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THE NEW POLAR CONTINENT.

An Interesting Account of the Discovery of the New Arctic Regions.

One of the most interesting items that we have learned from the whalers, who have cruised the Arctic Ocean the past summer, is the discovery of extensive land in the middle of that ocean, which may yet prove to be a Polar Continent. The existence of this land has long been known, but owing to the impassable ice barred along its shores, of its extent and character nothing very definite has been known until this season. Baron Wrangell, the famous Russian explorer, first communicated to the world the knowledge of its existence, as he learned it from the Siberian Indians, and it is simply marked on most Arctic charts "extensive highland." It should be stated that the past summer has been the mildest and most favorable for whaling ever known by our oldest whalers. One master says that he did not see a piece of ice as large as his hand until he reached the Straits, and even beyond that, up to 72 degrees, the sea was generally free from floating ice. The weather for the most part, has been exceedingly mild, with southerly winds prevailing, which tended to melt the ice or drive it northward. As a result of the favorable state of the ocean and weather, the ships have gone further north this summer than ever before, some having reached as high as latitude 73 degrees 30 minutes.

Captain Long, of the bark Nile, who seems to have examined the land most attentively, having cruised along the entire southern coast, has drawn a sketch of its appearance. It is quite elevated, and near the centre has an extinct crater cone, which he estimated to be 2,480 feet high. He named it Wrangell's Land, after the noted Russian explorer. The west point he named Cape Thomas, after the seaman on his ship who discovered it, and the southeast point Cape Hawaii. The names given by Captain Long are so exceedingly appropriate that we doubt not Geographical Societies of Europe and America will adopt them, and call this land Wrangell's Land. Captain Long has prepared for us an account of this interesting discovery, which we insert here:

HONOLULU, Nov. 5, 1867.

SIR: During my cruise in the Arctic Ocean, this season, I saw land not laid down on any chart that I have seen. The land was first seen from the bark Nile on the evening of the 14th of August, and the next day 9:30, a. m., the ship was eighteen miles distant from the west point of the land. I had good observations this day, and made the west point to be in latitude 70 degrees 46 minutes north, and longitude 178 degrees and 30 minutes east. The lower part of the land was entirely free from snow, and had a green appearance, as if covered with vegetation. There was broken ice between the ship and land, but as there were no indications of whales I did not feel justified in endeavoring to get through it and reach the shore, which I think could have been done without much danger. We sailed to the eastward along the land during the 15th and part of the 16th, and in some places approached it as near as fifteen miles.

On the 16th the weather was very clear and pleasant, and we had a good view of the middle and eastern portion of the land. Near the centre, or about in longitude 180°, there is a mountain which has the appearance of an extinct volcano. By approximate measurement I found it to be 2,480 feet high. I had excellent observations on the 16th, and made the south-eastern cape, which I have named Cape Hawaii, to be in latitude 70° 40' north, and longitude 180° 51' west. It is impossible to tell how far this land extends northward, but as far as the eye could reach we could see ranges of mountains until they were lost in the distance; and I learn from Captain Biven, of the ship Nautilus, that he saw land northwest of Herald Island, as far north as latitude 72°

The first knowledge of the existence of this land was given to the civilized world by Lieutenant Ferdinand Wrangell, of the Russian Navy, (who I find, in 1840, was an Admiral in the same service.) In his expeditions from Nishne Kolymsk, in the consecutive years from 1820 to 1824, he obtained information from the Tschucktschl that in the clear days, in the summer season, they could see land north from Cape Jakan.

From the appearance of the land as we saw it, I feel convinced that it is inhabited, as there were large numbers of walrus in this vicinity, and the land appeared more green than the main coast of Asia, and quite as capable of supporting man as the coast from Point Harrow to the Mackenzie River, or the northern parts of Greenland, which are in a much higher latitude. There is a cape a little to the westward of Cape Jakin, which has a very singular appearance. On the summit and along the slopes of this promontory there is an immense number of upright and prostrate columns—some having the appearance of pyramids, others like obelisks; some of them with the summit larger than the base. The character of the surrounding country, which was rolling, with no abrupt declivities, made these objects appear more singular. They were not in one continuous mass, but scattered over a large surface, and in clusters of fifteen or twenty yards, with intervals of several hundred yards between them.

