

runners over uneven snow-covered drift-ice—what distances did they not cover, what fatigues and trials did they not endure! No one has surpassed, and scarcely anyone approached them, unless, perhaps, the Russians on the Siberian coast; but then they have the great advantage of being natives of a country where snow is not uncommon."

"Friday, December 14th. Yesterday we held a great festivity in honour of the *Fram* as being the vessel which has attained the highest latitude (the day before yesterday we reached $82^{\circ} 30'$ N. lat.).

"The bill of fare at dinner was boiled mackerel, with parsley-butter sauce; pork cutlets and French peas; Norwegian wild strawberries, with rice and milk; Crown malt extract; afterwards coffee. For supper:—New bread and currant cake, etc., etc. Later in the evening, a grand concert. Sweets and preserved pears were handed round. The culminating point of the entertainment was reached when a steaming hot and fragrant bowl of cherry-punch was carried in and served round among general hilarity. Our spirits were already very high, but this gave colour to the whole proceedings. The greatest puzzle to most of them was where the ingredients for the punch, and more particularly the alcohol, had come from.*

"Then followed the toasts. First, a long and festive one to 'The *Fram*,' which had now shown what she was capable of. It ran somewhat to this effect: 'There were many wise men who shook their heads when we started, and sent us ominous farewell greetings. But their head-shakings would have been less vigorous, and their evil forebodings milder, if they could have seen us at this moment, drifting quietly and at our ease across the most northerly latitudes ever attained by any vessel, and still further northward. And the *Fram* is now not only the most northerly vessel on the globe, but has already passed

* We had used for this purpose our pure grape-spirit.