

# WELCOME AND SCHOOL

Do unto others  
As ye would  
that they  
should  
do unto  
you.

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## The Victims of the Arctic Seas.

THE *Jeannette*—a name that will never be forgotten while history records the deeds of brave men—sailed from San Francisco on July 8th, 1879, with a crew of thirty-three men, all told. About the end of September the party had really entered upon the dangers and difficulties of arctic exploration. They were in the midst of great fields of ice, which shifted with the varying winds and currents, so that, though the ship was itself active, it was carried over great distances.

In January, however, the ship sprang a leak, and all hands were kept busy at the pumps to keep the water down, and for eighteen months the pumps never ceased working. At last, however, the fight could be kept up no longer. On June 10th, the *Jeannette* sank, and the crew were left encamped on the ice, and no other prospect of return than that which their three boats afforded.

Thus left almost destitute, Commander DeLong had no other course opened to him than to retreat. And what gallant movement that was!

The three boats were two cutters and a whale-boat. The first, commanded by DeLong, was twenty feet in length, and carried fourteen persons; the second, under Lieut. Chipp, measured sixteen feet, and carried eight persons; and the whale-boat, which was larger than either the others—twenty-five feet long—was accompanied

by eleven persons, under the command of Engineer Melville. But though they had the boats, the gallant party could not launch them. They were in the midst of a sea, indeed, but it



CAUGHT IN THE ICE.

was a sea of solid ice; and for weeks the boats did not touch water, except for a short ferrage here and there, where a break in the ice left a narrow slip of open sea. The boats were

placed upon rudely-built sleds, and for fifty-three weary days the resolute men dragged them over the ice.

Some days they would make a mile; on others scarcely more than half that

distance. Great hillocks of ice were to be surmounted and cracks to be crossed, nearly every one of these being so wide that the sleds had to be let down into them and then hauled up on the other side.

Nor were these the only hardships the retreating band had to encounter. The cold was intense, as may be imagined. Short rations and their fearful labour had reduced the strength of the men, so that one-quarter of the whole party had to be carried helpless on sleds; while almost all were suffering either from frost-bite or from the effects of the ice upon their eyes.

At last the retreating company reached comparatively open water. The boats were launched, and the party set sail for what they hoped would be a milder climate and a more hospitable shore.

Now, however, the perils by which they had been beset were increased. The cold was still as great as that which they had previously encountered, and it made itself more intensely felt now that the men were confined within the limits of small boats, and deprived of the active exercises which alone had kept the warmth in their bodies. The food supply was running so short that but scanty fare could be allowed, and the danger of drowning was added to that of perishing by cold and hunger.

For a few days all went fairly well, but during a gale that arose in the night the boats became separated, and in the morning the company on board the whale-boat scanned the dreary waters in vain for the sails of the boats manned by the crews of Commander DeLong and Lieutenant Chipp. Engineer Melville's boat touched land