

ICEBERGS.

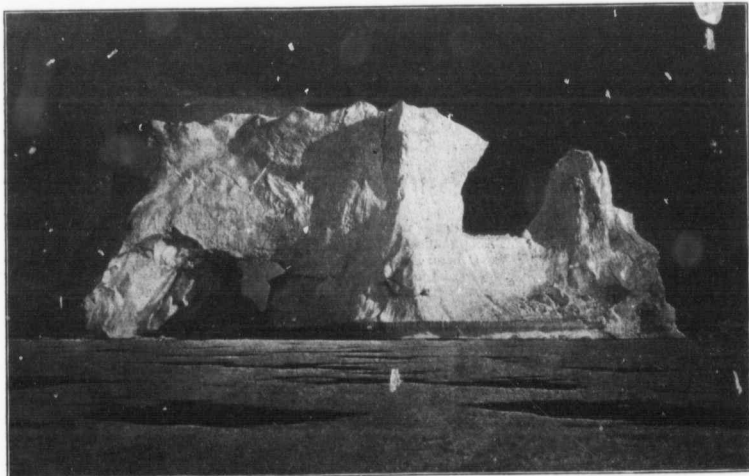
BY THE EDITOR.

TO one who is crossing the ocean for the first time scarcely anything is of greater interest than the icebergs which may often be seen from the steamer's deck. Captains, however, are not usually very anxious to gratify the curiosity of passengers in this respect, for they look upon the berg as a dangerous neighbor, and seek to keep as far from it as possible. From May to August the icebergs form a great source of danger to Atlantic navigation. During a thick fog vessels have often crashed into one of these monsters of the deep, in some cases with serious results. Well does the writer remember being on board the *Labrador* one morning in July, when suddenly the engines were reversed just in time to prevent the ship from striking

number of American tourists who were very anxious to see an iceberg, and included the captain to steer close to a large one which was sighted. He ran his ship right upon one of these leuges, and for a short time those tourists had the novel experience of actually being on board of an iceberg. Off the coast of Newfoundland icebergs are always to be seen, and occasionally they drift right into the harbor at St. John's.

During a visit to the Island Colony I had the opportunity of coming into close contact with several moderately large ones. Through the kindness of some friends a tug was obtained and we steamed out through the narrows, and pulled up quite near to a berg which was grounded, so that there was no danger of its turning a somersault. It is very difficult to get a good photograph of an iceberg, as it is usually a glare of white with scarcely any contrasts of color. The vessel upon which

sometimes as many as fifty icebergs may be counted within a radius of ten miles. Gorgeous effects are occasionally produced by their seeming to be lifted right out of the water and by a kind of mirage they appear to be reproduced in the clouds. Concerning the size of icebergs many remarkable stories have been told. A cubic foot of ice weighs 930 ounces, but the same volume of sea water weighs 1,280 ounces, hence ice floats on water, and but one-ninth of its volume is exposed to view. There are several authenticated instances of bergs 1,000 feet high having been sighted in the southern sea, so that the total height would be about 9,000 feet. It is said that in 1851 an enormous ice island was drifting about for several months, and was passed by many ships. It was 300 feet high, 60 miles long, and 40 wide, and was in the shape of a horseshoe. Its two sides enclosed a sheltered bay measuring 40 miles



ICEBERG, WITH ARCH.

against a mountain of ice. When the fog lifted there were icebergs to be seen in every direction. The captain, when asked which way he was steering, replied, "In any direction to get away from this ice."

There are other dangers from icebergs beside that of a collision in a fog. Frequently the part of the ice which is under water becomes melted more than that above the surface, and then the huge mass turns over, when it is just as well to be at some distance. The vibration of the air caused by the sounding of a steamer's whistle has been known, in the case of "porous ice," to detach large masses from the berg, while a gun fired in the neighborhood brought down sufficient ice to destroy any vessel upon which it fell.

Sometimes there are ledges of ice entirely out of sight, which are exceedingly dangerous. It is said that some years ago the steamer *Portia* had on board a

one stands, too, rises and falls with the ocean's swell, so that the picture has to be taken very quickly. I had fairly good success in a "snap-shot," which is reproduced on the sixth page of this issue. It is impossible for any photograph to do justice to the beauty of an iceberg. When the sun is shining it glistens and sparkles like a huge diamond, while streams of water pour from its sides.

Icebergs are of various shapes and forms, and sometimes present a very fantastic appearance. Occasionally one is seen that resembles a magnificent cathedral, with a steeple towering two or three hundred feet in the air; while again another has a well shaped arch through which a good sized vessel might sail. As a rule, arctic bergs are of irregular shape with lofty pinnacles, cloud capped towers, and glittering domes, whereas the southern ones are more flat topped and solid looking.

In Bonavista Bay, Newfoundland,

across. A large emigrant ship called the *Guiding Star* sailed into this icy bay and was lost with all hands. The icebergs off the coast of Newfoundland are rarely more than a couple of hundred feet in height and about a quarter of a mile in length, although they have been found grounded on the "banks" where the deep sea lead gave a depth of 650 feet.

Sometimes the iceberg carries passengers, and it usually has more or less freight. These huge masses of ice come from Greenland, and are broken off from great glaciers and washed out to sea. They frequently carry away with them lumps of rock, sand and soil. Polar bears and other animals have been seen on bergs, and sometimes ships have been carried high and dry. Some years ago, a few miles off the coast of Newfoundland, the body of a man was observed on a large iceberg. When it was reported a tug was immediately sent out to investigate, but it was found that the berg had, in