

In high latitudes the clearness of atmosphere in winter generally precedes an increase of cold ; and on the 9th we found the temperature considerably decreased, one of the men having his fingers slightly frost-nipped while scrubbing hammocks. A seal was brought on board to-day, which, although small, yielded about four inches thickness of blubber next the skin.

Our first masquerade occurred on the 17th November, and was, as a novelty, sufficiently amusing. We had managed to make up a band, which, on extraordinary occasions, reached the number of eight ; the instruments for music were fiddles and a flute, while those added to give effect, which they did most noisily, were a gong and small military drum ; and at a later season, a chime of bells made from those supplied to the ship, and a Tuski drum. One of our men who had not always been a sailor, and among other phases of his varied life, had once itinerated with an organ and a tamburine girl, manufactured a tamburine, which he handled in an artistic manner, doing the thumb-roll to perfection ; and also tried his hand at a tin-flute, which made a good Arctic substitute for a piccolo. European and native materials were alike employed for costume, the hybrid appearances creating much mirth. Among the most promi-