

9 March.—We could see farther from vs, and perceive that the water was open in the north-east, but not from vs towards Tartaria, for there we could still see ice in the Tartarian Sea, otherwise called the Ice Sea, so that we were of opinion, that there it was not very wide, for when it was cleere weather, we thought many times that we saw the land, and showed it unto our companions, south and south-east from our house, like a hilly land.

10 March.—It was cleere weather, the wind north,...at which time we saw an open sea, whereupon we said vnto each other, that if the ship were loose, we might venture to saile awaie.

(During all the time to which the preceding notes refer, the Hollanders were mostly shut up in their hut; and it would appear that on almost all occasions when they ventured out, either to visit their vessels, fetch drift-wood, or catch foxes, or even at their look-out from the chimney, a more or less open sea was perceived, and this, too, during the dark season. With April, that is, the beginning of the Arctic summer, there was a notable change. It was then that the ice began to drive in again from the east and north-east. Under date of the 15th April, the Journal says: "We went along by the sea side, and there we saw that in the end of March and the beginning of April the ice was in such wonderfull maner risen and piled vp one vpon the other, that it was wonderfull in such manner as if there had bin whole townes made of ice, with towers and bulwarkes round about them." On the 4th May they found the open water at 500 paces from the ship, and the same enclosed with high hills of ice, whereas in the middle of March the open water was only 75 paces distant. They waited and waited, week after week, hoping that with the advance of the season the ice would again drive away, so as to make their ship loose and put to sea in it; but in vain. At last, in the beginning of June, feeling convinced of the hopelessness of the case, they determined to abandon their ship, and prepare their boats to return in them. This remarkable voyage in their two open frail boats as far as Lapland, is unparalleled in the Annals of Arctic navigation.)

2. Extracts from Willem Barentz's Third Voyage,

Showing the means of sustenance found by that expedition while wintering at the north-eastern extremity of Novaia Zemlia, 11 September, 1596, to 13 June, 1597; with incidents respecting the killing of animals.

11 September.—Determined to build a house vpon the land, to keep vs therein as well as we could. . . . Found certaine trees, roots, and all which had been driven vpon the shoare. . . . That wood served vs not onely to build our house, but also to burne and serve vs all the winter long.

14 September.—Went into the land, and laid the wood in heaps one vpo the other, that it might not be covered over with y^e snow.

15 September.—In the morning, as one of our men held watche, wee saw three beares, whereof the one lay still behind a peece of ice, the other two came close to the ship: which wee perceiving, made our peeces ready to shoote at them, at which time there stod a tub full of beefe, vpon the ice, which lay in the water to be seasoned, for that close by the ship there was no water: one of the beares went vnto it, and put in his head to take out a peece of the beefe, but she fared therewith as the dog did with y^e pudding, for as she was snatching at the beefe, she was shot into the head, wherewith she fell down dead, and never stir'd: the other beare stood still, and lolt upon her fellow, and when she had stood a good while she smelt her fellow, and perceiving that she was dead, she ran away, but we tooke halberds and other armes with vs and followed her, and at last she came againe towards vs, and we prepared ourselves to withstand her, wherewith she rose vp vpon