

laughs at scars, not because he has never felt a wound, but because he has felt so many that laughter is for the time his only resource against weeping over them.

But we must turn to the history itself. The districts which Dr. Kane proposed to search was one which, till his explorations, was almost entirely unknown. On turning to any of the common maps of the Arctic Regions, it will be observed that the vast body of water which lies between America and Greenland, which is known as Baffin's Bay, terminates in a passage called Smith's Sound, running due north, and hitherto explored only at its southern extremity. Dr. Kane's plan was to pass up Smith's Sound, and thence to make his way to the North, along the shore of Greenland. He considered that the land would be easier to travel over, and would afford more provisions than the water; and from a variety of analogies afforded by physical geography, he inferred that Greenland stretched further north than any other land. His materials for carrying out this plan were a small brig of 144 tons, manned by seventeen men—to whom an eighteenth, an Esquimaux hunter, was afterwards added—several sledges, and more than fifty dogs to draw them, amongst which were a team of Newfoundlanders, presented to the expedition by the Governor of the island. After touching at several of the Danish settlements which are scattered along the coast of Greenland, the expedition finally took leave of the last faint traces of civilization at Upernivik in the latter part of July, and for just two years from that time they saw not a single civilized man except each other. After many of the ordinary difficulties incidental to Arctic navigation, they reached that part of Baffin's Bay which is usually clear of ice, and which is known to the whalers by the name of the North Water. Standing across this, they entered the hitherto unexplored part of Smith's Sound, and continued their course without any very serious difficulty until the 19th of August, when the appearance of the sky and the gambols of the walrus seemed to forebode a storm. On the 20th, the wind rose to a perfect hurricane, and the *Advance* was moored to an iceberg by three hawsers, one of them of 10-inch Manila hemp. First the 6-inch cable, then the whole line parted; and last of all, the 10-inch cable broke with the noise of a shotted gun, and the brig "drifted out into the narrow ice-clogged waterway, driving a quarter of a mile wide between the pack and the shore." Sometimes they grazed floes, one of which was by measurement forty feet thick. Once a floe smashed in the bulwarks, and dropped half a ton of ice on the deck; and at last they neared a group of icebergs, which were being borne down by some under-current upon the floes. They must have been crushed between them if they had not managed to plant an anchor on a low water-washed berg which passed alongside, and which towed them through the midst of the others into something like open water. They were forced at last into a little pool between a cliff and an iceberg, where they were as safe as men could be who were every moment expecting the berg which protected them to be overturned by the pressure of the ice outside it, and precipitated on their heads. In this position the brig was repeatedly "nipped." The iceberg which protected her ceded in an inclined plane which descended deep into the water. Another berg, coming in at the side, fairly drove her up it, and she was only saved from falling over to seaward by some broken ice which grounded alongside: "The immense blocks piled against her, range upon range, pressing themselves under her keel, and throwing her over upon her side, till, urged by the successive accumulations, she rose slowly against the sloping wall." When the bergs parted, she sank down again into her former station. During this gale, four men and a boat were lost upon a floe on which they had landed to fasten an anchor, but they were recovered two days afterwards. By great efforts the ship was got out of her icy prison, but the release was of slight importance; for after a few days more of effort and danger, she reached a bay called Van Rensselaer Harbour, and was speedily frozen in. There she still is, in the midst of eternal ice nine feet thick.

