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ICE-BERGS, ICE FIELDS, &c.

The following description of the Ice-bergs of the Polar Seas, of Ice-fields and Soes, and their formation, are extracted from Scoresby's Account of the Arctic Regions, lately published in Edinburgh. They are the best accounts of these appalling phenomena that we have ever read; and we have no doubt the reader will experience the same gratification from their perusal, that they have afforded us. Mr. Scoresby is an experienced and scientific navigator, who has long been engaged in the whale fishery.

The following is an account of the Ice-bergs of Spitzbergen, and affords a very favourable specimen of the author's powers of description, besides illustrating the danger of approaching incautiously, those majestic scenes. We copy from the Investigator, an interesting periodical work published in London, which we noticed some weeks since.

It is not easy to form an adequate conception of these truly wonderful productions of nature. Their magnitude, their beauty and the contrast they form with the gloomy rocks around, produce sensations of lively interest. Their upper surfaces are generally concave; the higher parts are always covered in snow, and have a beautiful appearance; but the lower parts, in the latter end of very summer, present a bare surface of ice. The front of each, which varies in height from the level of the ocean, to 400 or 500 feet above it, lies parallel with the shore, and is washed by the sea. This part, resting on the strand, is undermined to such an extent by the sea, when in any way turbulent, that immense masses, loosened by the freezing of water lodged in the recesses in water, or by the effect of streams of water running over its surface, and through its chasms in summer, break asunder, and with a thundering noise fall into the sea. But as the water is in most places shallow in front of these ice-bergs, the masses which are dislodged are commonly reduced into fragments before they can be floated away into the main sea. This fact seems to account for the rarity of icebergs in the Spitzbergen sea.

The front surface of icebergs is glistening and uneven. Wherever a part has recently broken off, the colour of the fracture is a beautiful greenish blue, approaching to emerald green; but such parts as have long been exposed to the air, are of a greenish grey colour, and at a distance sometimes exhibit the appearance of cliffs of whiten marble. In all cases the effect of the iceberg is to form a pleasing variety in prospect, with the magnificence of the encompassing snow-crowned mountains, which as they recede from the eye, seem to rise crag above crag, in endless perspective.

On an excursion to one of the Seven Icebergs, in July 1817, I was particularly fortunate in witnessing one of the grandest effects which these Polar glaciers ever present. A strong north-westerly swell having for some hours been beating on the shore, had loosened a number of fragments attached to the iceberg, and various heaps of broken ice denoted recent shoots of the seaward edge. As we rowed towards it, with a view of proceeding close to its base, I observed a few little pieces fall from the top; and while my eye was fixed upon the place, an immense column, probably fifty feet square, and one hundred and fifty feet high, began to leave the parent ice at the top, and leaning majestically forward with an accelerated velocity, fell with an awful crash into the sea. The water into which it plunged was converted into an appearance of vapour or smoke like that from a furious cannonading. The noise was equal to that of thunder, which it nearly resembled. The column which fell was nearly square, and in magnitude resembled a church. It broke into thousands

of pieces. This circumstance was a happy caution; for we might inadvertently have gone to the very base of the icy cliff, from whence masses of considerable magnitude were continually breaking. This iceberg was full of rents, as high as any of our people ascended upon it, extending in a direction perpendicularly downward, and dividing it into innumerable columns.

His account of the northern ices unites accuracy of detail with highly interesting description. When sea water freezes, it deposits the greatest part of its saline contents; and indeed the probability is, that the small quantity which remains in the ice, is only that portion which is natural to the sea water retained in its pores.

The opaque ice, which appears of a whitish or grey colour in the air, is denominated salt water ice, by the sailors; while that which is more transparent they distinguish as fresh water ice; from the latter they obtain potable water; but the melting of the former yields a water somewhat brackish. This difference arises rather from the celerity of the process of freezing, than any difference in the origin of the two kinds of ice: a hasty congelation favouring the retention of a large quantity of salt water in the pores of the ice. This is rendered obvious by the circumstance, that ice is formed on the surface of the sea, after being piled in hummocks on fields, or even long exposed to intense cold below the surface of the sea, acquires the properties of fresh water ice. The most opaque and most transparent ice differ, however, very little in density. Mr. Scoresby never found the specific gravity of the former lower than 0.915, nor of the latter higher than 0.925, compared to distilled water at 32; but if the comparison be made between the ice, and the waters of the Spitzbergen sea, at their mean temperature, the ice will float with about one eighth of its bulk above the surface of those seas.

