

here to make a speech. I can only say that I consider it an honor to be able to put my foot first on Danish soil."

After more cheering Commodore Hovgaard took Doctor Cook in a carriage and drove with him through the crowded streets to the Phoenix Hotel, where he will be the guest of the Geographical Society. The hallways of the hotel were decorated with American flags and masses of flowers. Johan Hansen, the Minister of Commerce, and a committee of the Geographical Society gave a reception to Doctor Cook at the hotel. The Minister made a speech of welcome, in which he said:

"Before retiring to your much-needed rest, Doctor Cook, I hope you will give us an opportunity of bidding you welcome to Denmark. I thank you on behalf of my countrymen for the noble deeds which you so successfully have performed."

The Minister then invited Doctor Cook on behalf of the Government, the municipality and the Geographical Society, "as our honored guest," to a banquet at the Town Hall.

Doctor Cook thanked the Minister briefly "for the very kind reception you already have granted me in Denmark, and with which I feel most delighted."

Minister Hansen, over a bottle of champagne, then led in "three cheers and a long life for Doctor Cook."

Following the luncheon at the legation Doctor Cook was received at the palace by King Frederick. He was accompanied by Mr. Egan.

King Frederick asked Doctor Cook many questions, and drew out a long account of his expedition.

The Queen and her three daughters, Princesses Ingeborg, Thyra and Dagmar, were present.

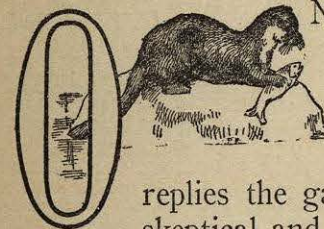
Later in the afternoon Doctor Cook received the newspaper correspondents, and answered all their questions fully.

Their reports are given in full in the succeeding chapters.

## CHAPTER VI.

### STARS AND STRIPES PLANTED AT THE POLE.

Reached Pole at 7 A. M.—President Taft Honors Cook—Explorer Submits His Proofs—Describes Site of New Land—Explains Speed of His Travel—Resents Skepticism of Jealous Critics—Buried Flag at Pole—No Motive for Deception—Ice Drift Around Pole—Temperature and Speed—Problem of Food—Eskimos Confirm Story—Message from Wife.



NE of the best of the interviews that Doctor Cook gave out at Copenhagen, was with Philip Gibbs, who in the following pages tells of his talk with Doctor Cook and of the

replies the gallant discoverer made to his rather skeptical and pointed questions.

But first it may be well to print Dr. Cook's cablegram to President Taft and the tribute the American Executive paid to his daring.

Doctor Cook cabled as follows:

"COPENHAGEN, September 4.

"PRESIDENT, The White House, Washington.

"I have the honor to report to the Chief Magistrate of the United States that I have returned, having reached the North Pole.

"FREDERICK A. COOK."

To which the President replied:

"BEVERLY, MASS., September 4.

"FREDERICK A. COOK, Copenhagen.

"Your dispatch received. Your report that you have reached the North Pole calls for my heartiest congratulations and stirs the pride of all Americans that this feat, which has so long baffled the world, has been accomplished by the intelligent energy and wonderful endurance of a fellow countryman.

"WILLIAM H. TAFT."

But to return to Mr. Gibbs and his interview.

Mr. Gibbs, in detailing it, writes, under date of September 4, as follows:

"I came through the Cattegat by sea to Copenhagen on board the steamship Hans Egede, which has come home from Northwest Greenland with the man who discovered the North Pole.

"I had traveled many hundreds of miles by day and night from London. I had motored in the darkness from Copenhagen to Elsinore. I had spent the night on a Danish lightship, and at last, as dawn appeared over the silent waters, I saw, still far away, the steamship upon which was the man who has come with this amazing news of discovery. All the way on my journey I have been burning to ask questions of Doctor Cook, to test the truth of his story, to hear from his own lips this claim which has startled the world. At last my turn came to ask those questions, and, as may be seen, they were straight questions which demanded straight answers.

