

This was that one of the dogs (it was "Livjægeren") had become so ill that he could not be driven any longer, and we had to let him go loose. It was late in the day before we discovered that he was not with us; he had stopped behind at our camping-ground when we broke up in the morning, and I had to go back after him on snow-shoes, which caused a long delay.

"Thursday, March 21st. Nine in the morning. —  $43.6^{\circ}$  Fahr., or  $-42^{\circ}$  C. (Minimum in the night, —  $47.2^{\circ}$  Fahr., or  $44^{\circ}$  C.) Clear, as it has been every day. Beautiful, bright weather; glorious for travelling in, but somewhat cold at nights, with the quicksilver continually frozen. Patching Finn-shoes in this temperature inside the tent, with one's nose slowly freezing away, is not all pure enjoyment."

"Friday, March 22nd. Splendid ice for getting over; things go better and better. Wide expanses, with a few pressure ridges now and then, but passable everywhere. Kept at it yesterday from about half-past eleven in the morning to half-past eight at night; did a good 21 miles, I hope. We should be in about latitude  $85^{\circ}$ . The only disagreeable thing to face now is the cold. Our clothes are transformed more and more into a cuirass of ice during the day, and wet bandages at night. The blankets likewise. The sleeping bag gets heavier and heavier from the moisture which freezes on the hair inside. The same clear settled weather every day. We are both longing now for a change; a few clouds and a little more mildness would be welcome." The temperature in the night, —  $44.8^{\circ}$  Fahr. ( $-42.7^{\circ}$  C.). By an observation which I took later in the forenoon, our latitude that day proved to be  $85^{\circ} 9' N$ .

"Saturday, March 23rd. On account of observation, lashing the loads on the sledges, patching bags, and other occupations of a like kind, which are no joke in this low temperature, we did not manage to get off yesterday before 3 o'clock in the afternoon. We stuck to it till nine in the evening, when we stopped in some of the worst ice we have seen lately. Our day's march, however, had lain across several large tracts of level ice, so I think that we made 14 miles or so all the same. We have the same brilliant sunshine; but yesterday afternoon the wind from the north-east, which we have had for the last few days, increased and made it rather raw.