

finding that we were in a *cul de sac*, we had reluctantly to steer S.W. to get out; our last two days' work thus being thrown away. We are in clear water, it is true, but from the crow's nest an impenetrable barrier of heavy ice is in sight reaching far South, which we shall have to get round. Fore and aft canvas set. At noon 36 miles South of yesterday's position. Heavy ice stopped us at 9 p.m.

MONDAY, MAY 1ST.—Wind N.E. light. We have managed at last to get round the heavy ice. Seven seals were killed to-day—six shot from the fore deck, and one clubbed by the mate on some ice. An old dog hood seal which I wounded was very annoyed, and blew out his hood before I finished him off. I am told that they fight very hard for their mate and young when attacked. In fact, a fight between a dog hood and a bear which the second mate told me about is worth re-telling. He watched them, he told me, for five hours. The seal eventually having pinned the bear by the throat down on the ice, they were both shot in an exhausted condition. The skins of both were in a terrible state and not fit for anything. The bear had his left foreleg broken, and the seal was literally a mass of wounds. The extraordinary part was that the bear had the best of the seal in the water and *vice versa* on land.

We passed what appeared to be the gaff and boom of a vessel. Glass falling all day.

TUESDAY, MAY 2ND.—No ice in sight. Hard breeze from the N.W., which increased to a gale at noon. Hove to. Glass falling.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3RD.—Hard gale. Most uncomfortable. Hove to. Very heavy sea. Four oil bags out. Snow.

THURSDAY, MAY 4TH.—Terrific gale. Hove to. Four oil bags out. "Esquimaux" behaving splendidly. Snow.

FRIDAY, MAY 5TH.—A repetition of yesterday—if possible, worse. Four oil bags out. Hove to. Nothing carried away so far, but two of starboard boats had a near squeak. Mr. McKenzie prostrate in his bunk; Cecil recovered. Glass has started to rise.

This is getting monotonous. I had a nasty fall to-day in the saloon; one of the fixed (!!) chairs was carried away and sent me head foremost into the rifle rack; I saw many beautifully-coloured