

**THE CRUISE OF THE FLORENCE;
OR, EXTRACTS FROM THE
JOURNAL OF THE PRELIMINARY
ARCTIC EXPEDITION OF 1877-'78**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649500277

The Cruise of the Florence; Or, Extracts from the Journal of the Preliminary Arctic Expedition of 1877-78 by H. W. Howgate

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

H. W. HOWGATE

**THE CRUISE OF THE FLORENCE;
OR, EXTRACTS FROM THE
JOURNAL OF THE PRELIMINARY
ARCTIC EXPEDITION OF 1877-'78**

T. Johnson, George E. ... 1878

THE

CRUISE OF THE FLORENCE;

OR,

EXTRACTS FROM THE JOURNAL OF THE PRE-
LIMINARY ARCTIC EXPEDITION OF
1877-'78.

EDITED BY
CAPTAIN H. W. HOWGATE, U. S. A.



WASHINGTON, D. C.:
JAMES J. CHAPMAN, PUBLISHER.
1879.

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1873, by

JAMES J. CHAPMAN,

In the Office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington, D. C.

12-17-73

12-17-73

*Thomas McGill & Co.,
Printers and Stereotypers,
Washington, D. C.*

Subj.
Specialty
10-10 44
50979

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | PAGE. |
|--|-------|
| INTRODUCTORY, | 5 |
| PART FIRST. | |
| NEW LONDON TO CUMBERLAND GULF, | 15 |
| PART SECOND. | |
| WINTER IN CUMBERLAND GULF, | 33 |
| PART THIRD. | |
| ANNANATOOK TO DISCO, | 152 |
| PART FOURTH. | |
| HOMeward BOUND, | 174 |

INTRODUCTORY.

A number of public spirited and generous citizens of the United States, having faith in the success of the colonization plan as a means of Arctic exploration, and believing in its ultimate approval by Congress, in substantial accordance with the bill reported favorably from the Committee on Naval Affairs of the House of Representatives at the last session of the Forty-fourth Congress, contributed from their private means a sufficient sum for the purchase and outfit of a small vessel to be sent to the Arctic seas for the purpose of collecting such supplies during the ensuing winter as might be useful for the main expedition of 1878, if that expedition should be authorized. It was at first intended to limit the mission of this vessel to the collection of material only, but the opportunity for scientific investigation was so inviting, and the added cost incurred thereby so very trifling in comparison with the results to be attained, that space was made on board for two observers and their necessary apparatus. One of these observers was selected upon the recommendation of Professor Elias Loomis, of Yale College, and instructed to pay especial attention to meteorological phenomena; while the other was selected as naturalist of the expedition by Professor Spencer F. Baird, of the Smithsonian Institution, from whom he received special instructions.

Captain George E. Tyson, who served on board the *Polaris* with Captain Hall, was intrusted with the task of selecting a suitable vessel for the preliminary expedition, which, while large enough to accomplish the desired objects, would not exceed in cost the sum available for its purchase and outfit. After careful examination he selected the *Florence*, of New London, a schooner of fifty-six tons burden, which was purchased upon his recommendation, and the work of strengthening her for ice navigation at once commenced under his personal supervision. It was at first hoped to have the vessel ready for sailing on the 25th of July, but the illness of Captain Tyson and the prevalence of rainy weather delayed her until the morning of August 3, upon which date she sailed with a full crew and complete outfit for one year's work, including the necessary apparatus for a whaling voyage on a small scale, as it was proposed that the vessel should bring on her return voyage a cargo of bone and oil, and thus make the enterprise a self-supporting one if possible.

The public interest evinced in the proposed station within the Arctic circle has been very gratifying from the first, and the fitting out of the preliminary expedition brought applications in great numbers, both personal and by letter, from parties desirous of accompanying it as members of the crew, as passengers, or in any capacity that would enable them to share in the prospective perils and honors of the enterprise. The number of good men offered was so large that it made the task of selection a difficult one, but it is believed that no little band better fitted out for the work, by strong frames, courage, and endurance, have

ever gone forth to the Arctic seas than those who were finally selected and who sailed upon the *Florence*.

The *Florence* was a good-sea-boat, staunch, stout, seaworthy, and a fast sailer, and was thoroughly strengthened for her encounters with the ice. The supply of provisions and other stores for officers and crew was carefully selected, and with proper economy would have proved ample for the voyage. Kind friends from all parts of the country contributed from their stores, in addition to articles of food and clothing, a liberal supply of books and papers to while away the long, weary hours of the sunless Arctic winter. A spare berth in the fore-castle was filled with story-books, histories, novels, and volumes of poetry; a large trunk was filled to overflowing with papers, and still another was loaded down with magazines; the whole making a library of considerable dimensions. The heads of several departments of the Government manifested a kindly interest in the expedition, not merely by verbal approval, but by substantial aid. The different bureaus of the War Department, acting under the authority of the Secretary of War, were particularly active in the matter. The Ordnance Office furnished rifles and muskets and necessary ammunition. The Chief Signal Officer of the Army supplied a complete outfit of necessary instruments for making meteorological observations. The Surgeon-General furnished a supply of medicines and the necessary minor surgical instruments for use in case of accidents to members of the expedition, and the Quartermaster-General furnished tents and camp equipage. The Secretary of the Navy furnished a complete outfit of maps, charts, and sail-

ing directions. To these heads of departments and bureaus the grateful thanks of the friends of Arctic exploration are due for their timely and efficient aid.

The following instructions, furnished to Captain Tyson upon the day of sailing, will give an idea of the aim, objects, and scope of this preliminary expedition :

WASHINGTON, July 16, 1877.

Captain GEORGE E. TYSON,

Commanding Preliminary Arctic Expedition of 1877,
New London, Conn.

SIR: The command of the schooner *Florence*, of the Preliminary Arctic Expedition of 1877, is intrusted to you, and the officers and men forming the crew are enjoined to render strict obedience to your orders.

In the event of your death while on this expedition—an event which is to be devoutly hoped may not occur—the command will devolve upon the first mate, and should he also be disabled or die, upon the second mate; and such survivor will carry out to the best of his ability the objects of the expedition, keeping a stout heart and committing himself and comrades to the care of Divine Providence.

THE OBJECT OF THE EXPEDITION.

The primary object of the expedition is the collection of material for the use of the future colony on the shores of Lady Franklin Bay. This material will consist of Esquimaux to the number of ten families, if that number can be obtained of young, strong, healthy persons willing to be transferred to the location of the future colony; of dogs, not less than twenty-five in number, mostly females, and selected for their docility, training, strength, and endurance; of sledges, two in number, and completely and carefully fitted up for travel; and of clothing in ample quantities to supply fifty persons for three years. The clothing will be carefully selected, of choice furs and skins, and