While at anchor near this place, Captain Phillips, of the Monticello, came on board and drew my attention to a large black place on the slope of one of the hills and said he thought it was coal. We examined it with the telescope, and it had a very distinct appearance of coal. It glistened in the sun, and appeared like a large surface which had been used as a deposit for coal. It was about one and a half miles in length, and one half mile in breadth, the country surrounding that being covered with vegetation. From 175° to 170° east there is no indication of animal life in the water. We saw no seals, walrus, whales or animalcules in the water. It appeared almost as blue as it does in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, although there were but from fifteen to eighteen fathoms in any place within forty miles of the land. I think the position I have assigned to this land will be found correct, as Mr. Flitner examined my chronometer on my arrival, and found it only one and a half miles in error.

I have named this northern land Wrangell's Land, as an appropriate tribute to the memory of a man who spent three consecutive years north of latitude 69°, and demonstrated the problem of this open Polar Sea, forty-five years ago, although others of much later date have attempted to claim the merit of the discovery. The west cape of this land I have named Cape Thomas, from the master man who first reported the land from the mast head of my ship, and the south-eastern cape I have named after the largest island in this group. As this report has been hurriedly prepared, I would wish to make more extended observations on the subject, which may be of benefit to other cruisers in this direction, if you will allow me room in your paper on some future occasion. Yours, very truly,

THOMAS LONG.

The next interesting inquiry relates to its extent. As near as we can learn after diligent inquiry, no one landed anywhere on it. The southern shore runs a distance of about 100 miles east and west. How far it extends north is at present only a matter of conjecture. Captain Aliven, while cruising near Herald Island, north latitude 71° 20' west longitude 175°, and distant about eighty miles from the southeast point of Wrangell's Island, saw the mountain ranges extending to the northwest as far as the eye could reach. He thinks it not improbable that it extends north several hundred miles. If so, it would appear to be of great extent, perhaps sufficient to be termed a continent. By taking a chart of the Arctic Ocean and marking the land from the points named above, it will be found to be about 70

miles distant from the Siberian coast. The straits between the two shores are usually blocked with ice; but this season they have been quite clear. Captain Long thinks that a propeller might readily have steamed far up north, either on the west or east side of this land, and made full discoveries regarding its extent and character.

The following letter from Captain Raynor contains some additional particulars relating to the northerly current past Herald Island, a circumstance noticed by several masters, and which tends to confirm the opinion that the newly discovered land reaches some distance to the north. In the channel north of Herald Island, the sea was clear of ice as far north as the eye could see from the vessel that went farthest into it.

HONOLULU, Nov. 1, 1867.

SIR: In compliance with your request, I send a short account of a large tract of land lying in the midst of the Arctic Ocean, hitherto but little known. This land has heretofore been considered to be two islands, one of which is marked on the English charts as Plover Island, which is laid down to the W. S. W. of Herald Island. The other is simply marked "extensive land and high peaks." On my last cruise I sailed along the south and east side of this Island for a considerable distance three different times, and once cruised along the entire shore, and to what I considered reliable observations, made the extreme southwest cape to lie in north latitude 70° 50', and east longitude 178° 15'. The southeast cape I found to be in north latitude 71° 10' and west longitude 176° 46'. The south coast appears to be nearly straight, with high rugged cliffs, and entirely barren. The northeast coast I have not examined to any extent; but it appears to run from the south-east cape in a north-westerly direction for about fifteen or twenty miles, and then turns to the north or north east. I learned from Capt. Bliven that he traced it much further north, and has seen others who traced it north of latitude 72°. I think there is no doubt that it extends much further to the north, and that there is another island to the east of it, say in longitude 170° west, and to the northwest of Point Barrow, with a passage between it and the land I have just described. My reason for thinking so is this: We always find ice to the south of the known land, further to the south than we do to the eastward of it. The current runs to the northwest, from one to three knots an hour.

In the longitude of 170° west we always find the ice barrier from fifty to eighty miles further south than we do between that and Herald Island, and there is always a strong current setting to the northwest between those localities unless prevented by stronger northerly gales, (for in such shoal water as the Arctic Ocean, the currents are changed easily by the winds,) which would indicate that there is a passage in that direction, where the waters pass between two bodies of land that hold the ice, the one known, the other unknown.