#### ON BOARD THE HANS EGEDE.

"On board the Hans Egede, amidst a group of Danish seamen, some of them still in furs and sealskin boots, I saw the man I had come to find. He is a man of middle weight, with a fair, good-looking face, clean shaven, except for a little yellow mustache, and with a mass of light wavy hair and blue eyes.

"I went up to him and said:

"'Doctor Cook, I believe?'

"He smiled and said:

"'I guess you are the first Englishman to give me greeting.'

"'Yes,' I said, 'and England and America will give you an enthusiastic welcome and hail you as one of the great heroes if you will just answer a few questions and satisfy us on some difficult points.'

"'Ah,' he said, 'I thought you would begin to ask questions, and I am ready to answer them.'

"That was all I wanted, and down in a cabin, leaning across a narrow table and facing this blue-eyed man, who, if his story be true, has had the most amazing adventure in the history of the sea, I asked many questions.

"'What evidence can you bring,' I said, 'to show that you have actually reached the North Pole? Where are your proofs?'

"'I bring,' he answered, 'the same proofs as every other explorer. I bring my story. Do you doubt that? When Shackleton and Peary came home you believed what they told you. Why then should you disbelieve me?'

"'Oh, pardon me,' I said, 'I do not disbelieve. I merely want to inquire what scientific evidence have you as well as your story?'

"'I can prove my bona fides,' replied the doctor, quietly.

"He had taken a series of consecutive observations, he explained, from 85 degrees to the Pole, in order to determine his position. He had not gone out unprepared and was provided with all the usual instruments for that purpose. These observations, taken day by day, were sufficient in themselves to prove his claim. He had made only 15 miles a day, drifting very slowly, and any navigating officer, he said, would understand that there was no difficulty in ascertaining very accurately his position. 'I reached the Pole at 7 A. M. April 21, 1908.'

"'That is very good,' I said. 'Doubtless you have these records with you. You have not lost them?'

#### RECORDS UNFORTUNATELY SENT TO AMERICA.

"'Oh, no,' Doctor Cook replied. He had not lost any of them, but he had sent off most of his books to America from Greenland. This was unfortunate. Surely he should have retained the strongest proofs of his claim, so that it might be immediately established.

"'But,' I said, 'I suppose you have other records with you. No doubt you have brought back many specimens?'

"'No, not many,' said Doctor Cook. 'Only some botanical specimens; not geological.'

"'You must understand,' he added, 'that in this method of travel, with only one sledge, it was impossible to carry cumbersome things.'

"'Perhaps you will pardon me, Doctor Cook,' I said, 'for what may seem an impertinent question, but do you mind telling me how long it was since your wife and children have heard from you?'

“‘My wife has had no message from me for two years,’ he returned, ‘but in March this year Captain Adams, of the Scotch whaler Morning, brought me a letter from Mrs. Cook saying that she was going away for the summer and leaving no address.’

“‘But surely,’ I said, ‘it was a pity not to send any message to your friends, who believed that you must have met your death.’

“‘It was difficult, very difficult,’ replied the doctor.

“‘Why did Francke return in 1908?’

“‘I sent him a message telling him to go back. It was sent from the polar seas, 300 miles away. I realized that there might be considerable danger in returning the same way, and I expected to be carried by the ice drift to East Greenland. Francke was waiting for me in West Greenland, and that is why I told him to return.’

#### HOW DATE OF ARRIVAL WAS ASCERTAINED.

“‘How did you know the exact date on which you say you reached the Pole? It must have been rather difficult, as you had lost touch with time.’

“‘We fixed the date by carrying the time with us and by my daily calculations.’

“‘Where is this land in the neighborhood of the Pole which you describe as ‘a happy hunting ground’ for sportsmen? It came as an immense surprise to most Arctic explorers.’

“‘Naturally,’ answered Doctor Cook, ‘but it isn’t in the neighborhood of the North Pole, and I have not said so. I discovered an unknown land between 84 and 85 degrees, 300 miles from the Pole, and here there were musk oxen, bears and birds, which we shot and ate.’

“‘But there was no trace of life at all in the air, on the ice or below the ice beyond 85 degrees?’

“‘There was nothing at all living,’ said Doctor Cook, ‘at the North Pole.’

