's expedition, traveled thus eight hundred miles—the collective journeys of the expedition equaled several thousand; and Baron Wrangell made by dogs 1533 miles in seventy-four days, and this over a fast-frozen ocean.

But the greatest sledge journey upon record is that of my friend, Mr. Kennedy, who accomplished nearly 1400 miles, most of it in mid-winter, without returning upon his track to avail himself of deposited provisions. His only food—and we may here learn the practical lesson of the traveler, to avoid unnecessary baggage—was pemmican, and his only shelter the *snow-house*.

It is my intention to cover each sledge with a gutta percha boat, a contrivance which the experience of the English has shown to be perfectly portable. Thus equipped, we follow the trend of the coast, seeking the *open sea*.

Once there, if such a reward awaits us, we launch our little boats, and, bidding God speed us, embark upon its waters.

THE END.