I would add that the southwest cape of this island described above, lies seventy-five miles distant from the Asiatic or Siberian coast.

GEO. W. RAYNOR,
Master of the ship Reindeer.

Correspondence.

The following communication relative to the death of George R. Galloway, after he had assisted in saving John Lee, of Heber City, contains fuller particulars of that melancholy affair than we have before received:

KAMAS PRAIRIE, Jan. 12, 1868.

Editor News:—If you will print the following in the DESERET NEWS you will confer a favor on the parents of the deceased; also, on his friends throughout the Territory. No doubt you have heard of the sad case, at least in part; but for fear that you have not I will send a full account as far as it was possible to

ascertain. The case relates to George R. Galloway, son of Charles and Ann Galloway, residents of Round Valley in Parley's Park.

It seems that on the 6th of January, George R. Galloway, William Gibson and Joseph Warr, started from Round Valley to Kamas Prairie.

They had with them two yoke of oxen and a sled, also a loose ox that was lame. They came the first day about six miles from where they started, and the ox would not go a step farther, consequently, they left him and went on to a small grove of timber and camped, thinking the ox might be able to travel in the morning. Morning came, and they took the cattle and went back, but the ox could not or would not leave the place where he stopped the night before, so they all returned to camp, intending to come on home and get help, and go back and haul the ox on a sled. When they got to their camp, the owner of the ox, Wm. Gibson, thought he would take the ox an armful of hay to help to sustain life, until they could come after him the next day. But George R. Galloway said he would sooner take the hay to the ox than to drive the team home, about five miles from where they camped. So he started with the hay for the ox, and only having about half a mile to return with the hay, he intended to overtake the team before they arrived home in Kamas Prairie.

Night coming on he did not come, and being about half way from home to Kamas Prairie, it was thought by the people that he had returned home to Round Valley. He being a tough, hardy young man, they never thought he would freeze, having only six miles either way to travel on a good hard crusted snow. But on the morning of the 8th, Gibson started back to get the ox, with a team and help, and on arriving at the mouth of the Cañon that leads out of Kamas, about two miles from the fort, they found the body of George R. Galloway, frozen to death. They returned with him to the fort in Kamas; the Justice called a jury, who held an inquest on the body, and found for verdict, that George R. Galloway came to his death by freezing on the night of January 7th, 1868, in Kamas Prairie. His parents were notified of the death, and his remains taken to Bishop Gardner's Ward, on Jordan, to be buried.

Respectfully,
GEO. B. LEONARD,
Postmaster, Kamas.

The concluding part of the letter relates to Br. Galloway's finding Br. Lee getting out of the snow, the facts of which we published at length on Monday.

HOME ITEMS.

FROM MONDAY'S DAILY.

SABBATH MEETINGS.—Bishop David Evans of Lehi, spoke at length on the Word of Wisdom, showing its pertinency and the necessity for the Saints observing it.

Afternoon.
Elder Orson Hyde spoke. His remarks were reported.

Bishop L. E. Harrington spoke upon the necessity of preparing ourselves, by a faithful obedience to all the requirements made upon us, for administering in the ordinances of the House of God. Congratulated the Saints upon the efforts now being made in this City and Territory for the spread of education. It was gratifying to see what the Word of Wisdom is doing for this people—enabling them to save means for the building of temples, schools, and for the accomplishment of the purposes of God. In our social parties it has been too common to indulge in the stimulus afforded by alcohol and tobacco, while the only stimulus that ought to be required by Latter-day Saints is the Spirit of the Lord and the joy of beholding each others' faces. The Word of Wisdom is bringing this about. Spoke on the principle of honesty, and said that true honesty consisted in rendering to God and to all men that which belonged to them.

Concluded by exhorting the Saints to honor the principles of eternal life in all the transactions of life.

SEVENTIES' HALL.—Secretary Willes has courteously left a note on our desk, informing us that Elder J. N. Barker, of Willard City, will lecture on Wednesday evening next, in the Seventies' Hall, on "Natural Philosophy, divided into six kingdoms, embracing the primary and elementary forces of nature." We presume this is an addition to the lecture by Elder Sears.

Blondin broke his arm by a fall from his rope at Cologne.