“‘One paper,’ I said, ‘makes the impertinent suggestion that you do not speak the Eskimo language, and that in any case the evidence of Eskimos is utterly worthless.’

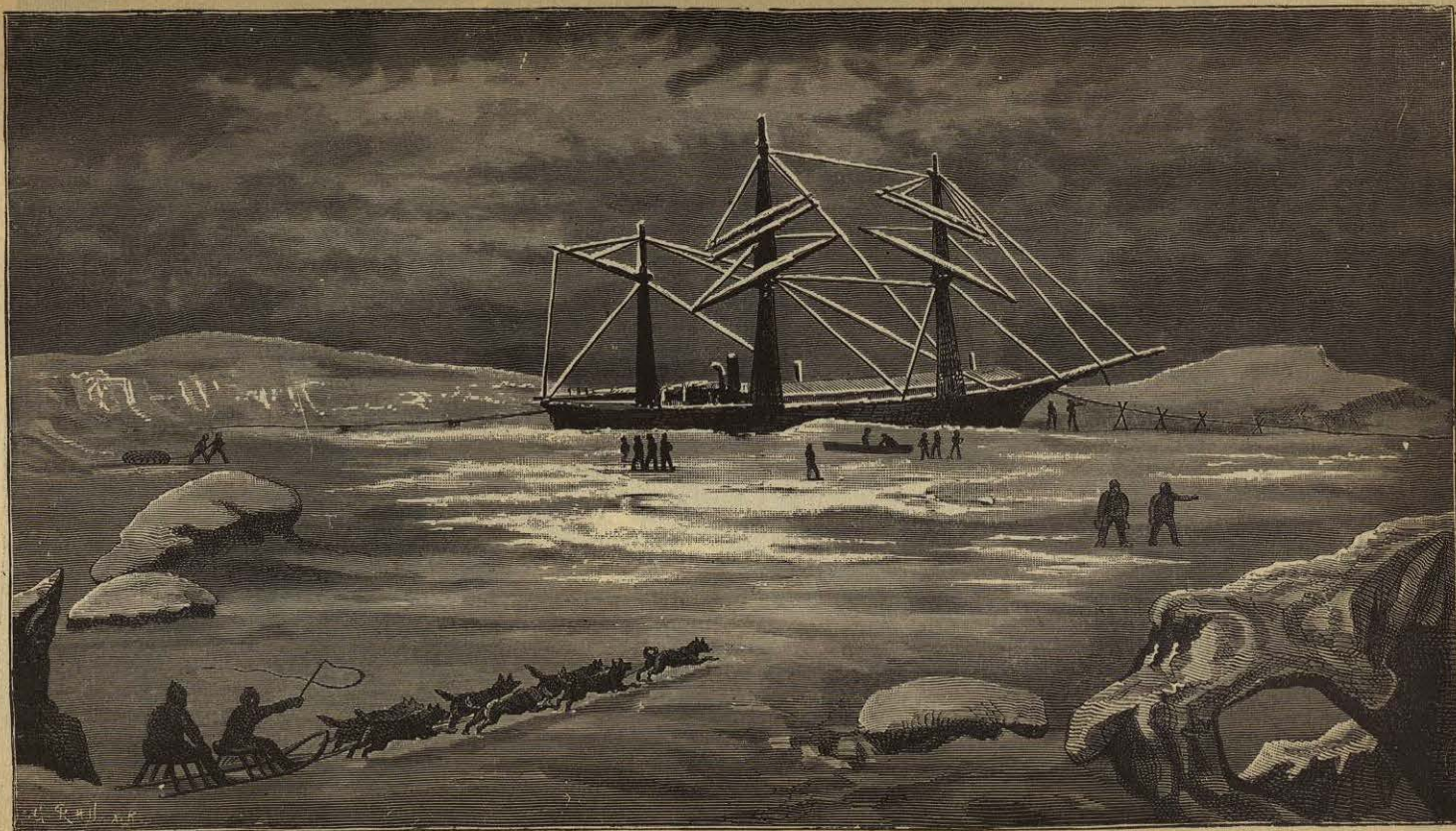
“‘It is not true,’ said Dr. Cook. ‘I speak Eskimo as well as I speak German, that is pretty well, and enough to carry



