

ICE BOUND.

By W. CLARK RUSSELL. Author of "The Week of the Grosbeak," "Jack's Curious Trip," "My Watch-Bowling," "The Daily Mail," etc. (CONTINUED.)

low through her frame. It was only at intervals, however, that water fell upon the deck, for the ice broke the beat of the moderating surge, and forced it to expend its weight in blowing, which, while it was a stream of wind enough to raise and heave, since the vessel continued to lie head to sea, my passionate hope was that these repeated washings of the waves would in time loosen the ice about her, in which case we would not need much of a blow, smiting her full bows fair, to slide her clean down and off her bed, and so launch her. There were many clouds in the morning brightening with the rising of the sun, but there was nothing to see but ice. Some of the bergs, however, and more particularly the distant ones, showed out of the blue atmosphere to the sunshine with so complete a resemblance to the lifting canvas of ships that I would catch myself staring freely, they were so bright. But there was no decision in these disappointments, the certainty that I should be on the ice-bound island—the tedious frozen prison, whose crystal bars I had again and again believed were about to be broken open by a gale, and with the firm conviction imperceptibly opening to my subtle movement, was so violent that I could not have found my voice for the tears in my heart.

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