

in Rensselaer Harbour, three degrees farther south. The lowest degree of cold experienced was 58° below zero, and that but for a short time. The sun was absent 135 days. On November 21st a heavy gale of wind broke up the ice around the ship, and caused her to drift close to the iceberg, so that its foot got underneath the keel, giving her a heavy list, and at high water, causing her to lie almost on her beam ends. In this position she continued during the winter. The most careful arrangements were made for the comfort of the men, and amusements of various kinds were kept up. The health of all on board continued perfect.

On March 27th, Dr. Bessels and Mr. Bryan of the scientific corps, with two Esquimaux, undertook a sledge journey south, to survey the coast between the winter quarters of the *Polaris* and Cape Constitution, the point reached by Morton, of Kane's expedition, and from which he saw, as he believed, the open Polar Sea. After an absence of a fortnight, Dr. Bessels returned, having surveyed a portion of the coast, but not having been able to reach Cape Constitution. No northern journeys on sledges were attempted in the spring, which, considering the means at disposal, seems surprising. The expedition had lost its mainspring in losing Captain Hall. Captain Buddington was now commander.

On June 8th an attempt was made to penetrate farther north by boats. Two boats were fitted out for this excursion—one commanded by Captain Tyson, sailing-master, and the other by Mr. Chester. They were unable to reach farther north than Newman's Bay, owing to the ice barriers; and after waiting for a month there for the chance of open water, orders came from Captain Buddington to return to the ship, which was reported to be leaking, to some extent. The season was evidently too early for making way north, in boats.

It would seem that Captain Buddington now became uneasy regarding the condition of the ship, and decided on returning home. On August 12th the ice was sufficiently open to permit of the *Polaris* leaving her winter quarters. She got safe through Kennedy Channel, to lat. $80^{\circ} 2'$, when she was caught fast in the ice, and drifted south, till October 15th, 1872. On that day, during a heavy gale and snow-drift, the pressure of the ice around the ship was very great, threatening her destruction. It was decided, in all haste, to remove the stores to the ice. The Esquimaux women and children were placed on the ice for safety. Ten