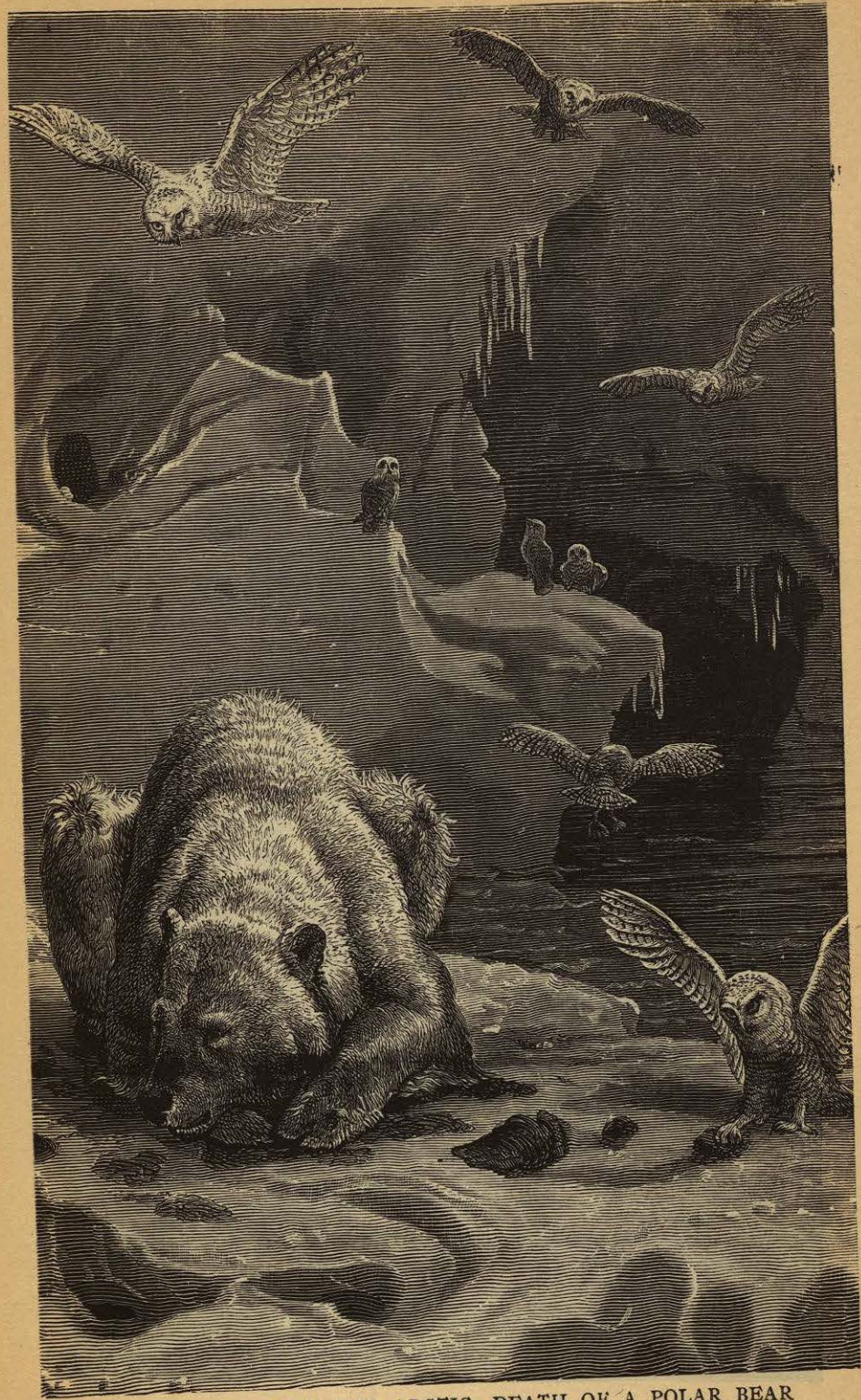
THRILLING ADVENTURE WITH RAVENOUS ARCTIC WOLVES



