

the drift of waifs borne direct on ice-floes and along ocean currents, largely supplements our field of knowledge. The British discovery ship *Resolute*, one of Sir Edward Belcher's expedition, was abandoned Aug. 26, 1854, when frozen in, not far from Beechy Island, in lat. $74^{\circ} 40'$ N., lon. $90^{\circ} 45'$ W., and was picked up without a person on board by Captain Buddington, of the American whale-ship *George Henry*, Sept. 11th, 1855, in lat. $64^{\circ} 40'$ N., lon. $61^{\circ} 30'$ W., off Cumberland Sound, on the west coast of Baffin's Bay, just south of Davis Strait. She was brought to the United States, and by Congress presented to England. In 381 days she drifted eastward in the ice-floe fully 1,100 miles, averaging about three miles each day.

Another remarkable experience of Arctic drift was that of a party of 19 persons, including men, women and children, landed on an ice-floe of five miles in circumference, with boats, stores and provisions from the U. S. S. *Polaris*, Charles F. Hall, Commander, on October 15th, 1872, in lat. $77^{\circ} 35'$ N., not far from Littleton Island, when it was thought that vessel was about to sink. Upon this drifting floe they built snow huts in which they lived and kept their records and provisions. They were rescued by the barkentine *Tigress*, Capt. Bartlett, April 30th, 1873, in lat. $53^{\circ} 30'$ N., which vessel was engaged in sealing.

In the light of information now received, it appears quite certain that had the *Jeannette* proved strong enough to hold together, she would have sailed safely into New York early in the Spring of 1884, if not before. In proof of this opinion, the following facts are now reported as causing great surprise and much attentive study among scientific men in the United States.

HOW THE NEWS WAS RECEIVED.

On Friday, August 15th, 1884, the American bark *Fluorine*, Capt. Alexander Wilson, arrived at Philadelphia, —days from Ovigut, the port of shipment for the cryolite mines, situated a few miles north of Juhans-haab, the principal place and seat of the local government of an extensive