The appearance of ice fields is well described.—"Ice fields constitute one of the wonders of the desert. They are often met with, of the diameter of twenty or thirty miles; and when in a state of such combination that no interstice can be seen, they sometimes extend to a length of fifty or near a hundred miles. The ice of which they are composed, is generally pure and fresh; and in heavy fields it is probably of the average thickness of ten to fifteen feet, and then appears to be flat, low, thin ice; but where high hummocks occur, the thickness is often forty or even fifty feet. The surface, before the month of July, is always covered with a bed of snow, of perhaps a foot to a fathom in depth; this snow dissolves in the end of summer, and forms extensive pools and lakes of fresh water. Some of the largest fields are very level and smooth, though generally their surfaces are varied with hummocks. In some, these hummocks form ridges or chains, in others, they consist of insulated peaks. I once saw a field that was so free from either fissure or hummock, that I imagine, had it been free from snow, a coach might have been driven many leagues over it in a direct line without obstruction or danger. Hummocks somewhat relieve the uniformity of intense light reflected from the surface of fields, by exhibiting shades of delicate blue in all the hollows, where the light is partly intercepted by passing through a portion of ice. When the surface of the snow on fields is frozen, or when the snow is generally dissolved, there is no difficulty in travelling over them, even without either snow skates or sledges; but when the snow is soft and deep, travelling on foot to any distance is a work of labour."

His theory of their formation is extremely probable.—"It appears from what has been advanced, that openings may occasionally occur in the ice between Spitzbergen and the Pole, and that these openings will, in all probability, be again frozen over. Allowing, therefore a thin field, or a field of bay ice to be formed in such an opening, a super-structure may probably be added by the fol-

lowing process: The frost, which almost instantly prevails during nine months of the year, relaxes towards the end of June or beginning of July; whereby the covering of snow annually deposited to the depth of two or three feet on the ice, dissolves. Now, as this field is supposed to arise amidst the older and heavier ice, it may readily occupy the whole interval, and be cemented to the old ice on every side in such a manner as to prevent the melted snow from making its escape. Or, whatever be the means of its retention on the surface of the young field, whether by the adjunction of higher ice, the elevation of its border by the pressure of the surrounding ice, or the irregularity of its own surface, several inches of ice must be added to its thickness on the returning winter, by the conversion of the snow-water into solid ice. This process, repeated for many successive years, or even ages, together with the enlargement of its underside from the ocean, might be deemed sufficient to produce the most stupendous bodies of ice that have yet been discovered; at the same time, that the ice thus formed would doubtless correspond, in purity and transparency, with that of fields in general."

"The occasional rapid motion of fields, with the strange effects produced by such immense bodies on any opposing substance, is one of the most striking objects the polar seas present, and is certainly the most terrific. They not unfrequently acquire a rotatory movement, whereby their circumference attains a velocity of several miles per hour. A field thus in motion, coming in contact with another at rest, or more especially with another having a contrary direction of movement, produces a dreadful shock. A body of more than ten thousand millions of tons in weight, meeting with resistance when in motion, produces consequences which it is scarcely possible to conceive.—The weaker field is crushed with an awful noise; sometimes the destruction is mutual: pieces of huge dimensions and weight, are not unfrequently piled upon the top, to the height of twenty or thirty feet, while a proportionate quantity is depressed beneath.—The view of those stupendous effects in safety, exhibits a picture sublimely grand; but where there is danger of being overwhelmed, terror and dismay must be the predominant feelings.

"In the month of May, in the year 1814, I witnessed a tremendous scene. While navigating amidst the most ponderous ice which the Greenland sea presents, in the prospect of making our escape from a state of besetment, our progress was unexpectedly arrested by an isthmus of ice, about a mile in breadth, formed by the coalition of the point of an immense field on the north, with that of an aggregation of floes on the south. To the north field we moored the ship, in the hope of the ice separating in this place. I then quitted the ship, and travelled over to the point of collision, to observe the state of the bar which now prevented our release.—I immediately discovered that the two points had but recently met; that already a prodigious mass of rubbish had been squeezed upon the top, and that the motion had not abated. The fields continued to overlay each other with a majestic motion, producing a noise resembling that of complicated machinery, or distant thunder. The pressure was so immense, that numerous fissures were occasioned, and the ice repeatedly rent beneath my feet. In one of these fissures, I found the snow on the level to be three and a-half inches deep, and the ice upwards of 12. In one place, hummocks had been thrown up to the height of twenty feet from the surface of the field, and at least twenty-five feet from the level of the water; they extended 50 or 60 yards in length, and 15 in breadth, forming a mass of about two thousand tons in weight. The majestic unvaried movement of the ice—the singular noise with which it was accompanied—the tremendous power exerted—and the wonderful effects produced, were calculated to excite sensations of novelty and grandeur, in the mind of the most careless spectator."