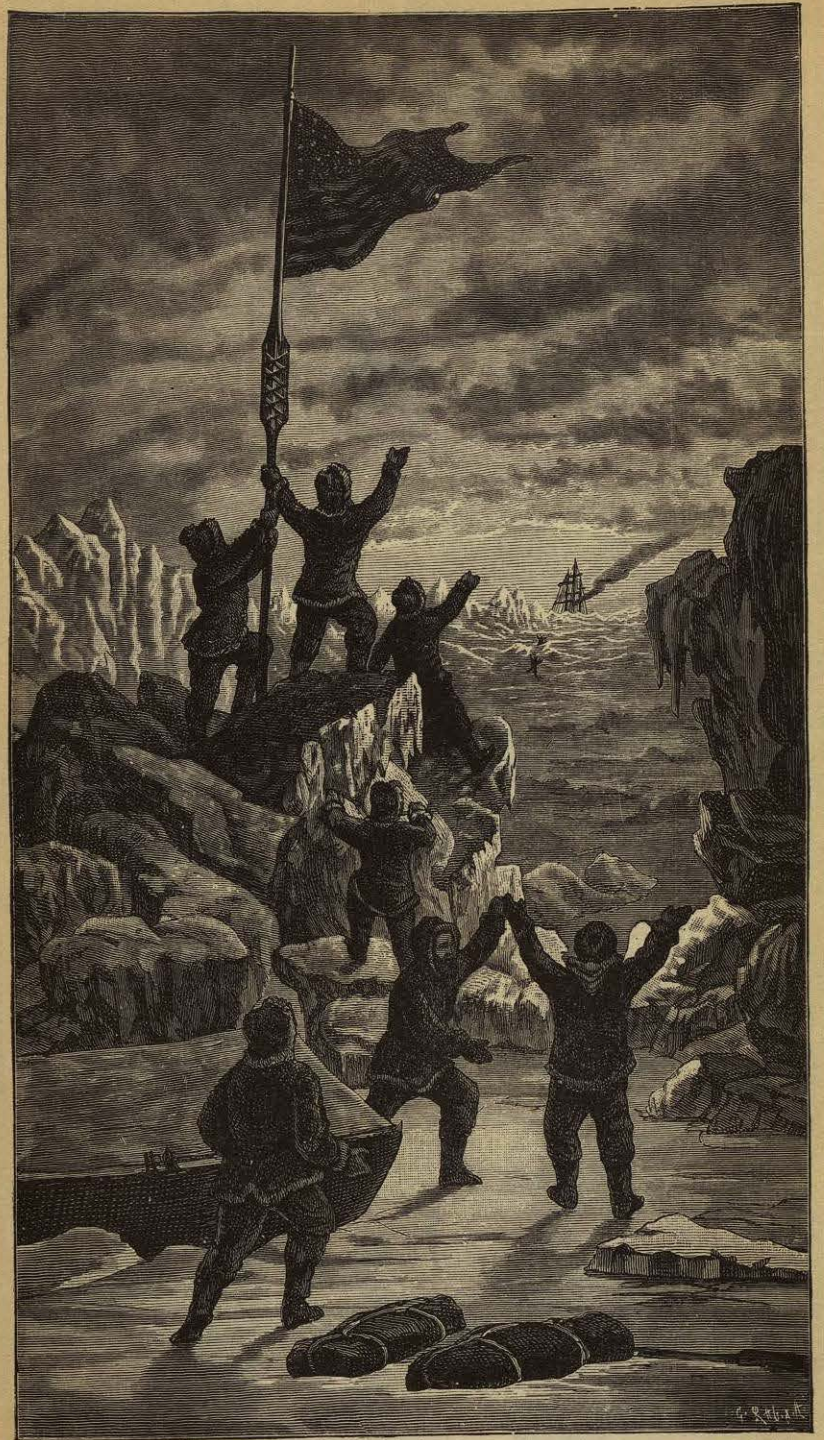
AT ANCHOR IN WHALE SOUND, GREENLAND



THE VEGA IN WINTER QUARTERS.