The latter part of the autumn and the beginning of winter passed away in excursions over the ice with sledges and dogs, the establishment of the ship in her bed, and the construction of two observatories, in which, throughout the winter, a series of observations were carried on. Amongst the incidents which took place during this part of the expedition, was one which very nearly brought it to a premature conclusion. Being greatly annoyed by rats, the crew tried the experiment of destroying them by carboric acid gas. They accordingly shut down the hatches, pasted up all the crevices, and burnt a quantity of charcoal between the decks. By some means the lower-deck caught fire, and the flames were only extinguished with some risk and trouble. Dr. Kane's general plan of operations was to establish, during the winter, several depots of provisions to the north of the position of his brig, and by their means to make an expedition of much greater extent during the spring, by the help of his dogs. It was no easy matter to acquire the art of driving them, for the whip used for the purpose is six yards long, and has a handle of which the length is no more than sixteen inches, and it is necessary to be able to strike with this instrument any one dog out of a team of twelve. The drives which were taken with these animals were occasionally most dangerous, for the dogs jumped over the cracks in the ice, at great risk of throwing the driver into them; and on one occasion Dr. Kane himself, with all his dogs, fell through a mass of rotten ice, breaking a hole which he only enlarged by his efforts to extricate himself.

Whilst the commander was occupied in acquiring the accomplishments indispensable to his purpose, an expedition was detached to the northwards, which succeeded in burying considerable quantities of provisions at three points, in which they would be useful for future exploring operations. After accomplishing these objects, little remained to be done during the winter, with the exception of making observations and inventing expedients for passing the time. The men bore up well enough, though, as there were but eighteen of them, it must have been a most severe trial. The Esquimaux hunter, who had left behind him at one of the Moravian colonies a girl to whom he was engaged to be married, grew very homesick; "but," says Dr. Kane, "I treated him successfully by giving him a dose of salts and promotion." For 120 days the sun was below the horizon, and owing to a range of hills, the noontide twilight, which generally relieves the darkness, was intercepted. The absence of light was fearfully unhealthy. Numbers of the dogs died of a strange disease which it produced, and which resembled in its symptoms, not hydrophobia, but lunacy. The dogs retained their appetites and their strength, but by degrees lost their understanding. They "barked incessantly at nothing, and walked in straight and curved lines with unwearied perseverance. . . . Their most intelligent actions seem automatic. . . . Sometimes they remain for hours in moody silence, and then start off howling as if pursued, and run up and down for hours." This is, we believe, an almost unique instance of true mental disease in a brute. The symptoms generally terminated in lockjaw. On the human frame the same cause operated with terrible effect. The whole of the crew, with two exceptions, were more or less affected with the scurvy by the conclusion of the winter.

As the spring advanced, the exploring operations were resumed. Eight men were sent forward with a sledge to make an additional depot of pemican and other provisions, ten days' journey to the North. For the first eight days, they travelled without material accident through an average temperature of 27 deg. 13 min. below zero; but on the ninth day they met with a disaster which led to what seems to us an exploit altogether unexampled. A heavy gale broke upon them. The thermometer fell to 57 deg. below

zero; four of them got their feet frost-bitten, and were disabled by the cold; three of the others set off to return to the brig by a forced march; and one, Thomas Hickey, an Irishman, remained to care for the men who were disabled. After fifty hours of almost continuous walking, the three men arrived at the brig; but they were so worn out that they could hardly give any kind of account of the matter, and their story, such as it was, was to the last degree vague. Dr. Kane and the remainder of the crew instantly fitted out another sledge, strapped upon it the least exhausted of the three men who had returned, and set off to rescue their companions, through a temperature of 46 deg. below zero. It was sixteen hours before the man strapped on the sledge was sufficiently recovered to walk; and when he could, he was delirious. The party were therefore ordered to disperse themselves, in hope of falling in with their comrades' footmarks; but, what with the cold and the excitement, they were quite unequal to the exertion. Dr. Kane himself fainted twice, and the others gave in in a similar manner. At last they hit upon tracks which led them to the missing party, after an unbroken march of twenty-one hours, without food or water. Each man now took two hours' sleep, and then they prepared for their journey back. The sick were placed in a sort of large buffalo-skin bag, made of four skins sown together at the bottom, but open at the top, their limbs being wrapped in reindeer skins. They were then laid on the sledge. This operation occupied four hours, the temperature being lower than 50 deg. below zero. The weight of the whole load was 1100 lbs. For six hours the sledge was dragged, top-heavy with its living burden, over the cracked and uneven ice, but then the strength of the whole party gave way. They ceased to complain of the cold, and earnestly begged to sleep. Their leader in vain tried to rouse them by wrestling, boxing, running, arguing, or jeering. They accordingly halted without food, for they were too tired to light a fire, and all the provisions, even the whiskey, were frozen. Dr. Kane and a man named Godfrey pushed on to a place about nine miles off, where some provisions and a tent had been left the day before. They walked in a sort of stupor for about four hours—"some of the most miserable," says Dr. Kane, "that I ever remember to have spent." "We kept ourselves awake," he adds, "by imposing on each other a continual articulation of words." Neither of them was entirely in his right senses on reaching the tent. They reached it just as a bear attacked the bags of provisions, but they only remembered the fact in a dreamy way. They crawled into their furs, and slept intensely for some hours, but woke in time to make some soup and melt some water before the arrival of the others. The extreme cold relaxed, and the thermometer rose to 4 deg. below zero; and at last, falling asleep repeatedly on the road, they neared the brig, which they reached in a state approaching to unconsciousness, after an expedition which had lasted seventy-two hours, of which eight only had been passed in rest. They had travelled between 80 and 90 miles, dragging a heavy sledge most of the way. One of the party had been out no less than eighty hours, and had travelled 120 miles. He lay in a state of torpor—occasionally waking and eating with great voracity—for two days and a half. None of them had any clear recollection of the latter part of the journey, and two died of the fatigue, whilst others lost parts of their feet and toes.