From the Baltimore Morning Chronicle. A Russian Summer.—The common complaint now is, the extreme heat of our August suns. We shall not attempt to palliate this solar offence; but we may be permitted to remark, that in Russia, which always appears to us manted in perpetual snow, where we think of nothing but furs and muffs, and warm drapery and Boreas—in the season of heat, that is for three months in the year, the sun is far more intolerable than he is in Baltimore. He bursts with all his fulgence from the glooms of winter, and there is nothing but a blaze or almost insupportable heat. We think 12 hours of animal exhaustion almost too much for the human frame to bear. Our nights are of ten cool and restoring, and fanned by the breath of benignant zephyrs. What would a Russian say, who is compelled to undergo not only twelve, but twenty four hours of such animal exhaustion? No refreshing night during this season, covers with her sable mantle the face of the sun. He pours his incessant beams, while the hardy Russians are compelled to exert every sinew to improve the hours devoted to such incessant labour. The port of Archangel, for example, is for the space of three months, all bustle and confusion, and uproar and business. Merchants shipping or unshipping articles of commerce, the roar of carriages and drays, the sound of the hammer upon the anvil, and the discordant notes excited by the various implements of industry, leave no intermission for the eyes of the weary traveller to repose. The empire of night seems to have been banished during that season from the world, and all the business of the year to be crowded into the space of those three exhausting months. A Russian labourer will be found in the midst of all this uproar and bustle, stealing a few moments of repose to recruit exhausted nature, under the shade of some contiguous building, while his active comrades are employed in the heat and dust of the day. At the conclusion of his allotted term, he is awakened by one of his comrades to a resumption of his toils, who stretches his weary length upon the spot that has just been deserted.—Yet Russia would hardly be habitable without this prolonged excess of solar beams. Vegetation rises from the snowy beds as by enchantment, and the earth as if sensible of the importance of the season, pours forth her treasures in exhaustless abundance. Art as if anxious to rival nature, is equally on the alert to improve the hour for commerce, before the fluid streams shall be turned into marble by the breath of the tyrant of the polar regions. Hence there is in Russia during this season, nothing but life and energy, and exhausting sunbeams. We have made these remarks under the full influence of our inclement sun, to convince our fellow-citizens that "their lot is comparatively cast in pleasant places." The ray that we so much dread, is now employed in ripening for man and beast, the fruits of autumnal munificence.

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A NEW EXPEDIENT. There is now living in the state of Maryland, a very worthy man whose weight is between five and six hundred pounds. During the intense heat of the summer months his family are compelled to transport him either to the spring house or the cellar, where he is kept from spoiling in the company of his own bacon, with which he plentifully supplies our market. We do not recommend this mode for general adoption, because it is not to be expected that all our fellow citizens can afford to build spring houses for residence during the blaze of our summer sun. But one thing is at least in our power, not to add to the fervour of the season by a tempter m. r. fervid. He who calmly bears the heat has nothing but the heat to bear; but he who resigns himself to the dominion of an impatient and irritable temper, has all this to sustain, as well as the heat of the season likewise. Let us then improve by the spring-house adventure, and preserve the tranquility and coolness of our own minds, when oppressed by such solar heat. We should likewise be scrupulously

attentive to our meats—Light diet, soups, and food, capable of easy digestion, have often done more to preserve comfort and health at such times, than all the skill of the most eminent physician has done to restore it, when lost by our own folly and imprudence. Frequent change of apparel and repeated ablutions will be found attended with the happiest effects. Our countrymen do not seem yet to estimate as they ought the usefulness of baths—the sun is now teaching them a lesson by which we hope they will profit. Balt. Morn. Chron.

New York, August 13. The following account of the disinterment of Major Andre, was handed us by an eye-witness, accompanied by his request to publish the same.—"This event took place at Tappan, on Friday 10th instant, at 1 P. M. amidst a considerable concourse of ladies and gentlemen that assembled to witness this interesting ceremony. The British Consul with several gentlemen, accompanied by the proprietor of the ground and his labourer, commenced their operations at 11 o'clock, by removing the heap of loose stones that surrounded and partly covered the grave. Great caution was observed in taking up a small peach tree that was growing out of the grave, as the Consul stated his intention of sending it to his Majesty to be placed in one of the Royal Gardens. Considerable anxiety was felt lest the coffin would not be found, as various rumors existed of its having been removed many years ago.—However, when at the depth of three feet, the labourers came to it. The lid was broken in the centre and had partly fallen in, but was kept up by resting on the skull. The lid being raised, the skeleton of the brave Andre appeared entire, bone to bone, each in its place, without a vestige of any other part of his remains save some of his hair, which appeared in small tufts, and the only part of his dress was the leather string which tied it. As soon as the curiosity of the spectators was gratified, a large circle was formed, when Mr. Egleso, the undertaker, with his assistants, uncovered the sarcophagus, into which the remains were carefully removed.—This superb depository, in imitation of those used in Europe, for the remains of the illustrious dead, was made by Mr. Egleso, of Broadway, of mahogany, the panels covered with rich crimson velvet, surrounded by a gold bordering, the rings of deep burnished gold, the panel also crimson velvet, edged with gold, the inside lined with black velvet, the whole supported by four gilt balls. The Sarcophagus with the remains have been removed on board his Majesty's Packet, where it is understood as soon as some repairs on board are completed an opportunity will be afforded of viewing it."

