

so that the fishing operations might be interrupted as little as possible, Captain Allan shipped a few on the *Arctic*. The latter vessel having completed her fishing earlier than was expected, and knowing that the crew of the *Polaris* would be anxious to return as speedily as possible, Captain Allan, the commander, went in search of the *Arctic*. Finding her, he took on board those of the survivors it contained, but Captain Allan had previously put on board the *Intrepid*, R. W. D. Bryan, astronomer, and J. B. March, seaman, and John W. Booth, fireman. The last man will be brought home in the *Intrepid*, which is expected in the course of a few weeks. The survivors state that when they were rescued they had bread sufficient to last them for a month, but the general opinion among them is, that they were not likely to have reached any of the settlements. Mr. Chester, who is spoken of in terms of high praise by all, states that he has no doubt whatever he would have got southward without any assistance. Captain Hall is regarded as a man who was peculiarly adapted for the great enterprise under his charge, and all lament his untimely end. In regard to the statement which has been made to the effect that those in the ship might have rendered aid to those on the ice we may give what is concurred in by all, viz., that it was impossible, after the *Polaris* broke adrift, to learn the whereabouts of those who were left behind. Every effort was made to find out where, but it was abortive. The whaling steamer *Hector*, Captain Bartlett, arrived at St. Johns, N.F., September 25, 1873, from the north. She reports having met the *Tigress*, still on the *Polaris* search, at Neulik Harbor, Cumberland inlet. According to Captain Bartlett, the *Tigress* left Neulik on the 16th of September for South Greenland, where she will take in a fresh supply of coal before making her way north again, and it is possible she may be out until December before receiving any news as to the safety of the Buddington party. Commander Groer, in his letter to Consul Molloy, says that he intends to follow in the track of the northern whalers in search of the *Polaris*'s crew for information, and, if unsuccessful, he will probably return to St. Johns about the middle of October. Captain Bartlett also picked up Captain Palmer and the crew of the schooner *Helen F.*, of New London. Their vessel was wrecked last winter away north, and they have been subsisting in the best way they could since the day they were shipwrecked.

WAR WITH THE TURCOMANS.

The *Russian Invalid* publishes a detailed report of General Kaufmann's expedition against the nomad tribes of Khiva. It stated that after the occupation of Khiva, the General, having more carefully ascertained the true state of affairs, saw that it would be necessary entirely to change the relations subsisting between the Khan and the Turcomans. During the stay of the Russian troops at Khiva it had been discovered that the power of the Khan over the Turcomans living in the Oasis of Khiva was purely nominal, and that it was not the Khan, who ruled and governed among these nomads, but the latter who kept him in subjection. They could bring into the field 30,000 armed men, enterprising and bold robbers, mounted on swift horses which can undergo great fatigue. They paid no taxes, and only furnished the Khan with troops as it

