

Cape Emma, after the captain's wife, and was in lat. $70^{\circ} 38'$ north, long. $148^{\circ} 20'$ east.

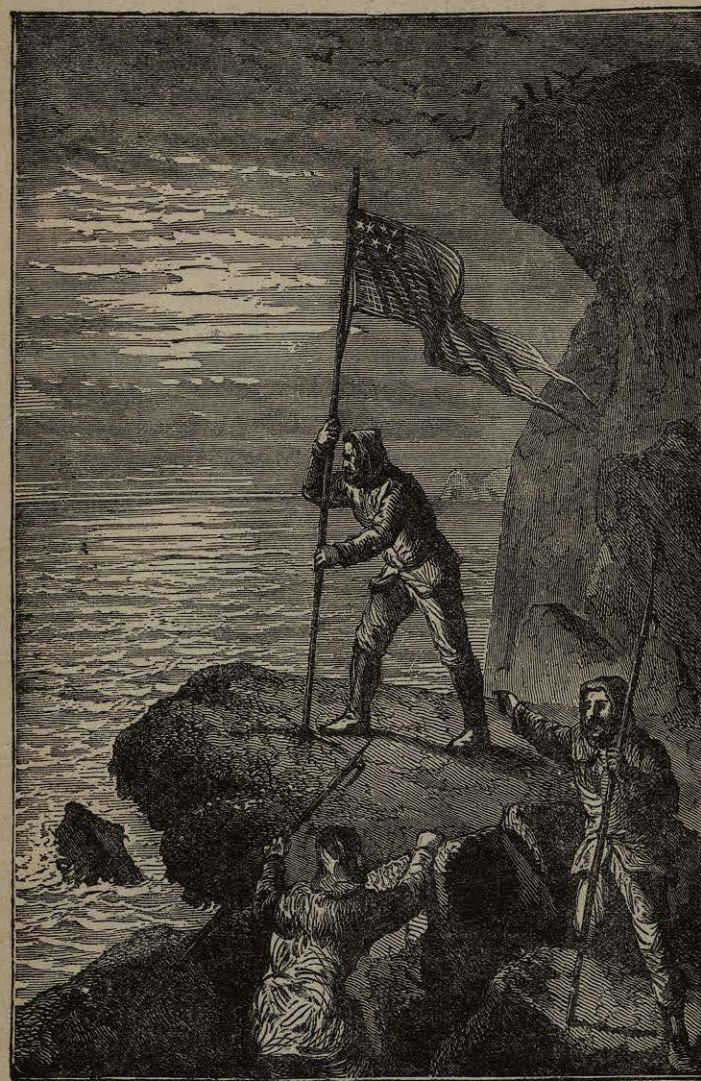
The ship's company now encamped for several days, needing rest and change of diet. Their first surfeit on the numerous birds readily knocked down brought some sickness, compelling a return to pemmican. Dunbar and the two Indians explored the east side of the island, finding there several grassy valleys; Lieutenant Chipp and Mr. Collins explored the south and west sides; a box of geological specimens was obtained and brought home by Lieutenant Danenhower. Dr. Ambler obtained amethysts, opals, and petrifications; tidal observations were made, the greatest rise and fall noted being about three feet. The party left the island August 6th, and made fair progress until the 20th, when, after drifting along the north coast of Thadeoffsky Island, they were imprisoned nearly ten days, after which they found themselves in navigable water, and rounded the south point of the island.

The three boats and their several occupants were, the first cutter, holding Captain DeLong, Surgeon Ambler, Mr. Collins, and eleven of the crew, including Ah Sam, the cook, and the Indian, Alexei; the second cutter, with Lieutenant Chipp, Ice-Pilot Dunbar, and six of the crew; and the whale-boat, Engineer Melville commanding, Lieutenant Danenhower (invalid), and eight of the crew, including the Chinese steward, and the Indian, Aneguin.

On the 10th the land of the Asiatic coast was in sight, estimated to be twenty miles westward; and on the 11th a landing was made and parties sent out hunting. An old deserted hut was found, and human footprints made by a civilized boot. Lieutenant Chipp and some of his sailors visited Melville's camp, and reported that they had had a very rough experience.

September 12th, the three boats left Semenovski Island on which the party had camped, at about 8 A. M., and remained in company till noon. A gale was commencing from the northeast, which by 7 P. M. forced all hands in the whale-boat to be pumping or baling out water. The course was south-southwest, true. Captain DeLong was about 500 yards distant from Melville, and Chipp 700 from DeLong. The gale increasing, both of these last were lost sight of by the whale-boat; the first cutter destined to land her party and make

the sad experience of their intense suffering to death by cold and starvation; the second cutter to leave no record, but the blank to be filled by the reasonable supposition of her being swamped by the sea; and the whale-boat to be saved only by



ANNEXATION OF BENNETT ISLAND.

the successful use of a drag or sea-anchor, and the incessant baling by almost exhausted men.

The course of the party in this boat will be first traced. Engineer Melville was in command, but relied on the professional ability of Lieutenant Danenhower, still on the sick-list.

