

I steered for Bardin Bay, in Whale Sound. On entering the bay we soon observed a summer tent and some Eskimos, with their dogs, running to and fro, evidently to attract our attention. The bay was found to be full of reefs, and we had to back out and lay-to at the entrance. I then landed with several of the officers, taking with us ^A Anthone, our Eskimo interpreter, in his kyak.

"The natives met us without fear, and helped to haul our boat on the shore. They consisted of the members of one family, ten in all, and appeared to have plenty of food; they were grateful, however, for some walrus flesh which I gave them. They were very communicative and natural in their manners. They told us that they had had a very good hunting season on account of the prevalence of much ice. They had seen no ships or white men for many years, but said that an old man, who lived with his family in Northumberland Island, saw two ships pass northward last summer. They had heard of the 'Polaris' wreck, but had not been so far north for some years, and I did not see anything in their possession to disprove their statement.

"I noticed among their treasures a ship's bucket, half the top of a mahogany table, a Greenlander's kyak paddle, much ice-worn, and a piece of packing-case marked 'Limejuice, Leith,' all of which they said had drifted into the bay at different times from the southward. This proves the existence of a permanent current to the northward along the coast from West Greenland and Melville Bay.

"These Eskimos, living in the extreme latitude of $77^{\circ} 12' N.$, seemed to be a kind and simple people, robust and healthy. They offered us everything they had, and when asked what they would like to receive, the chief came off to the ship, and from all our treasures he selected a fifteen-foot ash oar and some gimlets. He wanted the oar for spear shafts, and the gimlets to bore ivory and bone in order to cut it. We gave them some other useful presents, and received some narwhal's horns, specimens of their pot-stone cooking kettles, and of the iron pyrites used for striking fire. We also exchanged some dogs, giving them five of ours for three of their finest bear-hunting and team dogs.

"Having taken leave of these interesting people, we sailed out of the bay in the evening, and continued our voyage towards Upernivik, where we arrived on the evening of September 7, after a stormy passage and much difficulty during the dark nights, with the quantities of icebergs on the coast. On the evening of the 6th we ran into the edge of the middle ice. It was, however, much broken into small floes, upon one of which I shot a remarkably fine Polar bear.