

watch a heavy body of ice came up against the wind and bore us with great force against the berg: our bowsprit first took it, but we received no further injury than the loss of the dolphin striker and a few small ropes. We then got clear, and a very dull rainy night followed.

On the evening of the 16th we contrived to join the strange ships, and made fast to a floe near them; they proved to be the Prince of Wales and Eddystone (the Hudson's Bay traders), with the Lord Wellington, which had about 160 natives of Holland on board, who were going to settle at Lord Selkirk's colony on the Red River. While nearing these vessels we observed the settlers waltzing on deck for above two hours; the men in old-fashioned grey jackets, and the women wearing long-eared mob caps, like those used by the Swiss peasants.

As we were surrounded by ice, and the thermometer was at the freezing point, it may be supposed that this ball *al vero fresco* afforded us much amusement. We learned from the Hudson's Bay ships that they had left England twenty days later than ourselves. As for the Lord Wellington, she had been nineteen days hampered amongst the ice before she joined the others, and as this navigation was new to her captain and crew, they almost despaired of ever getting to their journey's end, so varied and constant had been their impediments. The Dutchmen had, however, behaved very philosophically during this period, and seemed determined on being merry, in spite of the weather. Several marriages had taken place, (the surgeon, who was accompanying them to their colony, acting as parson,) and many more were in agitation; each happy couple always deferring the ceremony until a fine day allowed of an evening's ball, which was only terminated by a fresh breeze or a fall of snow.

Experience having shown us how impossible it was to calculate on remaining in company all night, we sent our letters on board in the evening, and our precaution was most fortunate, as by daylight on the 17th, we were