

searched for the *cache* in which the instruments and books were placed by the retreating party, but I only found near its stated position a brass bowl of a 7-inch compass, a tin tube which might have contained the pendulum apparatus, and parts of a telescope. We found no cairn or any books of record.

"I collected a few relics, one being a lamp with 'S. Buddington' marked upon it; and, having left a record of our visit, we hastily embarked in our steam cutter, which carried us off through the heavy ice against a strong southerly wind. There were no signs of any recent visit of the Eskimos, but I noticed no less than five *caches* of walrus flesh, all in a putrid state.

"On the 23rd, the weather continuing very boisterous, and fearing that in entering the pack we were at any time liable to be surrounded and carried away into Baffin's Sea, I considered it the best for all concerned to place the despatches and remaining letters on Littleton Island. Consequently I landed with Lieutenant Arbuthnot at 10 P.M., and placed four cases and two casks in a cleft in the rocks, on the western point, where they would be invisible to the natives, and we left a notice in Captain Nares' cairn to that effect.

"The following morning, after a stormy night, we were among the drift ice, and observed that the main pack had slackened in the direction of Leconte Island. We immediately steamed into it, and were able, although the weather was thick, to keep moving in that direction until 8 P.M., when we were close over on the west land, the summit of the island showing up above the mist. At 10 P.M. the fog lifted, and we found ourselves in a large pool of land water, extending towards Cape Isabella. Going on full speed through some streams of drift and sheets of young ice, we arrived within a cable's length of the cape, on the morning of the 25th, just after midnight.

"The rocks were quite clear of ice, but some floes were streaming round the land from the southward before the wind and the current, which now ran to the north. The ship being placed close to the shore, Lieutenants Arbuthnot and Becker landed immediately, to visit the lower hill, taking tools, and bags to bring off the despatches, should the cask be found to contain them. They lost no time in ascending the hill, and returned safely on board after only an hour's absence. They reported that the cask was empty, and that the four cases contained preserved meat. It was now evident that no travelling or boat party had reached this position from the Polar ships, and that Captain Nares had deposited the cask on his outward journey as a receptacle for the despatches, in order to save its weight upon a sledge had a party been sent. A full