The spring and summer were passed in a variety of explorations, some of the results of which we hope to notice on a future occasion. For the present, we confine ourselves to the circumstances immediately connected with the fortunes of the expedition. After an ineffectual attempt to communicate with some of the English expeditions to the south-west, it became obvious that another winter must be passed in the ice, or that the vessel must be abandoned. Dr. Kane determined on the former course as far as he was concerned, but gave full leave to those who were with him to take the other if they chose, offering to share his provisions with them. Nine left the brig, and eight stayed with Dr. Kane. The provisions were running very low, they had little or no fresh meat, and their arrangements for the winter consisted in turning the ship into a sort of Esquimaux hut. A kind of closet, 18 feet by 20, was enclosed by bulkheads in the middle of the vessel, and was made air-tight by a thick outside wall of moss. No opening was left, except a tunnel 12 feet long, 3 feet high, and 2½ wide, closed by all sorts of doors and curtains, through which a circuitous connexion was maintained between the cabin and the open air. In this wretched box the winter slowly wore away, amidst agonies unspeakable. The party who had attempted to escape across the ice failed to do so, and returned to the ship, adding to their companions' miseries. For a detailed account of what the winter was like, we can only refer our readers to the book itself. The fresh provisions were soon exhausted, and scurvy broke out in its most frightful form. The dark, fetid and smoky den, in which seventeen persons were crowded together, was lighted and heated by twelve lamps, fed with fat—no other light or heat was to be had for 140 days. Occasional supplies of walrus meat were the only luxury, and sometimes the only hope, of the party. Whenever they could obtain it, they greedily ate it raw, as a protection from scurvy. The only means by which the whole party escaped death was the circumstance that Dr. Kane contrived to communicate occasionally, by means of a dog-sledge, with an Esquimaux tribe, at a distance of nearly 100 miles, from whom he obtained some supplies of walrus meat and blubber. These journeys were sometimes made at temperatures of 50 deg. and 60 deg. below zero, but with such extraordinary variations, that, on one occasion, after being snowed up in a deserted Esquimaux hut, at a temperature of 44 deg. below zero, Dr. Kane was waked by the dripping on his sleeping-bag of the snow melted by a warm south-east wind. Dr. Kane could not always be spared for these journeys. He was at one time almost the only man able to go about, and had to discharge all the functions of commander, cook, sick-nurse, and general servant, and had to cut fuel for the day's consumption. To complicate all these miseries, a sort of mutiny broke out. Two of the men tried to desert to the Esquimaux, and one actually succeeded in doing so, though he afterwards returned. Through all these miseries the little party and their iron-hearted commander still held on. Their provisions ran so low, that Dr. Kane ate quantities of rats. For fuel they were reduced to burn as much of the ship as could be spared; and when no more could be spared, they burnt the cables. They were on one occasion brought so low that the sickness of one man more would have left them without fire. Yet even this did not daunt the commander. When the spring came, he made another expedition to the north, accompanied this time only by Esquimaux. Having thus completed, as far as human endurance could complete them, the objects for which he started, he resolved to abandon the ship. As the spring advanced, a sledge-party was organized over the ice. After a long and painful journey, in which one of their best men died of a strain, they reached open water; and after a most adventurous passage, in which they alternated between starvation and feasting on raw birds and raw seals, they reached Upernivik in July, 1855, just two years after they left it. As they neared the settlement, they fell in with a canoe, navigated by an acquaintance of one of the party. "Don't you know me?" cried the explorer; "I'm Carl Peterson." "No," was the answer; "his wife says he's dead." Indeed, their emerging from utter solitude was almost like a resurrection. The first news they heard was, that "Sebastopol was not taken." "What and where is Sebastopol?" was Dr. Kane's reply.