The pocket prismatic compass, useful on shore, where it could be levelled and the needle come to rest, was now unavailable. Steering was by the sun or the moon. Lieutenant Danenhower carried the watch and chart, and could shape the course of the boat by the bearings of the sun at this equinoctial period. September 15th, one of the eastern mouths of the Lena was entered, and, by the assistance of a Tungus pilot, the party pushed up the river, and on the 26th reached a small village, in which lived a Siberian exile, Kopelloff, who proved very useful in opening the way to intercourse by teaching the Lieutenant Russian phrases. They were detained at this place waiting for the growth of the ice for sledging, and while another Russian exile, Koosmah Gerrymahoff, with the chief of the village, went forward to Bulun to inform the Russian authorities of their arrival.

On the 17th of October, Danenhower began his search with a dog-team, to explore the coasts for the missing boats, but was unable, from the condition of the ice, to proceed far in any direction, and returned without results.

On the 29th the two messengers returned, bringing the news that on their way back they had met natives with deer-sleds, who had Nindemann and Noros, of DeLong's party, conducting them to Bulun. The two seamen had written a note, stating that the captain's party were starving, and needed immediate assistance. Koosmah communicated this note to Engineer Melville, who immediately started with a native and dog-team to find the men, learn the position of the captain's party, and carry food to them. Danenhower was ordered to take charge of the party, and get them as soon as possible to Bulun. November 1st, the Bulun commandant brought to him a good supply of bread, deer-meat, and tea, and a document addressed by Noros and Nindemann to the American Minister at St. Petersburg; this the Lieutenant forwarded by Seaman Bartlett to Melville, and as soon as possible himself started forward, overtaking Melville at the first deer station. He received from him orders to go forward to Yakutsk, which he reached December 17th, 1881.

At Yakutsk Melville received the first despatch from the Secretary of the Navy, ordering him to send the sick and frozen to a milder climate; Lieutenant Danenhower's party went forward, therefore, to Irkoutsk. Here, being advised by the Russian oculist that his right eye would be well in a

few days, he telegraphed to the department, through the American Legation at St. Petersburg, asking permission to hire a steamer, and search for Lieutenant Chipp's party during the spring and summer; also for two line officers to assist. He received a reply through the Legation that two officers would be sent. The entire party of men of which he had charge volunteered to remain for the search, six of them being in excellent condition; February 5th, however, he received further orders from the Navy Department that, owing to his condition of health, the order to remain and search for survivors of the Jeannette was revoked. The oculist allowing him to start on the 13th of March, the lieutenant went



SCENE IN LAPLAND—TRAPPING GAME.

forward with his men, except Seaman Noros, whom he had been ordered by a subsequent telegram to permit to accompany Mr. J. P. Jackson, a special messenger sent out by Mr. Bennett to renew search on the Lena delta.

Lieutenant Danenhower, Mr. Newcomb, Cole, and the Chinese arrived in New York city on June 1st. The rest of the whale-boat crew, except the Indian, Aneguin, who died of smallpox in Russia, and Nindemann and Noros, of DeLong's party, arrived in the United States previous to the 12th of February, 1882. Cole was already mentally affected, and became an inmate of the Government Asylum for the Insane at Washington, D. C.

The following sad history is derived from the records of

Commander DeLong, up to his last entries of October 30th, and from the reports of Engineer Melville and Lieutenant Danenhower, their testimony before the Naval Court of Inquiry, and that of the seamen, Nindemann, Noros, and Bartlett; the first two of these three being the only ones saved from this boat.

The captain's brief journals of September, 1881, record: "At 9 P. M. September 12th, lost sight of whale-boat ahead; at 10 P. M. lost sight of second cutter astern; wind freshening to a gale. Step of mast carried away; lowered sail and rode to sea-anchor; very heavy sea, and hard squalls. Barometer falling rapidly.

"13th, very heavy northeast gale. . . . At 8 P. M. set a jury-sail made of a sled-cover, and kept the boat away to the westward before the sea;—17th, grounded at a few hundred yards, landed at 8 P. M.; dark and snow-storm, but Collins had a good fire going; at 10.20 had landed everything, except boat oars, mast, sled, and alcohol breakers;—18th, had fires going all the time to dry our clothes; we must look our situation in the face, and prepare to walk to a settlement.

"September 19th, ordered preparations to be made for leaving this place, and as a beginning, all sleeping-bags are to be left behind. Left in instrument box a record, portions of which read thus:

"LENA DELTA, September 19th, 1881.

