

Having been fortunate enough to pass twelve months in the most northern portion of the earth that civilized man has yet visited, a region subjected to as rigorous extremes of cold as any yet recorded, where the sun remains below the horizon at mid-day for five months, where the mean annual temperature is— $3^{\circ}\cdot473$, where a minimum of— $73^{\circ}\cdot75$ was registered during the month of March, and where for only three months of the year the mean temperature rises up to and above the freezing point of fresh water, viz. $+32^{\circ}\cdot455$ in June; $+38^{\circ}\cdot356$ in July; $+31^{\circ}\cdot913$ in August. I was impressed with the fact that this region is undergoing less glaciation than Greenland, lying twenty degrees of latitude to the southward in the parallel of Shetland, and differing remarkably from the northern part of Greenland, lying between the same parallels, and separated by a narrow water-way not twenty miles across.

In Grinnell Land, from lat. $81^{\circ}\cdot40'$ N. to lat. $83^{\circ}\cdot6'$ N., no glaciers descend to the sea, no ice-cap buries the land; valleys from which the snow is in a great measure thawed during July and part of August stretch inland for many miles, and the peaked mountains, snow-clad during the greater portion of the year, in July and August have great portions of their flanks which rise to an altitude of 2,000 feet bared of snow.

The opposite coast of Greenland presents a very different aspect, a *mer-de-glace* stretches over nearly its entire surface, its fiords are the outlets by which its great glaciers protrude into the sea. In Petermann Fiord the ice cap with its blue jagged edge lying flush with the face of the lofty cliffs was estimated to be forty feet thick.

When we turn to the Flora and Fauna of Grinnell Land the difference is equally astonishing; some fifty or sixty flowering plants are found in its valleys, and between latitudes 82° and 83° N., I have seen tracts of land so profusely decked with the blossoms of *Saxifraga oppositifolia* that the purple glow of our heath clad moors was brought to my recollection.

Musk oxen in considerable numbers frequent its shores; the Arctic fox, the wolf, and ermine, with thousands of lemmings live and die there. The bones of these mammals, along with those of the ringed seal (*Phoca hispida*), are now being deposited in considerable quantities in the fluvio-marine beds now forming in the bays and at the outlets of all the streams, or rather summer torrents of Grinnell Land. With these bones will be