We hope, on a future occasion, to say something of the scientific results of this wonderful expedition—the most daring and the most terrible in the records of maritime adventure.

## The Examiner.

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### THE APPROACHING SESSION.

No. 1.

As the time is close at hand when two Estates of this little Realm shall be called on to resume their powers and responsibilities, it may not be inappropriate for the Fourth to offer a few observations and suggestions, as to the turn which their deliberations may take, and the good or evil results that are likely to follow. And first let us congratulate our friends of the Opposition on the groundlessness of their apprehensions regarding an occurrence which they seemed to think was so imminent a month ago—a General Election. "O no, the present House can never meet again—the new Election Bill has become the law of the land—it must go into operation at once, and then we will see what we will see." A General Election would be a very distressing thing to some of those gentlemen of the Opposition whose seats they could never hope to warm again after the fiat of dissolution had gone forth;—and when the Thirty, chosen of the people, had taken the places allotted to them, it would be painful to find that the cold shades of opposition had been rendered still colder to those who are doomed to shiver there, on witnessing the exceeding scantiness of their number, and noting the absence of some cherished companions in distress. The public pulse never throbbed more healthily than it does now—the existing Government, always popular, never enjoyed perhaps at any period of their career, a larger share of the confidence of their constituents and of the community generally than they do at present, because the policy they have steadily pursued is just now beginning to be understood and appreciated, and the great measures by which their conduct of affairs has been so pre-eminently distinguished, have been so far and so successfully worked out, that there can be no longer any doubt as to their necessity and efficacy. While the people are, therefore, in the mood to do ample justice to their rulers, the latter would have every thing to gain and nothing to lose by putting their claims to the test of public opinion. But wherefore embroil the country in the turmoil of a general election at a most inauspicious season, and long before the time which the law assigns for it? In the Lower House, notwithstanding all that has been and may be said to the contrary, the Government will receive the support of a respectable majority,—in the Upper House it would be difficult, we think, to organize an opposition of any force whatever. Indeed, it may be matter of regret to those who love to see a regular set-to, that in the quarter indicated, the enemy is too weak to manifest any inclination for fight. And as regards the general public, as before intimated, they have given so many proofs of their good will and confidence, that it would be an insult to them if the Government prematurely doubted the faith that is in them.

