

per man in marching was ninety pounds, while in Dr. Rae's expeditions it was but thirty-five pounds, enabling them to take much longer journeys per day. In three journeys of 1,100 miles each, their average per day was 20 to 25 miles, while others made but 10 or 11 miles. The latter had large crews of sixty men or so in the ships, and so were enabled to employ auxiliary sledges, one of which returned after five or six days, another after ten or twelve, etc. Their bedding became covered with their breath, which congealed, so that the blanket bags became like sheet iron, while Dr. Rae's party were able to keep all their material dry, so that after fifty or sixty days it was as fresh as on the first day. The latter enjoyed other advantages from having been accustomed to that sort of life in the H. B. Co's service, which was a famous school for Arctic work, the men having to travel where there was no timber or other fuel. Although living in snow huts, without fire, light, or anything beyond their bare food, there were no jollier or healthier men, there being no scurvy, rheumatism, or any other disorder among them. On their way to survey the part of the coast referred to, they met an Esquimaux whom Dr. Rae asked, as his custom was, if he had ever seen any whites before. He answered that he had seen some dead white men. A gold band which he had he said he had got at a place where there were some dead people. That was the first trace met with of poor Sir John Franklin's party. The Esquimaux could not be got to tell where the place was. They said it was far away, and that they did not know the place, and they made other excuses. During the winter, as there were no Esquimaux passing, there was no means of knowing the facts afterwards learned. Learning what they did in the spring they could not clear up the question without remaining another winter. On coming back to their winter quarters, they found a number of Esquimaux with the three men whom they had left. The lecturer did not believe that the Esquimaux killed any of Franklin's people; as, if they had done so, they would also have killed his (Dr. Rae's) men, knowing that he was 200 or 300 miles away, as all their goods were piled upon the rocks with only an oilcloth over them. He believed that Franklin's men had certainly died of scurvy and starvation. Dr. Rae then hurried home and told the Government that they were looking in the wrong direction; as, when he left England, there were four ships engaged in the search several hundred miles further north. He had proved to his satisfaction that all Franklin's people were dead. He had obtained a pretty clear knowledge of where the dead bodies had been seen. He offered any quantity of weapons to the Esquimaux if they would tell him of one man living, but they shook their heads and held up four fingers to show that they had all been dead at least four years. He came to the conclusion that they told the truth, because he found that their statement on various occasions, concerning other matters, were consistent. Their statements corresponded exactly with what Parry had mentioned thirty years before. They also told a number of things about Sir John Ross which they recollected from twenty years before, and which corresponded with the facts. They had, however, since been