

eight or nine miles off, and heading from us. However, we all started. The ice being loose, we took three punts with us; we hauled the punts a mile and a half, but the ice getting rougher, we had to leave them. After walking about a mile, the weather came on thick with snow. The Captain called a halt, and, after some debate, we determined to go back to our home on the ice; but on turning about we could see no sign of it! Our situation was now an alarming one—fifty-two of us on the drift ice (which might break up at any minute), without food, fire or boats.

After waiting some time, every one looking in the direction he supposed our tent to be, the weather lightened enough to enable us to see our flag, which, providentially, we had mounted on a pole near the tent.

We set up a joyful shout on seeing it, and made for the flag as fast as possible. The ice, about this time, loosened very fast; but, after great toil and exertion, all got back to the tent, some running and jumping from pan to pan, others in punts, which some of the stronger and more active ones, who had got back first, hauled out to meet their less fortunate comrades.

Scarcely had we looked around to see if all were safe, when a heavy sea rolled in and broke our pan in pieces. All our provisions as well as ourselves were scattered about on small pans, and not a small portion of the former went to the bottom. The puncheon of molasses was among the portion saved, for which all were very thankful, as it was of great use in sweetening the snow and ice water, which was our only drink.

We set to work, wet and hungry as we were, and got ourselves and what articles we could save, on one of the larger and thicker pans.

We had just got a little settled, when another sea came in, the ice reftered, and, to our great sorrow, stove in our puncheon of molasses, which lay at some little distance from us; however, we managed to save a few gallons.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent in repairing our tent; night coming on before we had finished, we all huddled

together as well as we could, but the ice loosening still more, the pan we were on drifted about all night in a pool of water, and one side of our tent being submerged, we passed a most uncomfortable night.

Sorrowful thoughts, too, of the fate of the nine men who had left us on the first day filled our minds, as we did not the least expect that they had reached the vessel, as it proved eventually they did. We fired guns at intervals all night.

Monday, 22nd, was fine and clear in the morning, but no craft of any sort was in sight. Some of the men began to despair, but the most of us had good hopes of being rescued some time or other. We had provisions enough to last some time, but very little firewood. From Monday until Friday, the weather being more moderate, we employed ourselves in making our tent a little more comfortable, and in getting our punts ready in case the ice should loosen.

Saturday the 17th being very fine, we caught a great many seals, which we used in place of firewood. We discovered a large and heavy pan or cake of ice enclosed in a lighter one; on to the pan we removed our tents provisions, &c. We got every thing removed by nightfall. By this time we were getting used to our new mode of life.

The 28th, Easter Sunday, and a very fine day. We got a little rest that day.

On Monday, 29th, the men employed themselves in various ways, some watching for seals, of which we always endeavored to have a stock in hand, as without them we could have no fire. Some of the men amused themselves with various games, such as leap-frog, foot-ball, &c.; others cursed their ill luck, as they called it. We had to keep watch every night for fear of the ice reftering. Half of our number sat up, and half lay down to try and get a little sleep. Those that lay down kept on their boots and swanskin cuffs, tied down their caps, and so were ready to jump at a moment's warning.

Our sealskin clothes bags were also kept in readiness with a few articles of clothing and biscuit in them. Many times during the night, the watch would give the alarm,