

THE RESCUE OF GREELY.*

THE illustrations in this book are a distinct feature of it, and open up the aspect of the icy North in a graphic manner. The desolate, silent, sterile, bleak, and cheerless wastes of the approaches to the Arctic Seas from the Atlantic have seldom been depicted with a more telling pencil. There are fourteen of these illustrations, each occupying a full page. The succession begins with "Lifeboat Cove and Littleton Island," their low-lying shores overhung with mists, a massive cake of ice floating in the foreground, and the black hull of the steamer being the only sign of life. The "Berg near Upernivik" looms up tri-mountain-like against the sky in solitary grandeur. The "Relief Ships and Whalers Moored to the Floe" in Melville Bay is a scene touched with a human interest, and the long hawsers stretching away to the left carry the thoughts to the brave men near and their lonely and perilous life. "The *Thetis* Nipped off Horse Head" shows a fine and stalwart ship in the jaws of the hungry ice. "The *Arctic* Waiting for a Lead near the Dark Islands" is a single motionless speck of black on a vast expanse of white, the illimitable ice-field broken only in the foreground by a rent of water. "The Bow of the *Thetis* in the Ice off Cape York" has the least meaning and use of any of the pictures. A page or two further on is seen "The *Thetis* Waiting for a Lead at Conical Rock," a less dismal and dreary scene than that in which her sister ship has just before appeared. "The *Bear* in the Pack" is the vessel of that congenial name cutting her laborious way along a narrow pathway of black water that opens reluctantly before her prow. "Greely's Cairn on Stalknecht Island" is a pathetic pile of stones holding aloft a broken spar upon a summit overlooking the vast frozen sea. "The Tent at Camp Clay" follows on its wind-swept headland, with its wretched inmates huddled together on its sheltered side; and next to it that saddest sight of all, the row of graves among the ice-hillocks where sleep the brave martyrs of this ill-fated expedition until the Arctic Seas with others shall give up their dead. "Conical Rock, with

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Cairn on the Summit," and the picturesque "Passing an Iceberg off the Waigat," when southward bound, complete the series.

So in these dozen pictures is told to the eye the same dramatic, adventurous, tragic story which forms the text of the accompanying 275 pages. The details of that story are familiar to us all: the original expedition to Lady Franklin Bay in the interest of a series of circumpolar stations; the two relief expeditions of 1882 and '3; the wreck of the *Proteus*; The Greely Relief Expedition of 1884; and the thrilling rescue of the nearly perished survivors but a few months ago.

The whole chapter of Arctic struggle and suffering is here related from beginning to end by competent hands, with attention only to the facts, without embellishment or criticism, with free use of documentary materials, and with that element of adventure and hardship which attaches to all Arctic narratives. Few incidents in history surpass in melancholy interest that of the finding of Greely and his companions at Cape Sabine, the climax of the book. It is told here in simple but powerful terms.
