

poppy, were eminently conspicuous. In drier places a beautiful species of butter-cup was very abundant, and was also the dwarf willow, of which I had heard much, but had never seen before. This arctic tree grows close to the ground, and spreads its lilliputian branches over an extent of from one to three feet. Its stalk rarely exceeds three inches in circumference, and all the wood is twisted and deformed. On many of the higher parts of the rock were piled small heaps of stones, near one of which I found part of a human skull. Two hares and several little snow buntins were seen. Fragments of a whale's skeleton, driftwood, and ivory, marked by instruments, showed that Eskimaux had at some time been settled here; and fire-places were also seen by many of our party. Footsteps of some cloven-footed animal, probably the rein-deer, were frequently met with. Mosquitoes were very numerous, as were also common flies. Amongst the lichens, I observed a very diminutive insect resembling a mite in figure, but possessing great activity of motion. It was of the most brilliant scarlet, and tinged the fingers of the same hue when taken between the thumb and being, on account of its extreme delicacy, instantly crushed.

On the 27th, 28th, and until the evening of the 29th, when we were beset, we made some little progress in the various state of the weather and ice permitted. The aurora borealis was once seen during this time in the west. It was faint, and did not exhibit any interesting peculiarities of appearance.

A small drag net, let down to the bottom in 64 fathoms, procured for us some interesting specimens of molluscæ, and several beautifully delicate varieties of white coral. Amongst the polypi was one of a very singular description, and of a pale pink colour. On being taken into the hand it threw out several small balls of various sizes from that of a hemp seed to the bigness of a white currant, which fruit they almost exactly resembled in colour, transparency, and consistence. Their form was perfectly globular; and, even