served themselves. They pillaged the peaceful inhabitants of the country, and received no punishment for their insolence and acts of brigandage, which they made a source of income. The Russians saw that it was impossible to permit this lawless horde to dominate after this fashion in the Khanate. It was evident that the Khan, whatever his wishes might be, had not the power of complying with the requests made to him. With the view of changing this state of things and checking the pride of the Turcomans, General Kaufmann resolved to impose a war tax. He began with the most troublesome tribe of the Yomud Turcomans, the Bairam Schalye, whom he ordered to pay a contribution of three hundred thousand roubles. He summoned the elders of the tribe to meet him at Khiva. They promised that it would be paid, and General Kaufmann sent five of them home, directing them to explain what was wanted and to collect the contribution. The other twelve elders were retained at the camp as hostages. At the same time a detachment composed of eight companies, with ten pieces of artillery (including two mitrailleuses) and the whole cavalry of the detachments of Turkestan and the Caucasus, under the command of General Golowachoff, were sent to superintend the collection of the tax. It was found that the Yomuds were not collecting the tax, but were preparing an armed resistance. On the 15th of July the Russians camp was attacked by the Turcomans, who fought with an energy and desperation never before displayed by the natives of Asia. The most critical moment was when they broke the ranks and penetrated to the Shtolnia, killing its Colonel. Besides the horsemen, Turcomans on foot, armed only with guns, took part in the attack. They were riding behind the horsemen, but descended a few steps from the Russians. Barefooted, and wearing no clothing but their shirts, and with their sleeves turned up, they rushed, shouting wildly, upon the Russian soldiers. They penetrated between the second battalion of Sharpshooters and the eighth sotnia of Orenburg, and fell on the escort of Major-General Golovachoff. At the same time the General received a sabre cut on the right wrist. The Turcoman who dealt the blow was immediately after bayoneted by a soldier of the 2nd Battalion. The Russians, however, succeeded in compelling the Turcomans to retreat. On the 17th, Major-General Golovetchoff again reached the spot where the Turcomans had encamped. At 12 versts from the watch fire, Colonel Block saw on the road a barricade formed of 200 or 300 wagons, filled with goods and occupied by armed Turcomans prepared to make a desperate defence of their families. Having come within 200ft. or 300 feet of the barricade, Colonel Block ordered the 1st and 3rd sotnias of the Oural to leave their horses and take possession of the baggage train. After a short fire the Cossacks assaulted the barricade, which was carried at once, in spite of the resistance of the enemy. Two hundred Turcomans were killed on the spot, and all the arms taken by the Cossacks were destroyed. Seven versts further on Colonel Block met another convoy of 400 wagons which he ordered a half battery of rocketmen to take possession of. This was done with great slaughter of Turcomans. The Cavalry advanced at a trot, and when they had proceeded about six versts into the sands they met a third convoy of about 1,000 wagons, guarded by armed Turcomans. An attack was made upon them under command of Prince Eugene Maximilianevitch, Duke of Leuchtenberg,

and the result was that the Turcomans were driven back, leaving behind an immense quantity of cattle, camels, and effects. The report states that the injury inflicted by the Russian troops on the Yomuds has been terrible. 9,000 head of cattle have been seized and 3,000 wagons filled with the property of the Yomuds having been overtaken. On the 22nd and 23rd of July, deputations from three Yomud tribes, the Oshaks, Saleks, and Ourouskoustels, applied to General Kaufmann for pardon and permission to return to their homes, flight into the sands of the desert without cattle being certain death. The defeat of the Yomuds has made a deep impression throughout the Khanate. The Uzbeqs and in general the whole sedentary population, has frequently to suffer the brigandage and pillaging expeditions of the Yomuds, and more especially of the Yomuds, and they are accordingly highly satisfied with the misfortune that has befallen them, and hope that henceforth peace and tranquility will be secured for a long time in the Khanate.

ANOTHER POLAR SEA HORROR.

Early last summer a North Pole Expedition was fitted out in Sweden. Two transport vessels of Tromsøe, Norway, which had been employed to carry part of the expedition to Spitzbergen, not returning, great anxiety was felt for their safety. An attempt was made by the crews of three Norwegian fishing vessels to go to their rescue, which was successful in reaching them but found the men, seventeen in all, dead. Their report then continued:

"In the ravine at the mouth of the river lay the two boats of the unfortunate men turned. Approaching the house, we noticed a great many clothes, blankets, etc. Heaps of straw and ashes were laying outside the door. A distance from the house, to the north was observed a large wooden box, covered with a tarpaulin, and under this the sight of five corpses met our eyes. We opened the door to the house, but were forced to desist from entering by an unendurable stench. All the doors and windows were now quickly opened, and before we entered the house we fumigated it thoroughly with tar and sulphur, and sprinkled our clothes with peppermint. In the room to the right lay six corpses, emaciated and horrible looking. Their faces were yellow and mouldy.

"In the room to the left were found the bodies of four dead men—three lying in a bed, and one in a box, leaning his head on his right hand, the legs hanging down. He had on a leathern cap, and a leathern or skin jacket, white Nordland mittens and "skaller" on his feet. The face of this last one looked well, and, apparently he had recently died. A great deal of blood had come from him, and been running along the box. The faces of the three in bed looked awfully bad. At the end of the bed lay three crackers, some sugar, and a good deal of vegetables, which had not been touched. Their clothes were covered with vermin. A grave was now dug, the bedsteads were used for coffins, and they were all buried in their clothes and with their bed clothes—in all fifteen men.

"The other two must have been buried before by their comrades. We searched for them, but could not find them. There was yet considerable snow on the ground, and they had probably been buried under the snow.