

Ryp had brought plenty of provisions with him, and, at a cheerful meal, they united together to thank God heartily for all His goodness. With gifts and warm expressions of gratitude they took leave of the kind Russians, and, on the 2nd of September, reached Kola safely on board Ryp's vessel, eagerly awaited and welcomed with great delight by the other sailors.

The two damaged boats were willingly accepted by the officials stationed there, to be kept in the warehouse as curiosities, which indeed they were, for they had been God's instruments for bringing them more than eight hundred leagues across the Arctic Ocean and the White Sea.

On the 18th of September all the collected remnants of Hemskerk's crew set out from Kola for their native shores in a good, well-provisioned ship. At the end of October, 1597, after a prosperous voyage, they safely reached Amsterdam harbour.

Thus ended one of the earliest voyages of discovery undertaken from Western Europe to the Arctic regions of the far North-east. The sight of the crew, in the fur garments and caps they had brought from Nova Zembla, excited universal interest. Large wages were paid them for the trying service in which they had been engaged ; and they were glad, after all they had gone through, and the effect it had had upon their constitution in the form of frost-bitten limbs and impaired health, to bid farewell to the hard life of the mariner. Every one was anxious to see them, and the richest and most distinguished people invited them to their tables in order to hear from their own