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CHAP. VIII.] 7

THE WHITE BEAR.

heard of one of the latter being seen this year, and it was fought some time by the men with their gaffs, dodging it from pan to pan, till at last one or two, coming up with their guns, shot him. We did not hear of this, however, till after our return to St. John's. White and other foxes are also occasionally found on the ice.

There is no certain rule to be adhered to in searching for the herds of seals, the great secret of success being constant activity and pushing about through the ice till they are met with, making for the strongest and largest fields of ice, and watching the set of the currents, the winds, and other circumstances which are likely to lead to them.

April 1st.—Thick and foggy, wind southwest; sailing to the south-east through bays of water. Saw a punt's crew of a schooner near us kill a family of hooded-seals, consisting of the male, female, and young one. Distinctly observed the male blow up his hood as the men approached. The hooded-seals are more fearless, and show more fight when attacked, than the harps: they will, however, always get away if they can. The men say VOL. I.