

When it is remembered that of each of these huge masses of solid ice it is only about one-sixth that is above the surface of the water, their immense magnitude may be imagined; and an estimate may be formed of the danger to which vessels are exposed by coming in contact with them. Beautiful as the sight had been as long as daylight lasted and the atmosphere was clear, there were many uneasy thoughts suggested as night came on, and with it a thick fog, which prevented our seeing more than a few yards ahead of the vessel. With such full confidence, however, in his care and prudence, had Captain MacMasko inspired us all, that I think there were but few of the passengers who did not sleep as comfortably as on any other night. The captain was on deck all night, and he is understood to have afterwards informed one of the passengers that on one occasion, we were so near coming into collision with an iceberg, that had the order to stop the engine been given a few seconds later, that catastrophe must inevitably have occurred. But by the mercy of our God we were protected from this, and all the unknown dangers to which we were exposed.

I must not omit to notice the singular illusion caused during the evening by the mist which floated in the distant horizon. In the midst of this were several bergs which appeared to be of a height far surpassing any we had previously seen. On approaching them, however, we found that both their height and their breadth had been immensely magnified, and that many of them were in reality of comparatively small size.

In viewing those bodies of floating ice, and reflecting on the danger which arises from them, one cannot but be impressed with the beneficence of the arrangement by which the relative densities of water and ice have been so adjusted, that there can be no mass of ice of sufficient size to endanger a vessel, of which so much will not be visible above the surface, as to give notice of the peril lurking beneath. Were the ice to float, as some timber does, even with the surface of the water, or immediately under it, it would be as though the ocean were studded with sunken rocks ever shifting their position, and the waters of these northern latitudes would be altogether unnavigable.

To be continued.

Church Matters at Clackington in 1875.

CHAPTER XIV.

A LARGE party were returning from church after the Bishop's sermon.

"Well, Mr. Cryson, have n't we had a beautiful sermon from his Lordship?" exclaimed Mrs. Brown, almost before they were out of the church.

"And is n't he a very handsome man?" asked Miss Tibbins.

"Ah, but he's married, you know," said Mrs. Glumpington; and she looked mischievously at Miss Tibbins.

"And such a pleasing voice," continued that excellent spinster, either in ignorance or disdain of the fact that Mrs. Glumpington was attempting to 'poke fun' at her; "I declare it's as good as a concert to listen to him. Were n't you delighted, Mr. Jackson?—I'm sure I was."

"To be sure," replied Mr. Jackson, who had just joined them, and seemed in such an amiable mood that his hands were fairly out of his pockets. "The fact is, he's a regular trump."

"And so evangelical," observed Mr. Sharp-ley. "Why, he spoke hardly of anything but of faith and love to the Redeemer."

"Humph!" said Mr. Jackson; "did n't he? I think he said something about the effects which they ought to produce—Eh?"

"Ah—yes—very true," observed the little lawyer; "he *was* pretty strong upon that point. I hope he does not mean us to trust in our good works."

"Uncommon bad job for us if he did," said Mr. Jackson, with a tone and expression that rather puzzled Mr. Sharp-ley; "and we should be notorious fools to follow his advice. Works, indeed!—humph—we *must* be hard up for something to trust to when we take to trusting *them*."

"And yet, now that Mr. Sharp-ley mentions it," observed Mrs. Brown, "I did think he was a little 'legal' in his zeal for good deeds. It is *such* a comfort to know that by the works of the law no man can be justified, that I hope he is clear on that point."

"Ah!" sighed Mr. Cryson, with a doleful expression of countenance, "I'm afraid that there's worse than that—worse than 'legality';—I'm afraid—I'm afraid—ah—"; and he sighed more deeply than before.