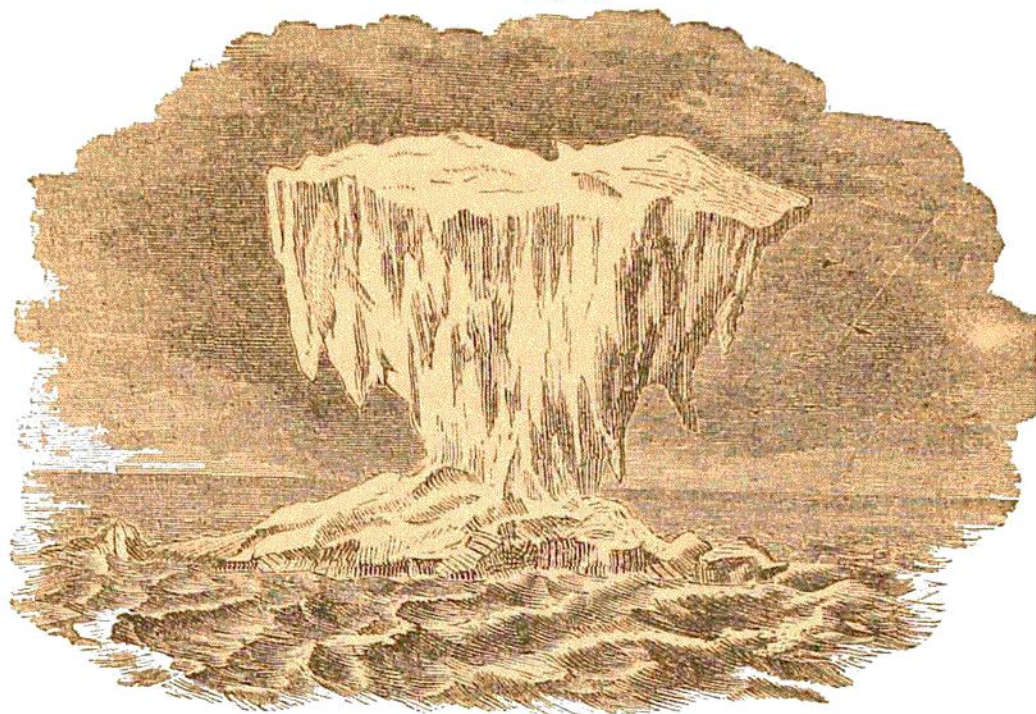


Fig. 81.



imprisoning vessels, *nipping* them severely, and sometimes raising them entirely out of the water.

A portion of an ice-field is a *floe*. The *ice-belt* is a continued margin of ice adhering to the coast above the ordinary level of the sea, in high latitudes. The *ice-foot* is a limited ice-belt. Land-ice is field-ice adhering to the coast, or included between headlands. An *ice-raft* is a mass of ice transporting foreign matter. Icebergs are frozen from fresh, and floes from salt water.

Icebergs and floes may be of great size and wide surface. Icebergs rise sometimes from 250 to 300 feet above the water, and as every cubic foot above the surface implies eight cubic feet below it, they must descend over 2,000 feet. The floes are often one, two, five, and even thirteen miles long; and one northern voyager relates that a party traveled northerly upon one of them for days, supposing it either fixed to the shore or covering the land, and knew not their mistake, till an observation for latitude showed them that the ice was moving southerly as fast as they moved northerly.

The bergs are sometimes loaded with detritus of boulders, sand and gravel. Capt. Scoresby conjectures that some which he saw contained from 50,000 to 100,000 tons of such materials. On a large berg, observed in 1839, in S. lat. 61°, a boulder was observed frozen in, six feet by twelve in diameter, which had been carried 1,400 miles, that being the distance to the nearest land.

Dr. Kane has given several fine drawings to illustrate this subject; one of which we have copied in Fig. 82. This raft is loaded with masses of slate. Dr. Kane says, "I have found masses that have been detached in this way