

numerous and snow deep. In two hours we had the sledges on the beach, along which we struck to the westward, coasting round the bay. We had scarcely made out three miles, however, before it again began to blow violently from the westward, accompanied by a thick fall of hard sharp snow, which felt to our faces like so many needles, and which affected the eyes most acutely. Trusting that it would pass over we persevered until it was impossible to keep our eyes longer open, when, much against our wills, it was found that we must again halt.

This was provoking enough, following close upon the loss of two days marching, for three miles is as much as we will have gained by this last move. We hauled up on a soft gravel beach, and the tents were not long off being pitched, for every one of the men tired as they were of confinement to the "bag" were glad to escape from the sharp striking snow or rather hail. By ten minutes to 4 A.M. we found ourselves again under the canvass, but this time with comfortable dry gravel under us instead of wet slushy snow, which, damp as our bedding was, was a change for the better. Thermometer at this time was noted at $+5^{\circ}$. Strong wind from the west and north-west, with very heavy showers of exceedingly hard particles of snow.

The time fixed for the fatigue sledge returning had now arrived, and, although I reflected that we had lost three days marches, and might take it further on on that account, yet the consideration that their turning now would save even a few days provisions and fuel induced me to come to the conclusion. Determining, therefore, to start the moment the weather permitted, I informed Leiper that he would now have to make the best of his way to the ships again, as Mr. Marshall would go on with me.

The weather continued most inclement all the fore part of the day, the thermometer did not rise above plus 16° , and there was a continuous *fall* of snow until late in the evening. At 7 P.M., however, it had moderated so that all hands were roused out, both sledges unpacked completely, provisions for the return were put aside, and a depôt of pemmican, pork, and bread made securely in the gravel. Mr. Marshall's haversack and blanket bag were now transferred to my sledge, on which was packed the remainder of the provisions and other necessary articles.

When we were ready to start I was rather apprehensive when I found the sledge to be exceedingly heavy laden. However there was nothing for it but to push on as hard as we could. The men of the fatigue sledge, poor fellows, seemed very loath to turn back, and I rather suspect thought it was using them very ill, not taking them on as far as the rest. Indeed I more than once regretted the step myself during the next two marches when I found the sledge so very heavily laden, but it proved in the long run to have been as well as it was, for these very men constituted, with two exceptions, Captain Penny's crew in the boat expedition, arriving at the ship just in time to take their part in it, and having in consequence a still better opportunity of proving that they were as zealous as their comrades in the good cause.

They now proposed themselves, as they had a light sledge, and would be able to make rapid marches homewards, to assist and escort us for a few miles. One man was therefore left with the tent and sledge, the former being still standing, and we now commenced our onward journey with the one sledge. We kept along the beach for nearly a mile, the snow very deep and dragging consequently very heavy. Here we found that we would be able to cross the remaining part of the bay and get some distance round its western point on the ice, which was comparatively free of hummocks close to the shore. I sent Leiper to the top of the high land to the westward, in order that he might be able to report as to the appearances to the westward on his return to the ships, and with instructions to come down and meet us, when he thought we had advanced as far as his men could accompany us. About 2 A.M. of the 23d he met us again, and his report of our road ahead was not very encouraging. We now parted with him and his men, and our regret at doing so was heightened by the idea that we had no intelligence to send by him of having found the slightest traces of those we were in search of. Our progress after they left us was very slow and excessively fatiguing, from the soft state and depth of the snow. The shore here was a succession of high steep slopes faced with snow, the grounded hummocks coming close into them at the bottom. The only practicable road was between the hummocks and the bottom of these slopes,