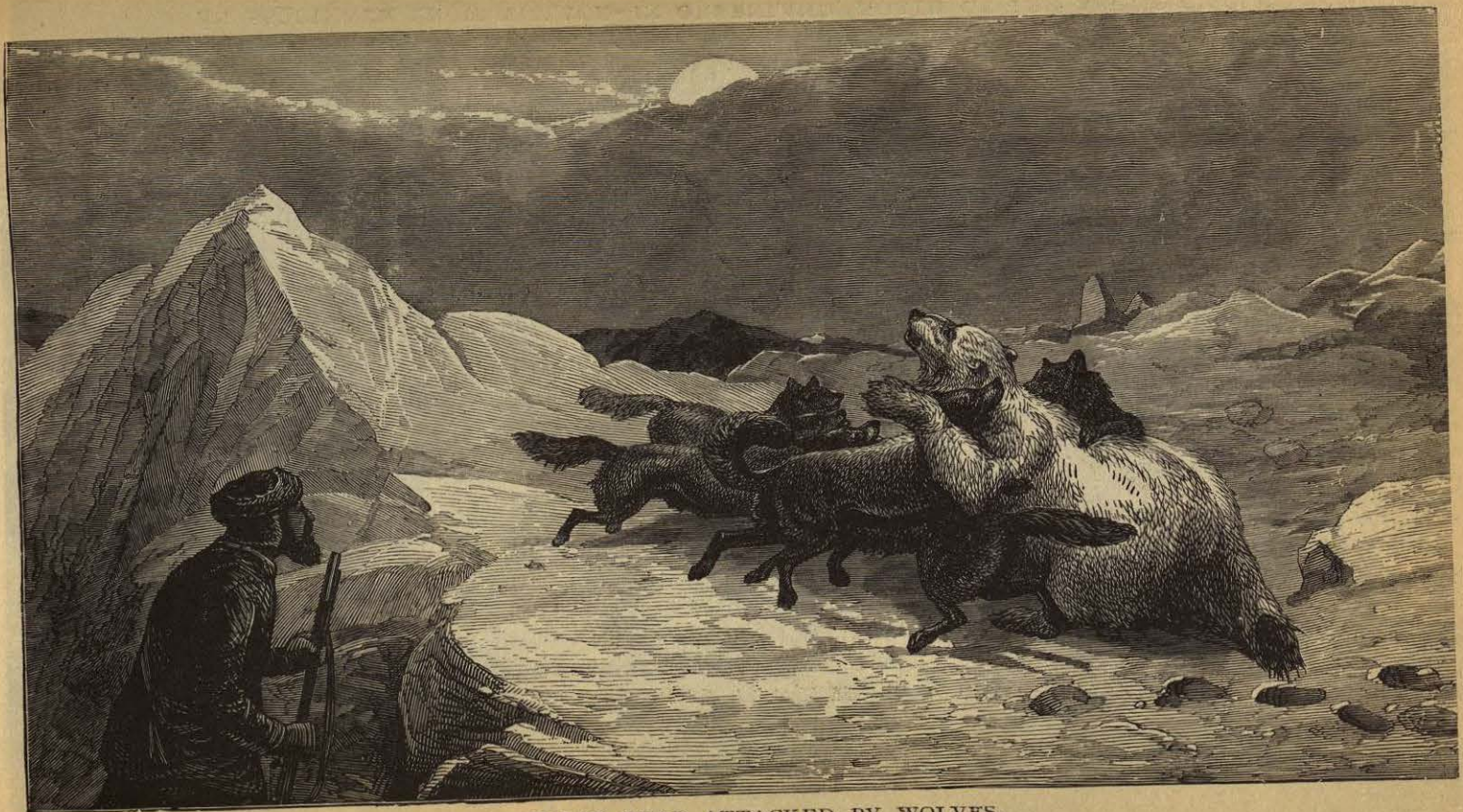
WINTER SCENE IN THE ARCTIC—DEATH OF A POLAR BEAR



FOUND AT LAST—RESCUE OF CAPT. GEO. E. TYSON AND PARTY



DELONG AND PARTY CROSSING A HEAVY ICE-PACK.



POLAR BEAR ATTACKED BY WOLVES.