Consumptions.—A writer in the New-York Commercial Advertiser has the following pertinent remarks on the causes of this fatal disease: "Taking cold is a check of perspiration, or discharge through the surface of the body, by which means so many useless humours are to pass off from the system. This discharge is liable to be obstructed many ways. The following are the most common ones in ordinary life: Changing thick clothes for thin ones; going from warm dry rooms, to sit in damp and cold ones; going, when in a state of perspiration, into the cold air; sleeping in damp rooms or beds; walking or sitting in the damp air of the evening, although not unpleasantly cool; and numerous other ways. If you have committed any of the above errors, lose no time in opening the pores—bring on a perspiration if possible—put your feet into warm water—sip a pint of water sweetened with molasses as warm as you can bear it, go to bed. But if you fail in the attempt, lose no time in calling in your family physician, while you is in his power to be useful to you. If you call him too late, it will not be his fault, for he has not time to call in every day, and lecture on the preservation of your health. But if you suffer those hours to remain locked up in the stem, they will find their way to your lungs, and produce a cough from that inflammation, and a short time all change of rectitude is gone by."

Trustee's Sale. In virtue of a decree of the Hon. the Chancellor of Maryland, the subscriber will offer at public sale Monday, the 13th of August next, at 12 o'clock, A. M. upon the premises, A HOUSE & LOT, situate on the block in this city, whereof Horatio G. Munroe died seized. This property is well calculated for a private family, or a person in the mercantile business, as it possesses every convenience for a dwelling house or store. The terms of sale are—a credit of twelve months to the purchaser, giving bond with approved security, for the payment of the purchase money, with interest thereon from the day of sale, and upon payment of the purchase money, a conveyance will be executed for the said house and lot. On failure of the highest bidder to comply with the above terms, by giving bond on the day of sale, the next highest bidder will be considered the purchaser, and so on if there should be several bidders. Somerville Pinkney, July 19 St.

New Arrangement of Days. THE STEAM BOAT MARYLAND, will continue to run as heretofore until the last day of the present month.—But afterwards she will take her routes as follows: On Sunday the first of April, she leaves Easton at 8 o'clock, and will proceed to Annapolis, leaving there at half past 2 o'clock, for Baltimore, and arrive at 6 o'clock the same day; leaves Commerce street wharf, Baltimore, on Wednesday at 8 o'clock, and returns by Annapolis to Easton at 6 o'clock the same evening; And so leaves Easton at the same hour, and by the same route, every Sunday and Thursday, and leaving Baltimore in like manner, every Wednesday and Saturday. In every route she will touch at Todd's Point the Mills and at Oxford, if hailed, to take and land passengers. On Monday of every week she will leave Baltimore at nine o'clock for Chestertown, and arrive there in the afternoon; and on Tuesday morning leaves at 9 o'clock Chestertown and returns to Baltimore, touching in both routes at Queen's town, to take and land passengers. She will take freights from and to the respective places above mentioned, so as not to incommode the passengers, their Horses or Carriages. Passengers wishing to go to Philadelphia will find it the most convenient and expeditious route, as she meets the Union line of steam boats, when they can be put on board, and arrive in Philadelphia the next morning by 9 o'clock.

All baggage, of which due care will be taken, will nevertheless be at the risk of the owner as heretofore. 25 August Fickars, March 22 if.

Dissolution of Partnership. The partnership of Warfield and Ridgely having this day been dissolved by mutual consent, all persons having claims against said firm are requested to present them to either of the subscribers, who are duly authorized to receive and pay all debts due to and from said firm. Those indebted to the firm aforesaid, by notes or bonds, are requested to make payment, and those indebted on open account are desired to call and pay the same, or give notes or bonds, on or before 1st April 1821. William Warfield, David Ridgely.

The business will be conducted in future under the firm of 25 Ridgely, & Co. Who have on hand, and will constantly keep, a good assortment of Dry Goods & Groceries, And who respectfully solicit a continuance of the custom of their friends and the public. March 1.

SHERIFFALTY. WILLIAM O'HARA. Having understood that a report circulating of his having declined being a Candidate for the office of Sheriff, he takes this opportunity of declaring the same to be unfounded. He begs the public not to suffer themselves to be deceived by reports of this kind, as he is still, and means to continue a Candidate for their suffrages for the above appointment, and respectfully solicits their votes. March 29.

JUST PUBLISHED, AND FOR SALE, AT THIS OFFICE, The Votes & Proceedings of the last session of the Legislature. Price—\$1 66. June 16.