

3. Considering the unfavorable and forbidding circumstances of their condition, in living as the natives lived, and their travels in the depths of winter from one settlement to another in order to avoid starvation, it is remarkable that so many of them, with so little sickness, should be rescued the following year.

A plain statement of these facts the author felt was due to his fellow-townsmen, and would probably be of some considerable interest to all classes of readers, and therefore meriting a permanent record with the varied experience of whalemén.

The limited time the author spent with Captain Norton,* who was then preparing for sea, from whom he received the leading facts in the narrative, after it was concluded to give it to the public, is his only apology for not introducing more extended particulars.

Mr. Abram Osborn, Jr.,† Mr. John P. Fisher,‡ and Mr. John W. Norton,§ now absent at sea, confirmed the report of the captain, besides having contributed important materials to the narrative themselves.

Any information respecting the physical features of the arctic region, and the character of its

* Master of the ship *South Seaman*, of New Bedford.

† Master of the ship *William Wirt*, of New Bedford.

‡ First officer of the ship *General Pike*, of New Bedford.

§ First officer of the ship *William Henry*, of Fairhaven.