We do not know that any programme of ministerial measures has yet been prepared for the forthcoming Session, but our readers are aware, from an intimation previously given in this paper, that two very important ones at least, amongst other things, are likely to be submitted to the Legislature at an early period. It will be seen that we refer to the Loan, under the guarantee of the Imperial Government, for the purchase of proprietary estates, and the question of establishing country municipalities. Notwithstanding the pretended regard formerly expressed by some of our opponents for the latter, both questions will be assailed with the fiercest animosity by the minority and the press which echoes their sentiments, and the discussion of their merits or demerits crammed with misrepresentation. It is easy to anticipate the objections that will be raised against the loan. We will be told that the whole revenue of the Colony will be absorbed in paying the interest of the money borrowed, and the industry of the people paralysed by having new taxes imposed on them, to make good the deficiency, and provide for the ordinary expenses of Government. We will, no doubt, be further told (and indeed we believe the *Islander* has already on more than one occasion indulged in the calumnious prediction) that the borrowed money will be squandered by, and applied to the private uses of the members of the Government. Another objection which will, no doubt, be strongly urged against this measure, will be heard from the few who really think that Escheat is not so impracticable a thing as they are told it is, as well as from the many who have no faith in the doctrine of Escheat, but who use it as mere clap net, to secure the political support of a section of the old Liberal Party. These people will declaim against burdening the country with a loan to purchase property from individuals who have no honest title to it, and they will cry out, in the cant which has of late days crept into the agitation for Escheat—"Establish a Court of Enquiry first, and if it be found that the landlords have a right to sell, why then purchase from them!"

These objections are all so transparently silly, that it requires neither ingenuity nor logic to demonstrate their futility. We may, however, examine them seriatim.

1. There is no doubt that if the whole amount of £100,000, sterling, proposed to be borrowed, were taken up at once, the interest would be a very considerable charge on our small revenue, and yet not so very heavy as to require the imposition of new taxes. But no one who has ever given a thought to the subject, and can discuss it on its own merits, and without prejudice or party feeling, has, for one moment, supposed that the Government would be so very imprudent as to take up the whole amount at once, unless all the proprietors were prepared to make a simultaneous rush into the market, and offer their estates to the Government on terms agreeable to the latter. If this were the case the £100,000, sterling, and more, should be placed at the immediate disposal of the authorities; and did such a thing occur, we would be glad of it, because proprietary thraldom would be brought to a termination much sooner than we have ever yet ventured to hope it would,—every day which thereafter elapsed would witness the conversion of land into money; and such property as remained unsold by the Government would be good for the money remaining unpaid. But we all know, unfortunately too well, that, with very few exceptions, the proprietors are not disposed to rush into market. The Land Agents and speculators have a direct interest in keeping them as far off as possible from it; and we may be certain that no strategem will be left untried—no misrepresentation spared on the part of individuals so deeply interested as the Agents, to prevent their Principals from entering into any negotiation with the Government for the transfer of prop-

erty. Whenever any of the Proprietors, and especially the absentees, manifest a disposition to relieve themselves of estates that have been more a source of annoyance than of profit to them, the resident agent who has grown rich by his clever management of the property, will contrive to throw so many difficulties in the way of a sale, that a transfer will be either altogether prevented, or delayed so long as to wear out the patience of the owner, make him sick of the whole affair, and enable the cunning Agent to add to his hoard. We allude to no individual—we speak of a class, and we are confident we do not overcharge the picture in sketching their probable proceedings. Speculators who may indulge the hope of realizing sudden fortunes, by cleverly hoarding some septuagenarian landlord to part with his broad acres for fair promises of cash, to be realized by further and no less clever manoeuvres—will also put their wits to work to prevent the Government and land-owners from coming to an understanding regarding the transfer of property.

While such are some of the obstacles which the Government will have to encounter, we need not fret ourselves, with the reflection—if there be any thing in it to produce fretfulness—that the sales of land will be so rapid and extensive as to absorb at once the whole £100,000. It is more than probable that not over a tenth of it will be required in any one year, and the Government will surely not draw for more than they require when about to effect a purchase. We have no doubt that this view of the subject will be more fully and satisfactorily exhibited when the Loan Bill shall come before the House. In the meantime, it is well that the people, whose interests it will so materially involve, should be prepared for some of the nonsense which its opponents will scatter round it.

