



ADRIFT IN THE ARCTIC SEAS.

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The above is the picture of an unfortunate steamship cut adrift in the Arctic Ocean. She was called the *Polaris* and was specially fitted up in the United States for conducting an expedition under Charles F. Hall, in the year 1871. Merrily she sailed from New London on July 3rd, of that year, with about thirty persons on board, and by the 29th of August managed to reach higher latitude than had ever been reached before. But here she encountered so much ice that she could proceed no further. Indeed, if she had not been very strong she would have been crushed to pieces by the enormous blocks of ice that surrounded her. For months, many weary, anxious months, she lay helpless under the shelter of an enormous iceberg, and completely hemmed in by huge jams of ice which pressed in upon her from all sides. The commander of the expedition, Mr. Hall, left the ship here and took a short journey in the direction of the Pole. He found high lands and a bay and a country that seemed much warmer than he expected, for there were places without snow. He also saw many wild animals such as geese, ducks, wolves, rabbits, foxes, bears and musk-cattle. He returned after an absence of fourteen days full of hopes and said that he meant to make another trip of the same kind, but he was suddenly taken ill and died on the *Polaris* on the 28th of November. These unfortunate people, after the death of their leader, made several attempts to reach the Pole, but in every case they failed, and in the midst of their trouble the *Polaris* sprang a leak, and the pumps had to be kept going twelve hours out of the twenty-four. They then, in despair, turned homewards, but they got into an ice-pack and the *Polaris* drifted about hopelessly in a field of ice, as seen in the picture. Some of the unfortunate people left her and made themselves as comfortable as they could on a piece of floating ice for their home for a whole winter. In the spring of the year they were rescued by a ship from Newfoundland. Strange to say not one of them had perished. Even a little baby that had been born among them was saved. The people on the *Polaris* were also rescued afterwards by a Scotch vessel.

Mr. Hall had with him an Eskimo hunter named Eberbing and his wife Too-koo-lo-too, otherwise called Joe and Hannah. These, in their way, were a very worthy couple, and gave great assistance to Hall in his expedition. They had been in England and had been presented to the Queen and could both speak English fairly well. When poor Hall was being buried nothing was heard but the burial service, the earth falling upon the coffin, and the sobs of Hannah. And it was Joe who saved the people during that terrible winter when they were living on the large ice-float. With his spear and his gun he provided food for all. He could have left them had he chosen to do so, for, knowing the country, he could easily have escaped; but he remained faithful to them to the last.

Hannah afterwards lived in Croton, Connecticut, and there, on December 31st, 1876, she died, aged only thirty-eight. She had become a Christian, and having lived the Christian life died in the Christian's faith, her last words being, "Come, Lord Jesus, and take thy poor creature home." This shows what good there is in the Eskimo, and how they might be improved if they were taught by missionaries the ways of Christ and his holy religion.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN ISAIAH, JEREMIAH, AND EZEKIEL.

B.C. 605.] **LESSON VIII.** [Feb. 21.

JEROLAKIM'S WICKEDNESS.

Jer. 38. 19-31. Memory verses, 22, 23.

GOLDEN TEXT.

To-day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. — Heb. 3. 15.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

The word of our God abides forever, against every effort to destroy it or prevent its fulfilment.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.

Jeremiah was commanded to write out the sum of his prophecies during the twenty-three years of his prophesying. The roll, or book, was read to the people at a fast-day service in the temple. Then it was read to the princes and leading men of the nation. These were so impressed with the warnings of

the prophet that they determined to report to the king, in hopes that he would repent and the nation be saved. *Baruch*—Jeremiah's scribe. *Hide thee*—If the king did not heed them, he would try to kill the prophet and his helper. *The court*—The inner court, where the king received. *Laid up the roll*—Books were often then in the form of a roll. They were afraid that the king would destroy it. *Winter house*—Or, apartments. The lower and warmer ones. *A fire on the hearth*—Not in a fireplace like ours. They had no chimneys then. The fire was in a pot of charcoal in a place hollowed out in the pavement of the court. *Three or four leaves*—Or columns, written across the roll. *He*—The king, or Jehudi at his orders. (Ver. 29.) He read only a little, but burned the whole. *Were not afraid*—The writer is astonished at the dullness of their minds and hardness of their hearts. *Nor... his servants*—His attendants, not the princes. *None to sit upon the throne*—So as to reign as his successor. His son, Jehoiachin, tried to, but his city was besieged all the time, and in three months he was carried away captive.

Find in this lesson—

1. What to do with God's Word.
2. God's warnings against sin.
3. A foolish way of trying to escape them.
4. The true way of escape.

REVIEW EXERCISES.

1. What did Jeremiah write down? "His prophecies for twenty-three years."
2. Where were they read? "To the people in the temple court, on a fast day."
3. To whom else? "To the princes, in their council chamber."
4. What did the king do? "He heard a part, and then cut up the book with his penknife and burned it in the fire."
5. What did Jeremiah do? "He wrote it out again."
6. What did the king lose? "He failed to repent and he perished, and his kingdom was destroyed."

CATECHISM QUESTION.

8. Can we repent of ourselves? No; it is the grace of the Holy Spirit which gives the sinner to know and feel that he is a sinner.

— Him did God exalt with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and remission of sins.— Acts 5. 31.

"WHAT'S THE HARM?"

"Just this once! What hurt will it do! You can study quite as well to-night, and if you have a ride at all you must go now."

Thus persuaded, Dick threw down his book and joined his companions. They had a delightful ride, and then in the evening he settled down to study. He did not feel much like it, partly because he was tired, partly because he frequently found his thoughts wandering from the lesson to something

he had seen in the afternoon. So being pretty persevering, he finally learned it, and had a perfect recitation the next day.

"There!" said his companions "what did we tell you? You needn't have made such a fuss about going. It didn't do a bit of harm."

Dick agreed with them then, but was inclined to change his mind late in the day when he found how ineffectual were his efforts to fix his attention on his books.

"I've learned the harm!" he exclaimed. "It is just like sliding down a hill: the first time, before the snow is broken, we only go a little ways; the second time we go further; and pretty soon we can't stop short of the bottom if we want to. There are two sides to it, though: if I stick to these tough old lessons to-day, it will be easier to do it to-morrow."

Stick to them he did, and thus learned a lesson that was as valuable as any in his books.—*Selected.*

God's ear is not heavy that cannot hear. The tremulous whisper of the little child brings an answer quite as quickly as the longest prayer.

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