

under Captain Austin are only fourteen days and the two American schooners only four days before us, and we have no doubt of getting up with them at Opernowick. We got the coals that had been left for us by the whaler, completed our water, and sailed in twenty hours. From the appearance of wind and weather I was tempted to risk the Weigatt Straits, by which I could gain some leagues on the other vessels, and I happily succeeded, but I would not on any account run such a risk again, the navigation being both dangerous and intricate, and I am sure Captain Austin's vessels could not have accomplished it. (The dispatch concludes with a kind of journal from which we extract the following.)

"July 8.—We have since had light winds, and are within 400 miles of Lancaster Sound, where I shall lay down my pen till an opportunity offers. All well.

"July 13.—I forgot to mention that neither Captain Austin nor the Americans obtained an interpreter, and I am, therefore, the less sorry that I lost so much time at Holsteinburg, but I believe that Captain Penny got on to Opernowick. We have since fallen in with the remaining whalers, which I knew, from the heavy state of the ice, would fail in getting round to the west land until the fishing season was over.

"July 17, lat. 73 36 north; off Cape Shakleston.—On this morning we suddenly fell in with five of the whalers, who, seeing it improbable that they could get round the north end of the ice, were running to the south to try the passage to the west land in lat. 71. They reported that in the gale of the 12th the American vessel was beset off the Devil's Thumb, where they still remained, about thirty miles north of us, where we could see them, but that Captain Penny and Austin's squadron were in lat. 74 40, and bore up in the storm, and will probably reach Melville Bay, where we would find them; that all of us would no doubt get round the middle ice, but it would probably be late. We found little field ice, which was very favourable for the steamers, but a great many icebergs. I gave a short note to Captain Leuchar, of the 'True Love,' but I suppose you will receive this

first. The south-west storm of the 12th was very severe, and damaged the bulwarks of the 'Mary,' but that was of no consequence, as we had to take them away, and have now converted her into a row-galley as well as sailing vessel. She will row 10 oars, and I think will do the work better than any that has navigated the Arctic Seas.

"On the 19th of July we spoke five more whalers, all standing to the southward; and, in the evening, communicated with the 'Prince Albert,' which followed us closely, occasionally assisting each other through the intricate passages among the ice, with which we were now constantly surrounded.

"On the 23d of July we communicated with seven more of the whalers, which were running south, having given up as hopeless the idea of making the north passage in time to reach the fishing ground on the west land this season.

"On the 25th of July we discovered her Majesty's ships, commanded by Captain Austin, and also the two vessels commanded by Captain Penny. We were now in lat. 75 deg. 11 min. 10 sec. north, and long. 59 deg. 38 min. west of Brown's Islands; and, having gained the land ice, were in hopes of overtaking her Majesty's ships, which were then beset. To accomplish this we continued our labours in cutting, forcing, and tracking, and daily gaining on them; but Captain Penny gained also, and at last got out of sight.

"It was not until Saturday evening, the 11th of August, that we overtook them, and on Sunday Captain Austin came on board the 'Felix,' as also Captain Ommanney and Lieutenant Cator.

"We now proceeded in company, and the weather being calm and peculiarly favourable for the steamers, the 'Felix' was occasionally towed by the 'Pioneer' and 'Resolute,' while the 'Prince Albert' was also towed by the 'Intrepid' and 'Assistance.' In the meantime, Captain Penny, who had in vain attempted to cross the middle ice, was overtaken, and on the 13th of August the whole nine vessels were congregated in Melville Bay, off Cape York, where I shall conclude this despatch."

THE END.