2. The second objection we have noted is too hacknied to require much notice. So long as there is a Government and an Opposition, the latter are pretty sure to charge the former with dishonest acts and intentions. But to make a charge is one thing—to prove it is quite another. All the twaddle we are likely to hear about corruption, speculation and dishonesty, will be no more than a second edition of the trash which has occupied so prominent a place in the Obstructive organ since the purchase of the Worrell Estate. The details of management and the accounts connected with that property, are every year submitted to the scrutiny of the Legislature. If dishonesty to the extent of one shilling had disgraced the Executive control of the Estate in question, it could soon be detected, exposed and punished. A case of fraud on the part of an official would be a god-send to the minority. No Government that practised, or connived at anything of that kind on the part of its servants, could hope to retain the confidence of the people; and without the confidence of the people we know how small their power and influence would be. Things were different in olden times. Less than ten years ago, men "dressed in a little brief authority" could "play such fantastic tricks before high Heaven," as their corrupt desires might prompt, without troubling themselves with any apprehensions about being called to account for their misconduct. But a public man, under the present system of administration, lives by the public breath. The power that made can as easily unmake him; and he can only hope to retain his position, be it ever so high, by preserving unshaken his "integrity to heaven" and his fidelity to his constituents and coadjutors. While this is the case, an intelligent people may well smile at the imputations of dishonesty. When the Opposition will take the trouble to prove the existence of fraud, if they ever can, it will be quite time enough to make an alarm about it. But if we were to act on the presumption that, human nature being frail, all men must be dishonest as soon as they are placed in the way of temptation—there would be no such thing as confidence in the world, and every man would be putting his ingenuity to the rack to brand his fellow as a rogue.

3. With respect to the third objection, we have neither time nor space to expose the utter uselessness and folly of continuing or reviving the Escheat agitation. Most of those who profess to be favourable to this measure, know right well that it is a perfect delusion. If Township Land could be wrested from the present claimants for non-fulfilment of certain conditions annexed to the original grants, there is scarcely a poor farmer in the country with his fifty or hundred acres—purchased by hard earnings, and improved by incessant industry and toil—who could venture to say he had a good title to his farm. He purchased his occupation from the proprietor or his heirs, whom the Escheat Court would declare to be usurpers, and if they had no right to sell, he was only a fool to buy, and must abide by the consequences of his folly. But even supposing that the titles to all property could be thus disturbed, would the tenantry and others who favour the Escheat movement, be placed in any better condition than they are at present? Most assuredly not; for no man can be so silly as to suppose that because a large proprietor has been stripped of an estate which has been held by his family for generations, it is forthwith to be cut and carved out in small pieces, without price or consideration, to all who may be foremost in the scramble for it. If the title to every township in the Island were once more vested in the Crown, not an acre would be given without a price put upon it, and that price would be regulated according to the present standard, and to the situation and value of the land. But all these considerations are quite futile in view of the fact, that there can be no escheat. If the British Government had a right to impose certain conditions on the original grantees, it had an equal right to modify or abrogate them. It has done both. It has told us more than a hundred times, in language which cannot be mistaken, that the grantees or their heirs are not to be tied down to the original conditions, and that the question of forfeiture cannot be entertained. It is a wicked humbug to tell the people that this declaration is merely the subject of a ministerial despatch, which does not bind the Crown. Every despatch from a Minister of State to an official functionary, is not merely the work of the individual who pens it, but is an expression of the opinions of the whole Cabinet respecting the subject of which it treats, and not only of the Cabinet, but of the Sovereign who appoints and controls it.

From the time of the Prince Regent, afterwards George the Fourth, to the days of her present Majesty, numerous applications have been made to the Home Government, in various ways—by Bill, Petition and Delegation—for the establishment of a Court of Escheat; and these applications have been uniformly and peremptorily resisted. Why, then, should we continue the worse than useless agitation? If we were all Escheators to a man, we could not coerce the British Government into an adoption of our views; and we only render ourselves thoroughly ridiculous and contemptible when we begin to talk largely on this subject, while we have the power to do nothing.