"Landed here on the evening of the 17th, and will proceed this afternoon to try and reach, with God's help, a settlement, the nearest of which I believe is ninety-five miles distant. We are all well, have four days' provisions, arms and ammunition, and are carrying with us only ship's books and papers, with blankets, tents, and some medicines; therefore, our chances of getting through seem good. . . . At 2.45 went ahead, and at 4.30 stopped and camped. Loads too heavy—men used up—Lee groaning and complaining, Erickson, Boyd, and Sam, hobbling. Three rests of fifteen minutes each of no use. Roads bad. Breaking through thin crust; occasionally up to the knees. Sent Nindemann back with Alexei and Dressler to deposit log-books. . . . Every one of us seems to have lost all feeling in his toes, and some of us even half way up the feet. That terrible week in the boat has done us great injury; opened our last can of pemmican, and so cut it

that it must suffice for four days' food, then we are at the end of our provisions, and must eat the dog (the last of the forty) unless Providence sends something in our way. When the dog is eaten—? I was much impressed, and derive great encouragement from an accident of last Sunday. Our Bible got soaking wet, and I had to read the Epistle and Gospel from my prayer-book. According to my rough calculation it must have been the fifteenth Sunday after Trinity, and the Gospel contained some promises which seemed peculiarly adapted to our condition.

"September 21st, at 3.30, came to a bend in the river making south, and to our surprise, two huts, one seemingly new. At 9 P. M. a knock outside the hut was heard, and Alexei said: 'Captain, we have got two reindeer,' and in he came bearing a hind-quarter of meat. September 24th, commenced preparations for departure from the hut at 7 o'clock. . . . At 10 P. M. made a rough bed of a few logs! wrapped our blankets around us, and sought a sleep that did not come; 27th, made tea at daylight, and at 5.05 had our breakfast—four-fourteenths of a pound of pemmican. . . . At 9.45 five men arrived in camp, bringing a fine buck. Saved again! September 30th, 110th day from leaving the ship, Erickson is no better, and it is a foregone conclusion that he must lose four of the toes of his right foot, and one of his left. The doctor commenced slicing away the flesh after breakfast, fortunately without pain to the patient, for the forward part of the foot is dead; but it was a heart-rending sight to me, the cutting away of bones and flesh of a man whom I hoped to return sound and whole to his friends. October 1st, the doctor resumed the cutting of poor Erickson's toes this morning; only one toe left now. And where are we? I think at the beginning of the Lena River at last. My chart is simply useless. Left a record in the hut that we are proceeding to cross to the west side, to reach some settlement on the Lena River. October 3d, nothing remains but the dog. I therefore ordered him killed and dressed by Iverson, and soon after a kind of stew made of such parts as could not be carried, of which everybody, except the doctor and myself, eagerly partook; to us it was a nauseating mess. . . . Erickson soon became delirious, and his talking was a horrible accompaniment to the wretchedness of our surroundings. During the night got his gloves off; his hands were frozen. At 8 A. M. got Erickson (quite uncon-

scious), and lashed on the sled under the cover of a hut, made a fire and got warm. . . . Half a pound of dog was fried for each one, and a cup of tea given, and that constituted our day's food. At 8.45 A. M., our messmate, Erickson, departed this life. October 6th, as to burying him I cannot dig a grave, the ground is frozen, and I have nothing to dig with. There is nothing to do but to bury him in the river. Sewed him up in the flaps of the tent, and covered him with my flag. Got tea ready, and with one-half ounce alcohol, we will try to make out to bury him. But we are all so weak, that I do not see how we are going to move.

"At 12.40 P. M. read the burial-service, and carried our departed shipmate's body down to the river, where, a hole having been cut in the ice, he was buried; three volleys from our two Remingtons being fired over him as a funeral honor.

"Supper, 5 P. M., half pound dog meat and tea. October 9th, sent Nindemann and Noros ahead for relief; they carry their blankets, one rifle, forty pounds ammunition, two ounces alcohol. . . . Under way again at 10.30, had for dinner one ounce of alcohol. Alexei shot three ptarmigan. Find canoe, lay our heads on it and go to sleep.

"10th, eat deer-skin scraps. . . . Ahead again till eleven. At three halted, used up. Crawled into a hole on the bank. Nothing for supper, except a spoonful of glycerine. 17th, Alexei died, covered him with ensign, and laid him in a crib. 21st, one hundred and thirty-first day, Kaack was found dead at midnight. Too weak to carry the bodies out on the ice; the doctor, Collins and I carried them around the corner out of sight. Then my eye closed up. Sunday, October 23d, one hundred and thirty-third day—everybody pretty weak—slept or rested all day, then managed to get enough wood in before dark. Read part of divine service. Suffering in our feet.

"Monday, October 24th, one hundred and thirty-fourth day. A hard night.

"Tuesday, October 25th, one hundred and thirty-fifth day. No record.

"Wednesday, October 26th, one hundred and thirty-sixth day. No record.

"Thursday, October 27th, one hundred and thirty-seventh day. Iverson broke down.

"Friday, October 28th, one hundred and thirty-eighth day. Iverson died during early morning.

"Saturday, October 29th, one hundred and thirty-ninth day. Dressler died during the night.

"Sunday, October 30th, one hundred and fortieth day. Boyd and Görtz died during the night. Mr. Collins dying."

The preceding brief extracts from this saddest of all journals tell the story of the first cutter, excepting that of the two saved, Nindemann and Noros. The captain, the surgeon, and the last one of the crew must have perished almost immediately after the last one of their comrades.