

intelligence could suggest was adopted against cold and damp. An endurable temperature was maintained on board the vessels by hot-air stoves. In each sleeping compartment an awning of waterproof cloth prevented the vapours from condensing on the wooden bulk-heads and partitions. Each crew was divided into companies, placed under the immediate superintendence of an officer, charged with the daily inspection of their clothes and physical condition ; for nothing is so

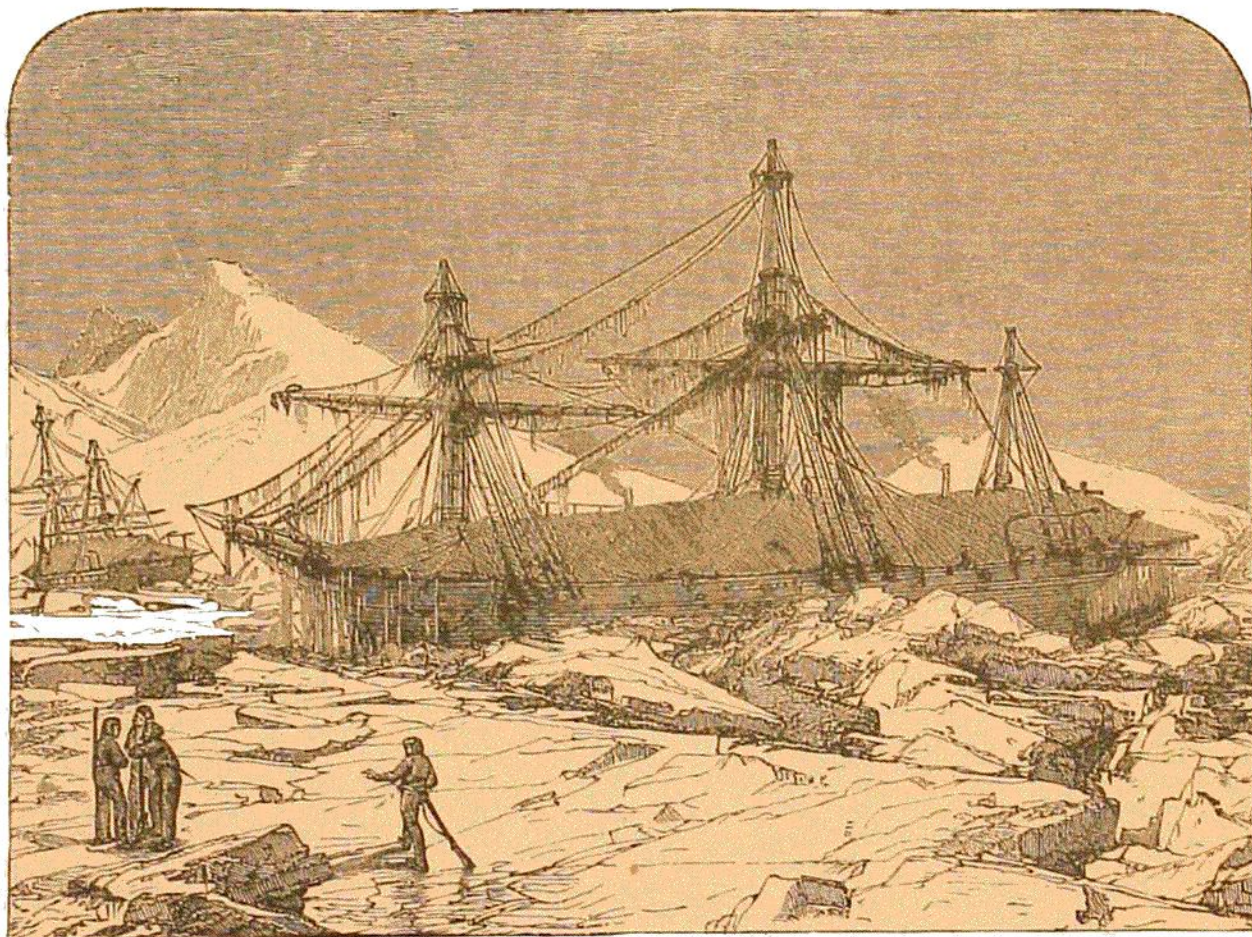


FIG. 237.—THE SHIPS "HECLA" AND "GRIPER" WINTERING AT MELVILLE ISLAND.

indispensable as scrupulous cleanliness in countries where the voyager is constantly menaced with scurvy.

To guard against the eventualities of the future, Captain Parry reduced the daily ration of bread by one-third. Beer and wine were substituted for grog. Every day the sailors were supplied with lemonade. Their repasts, worthy of Spartans, were occasionally varied with game. As a remedy against ennui, dramatic representations were given at frequent intervals. For these performances Parry composed a vaudeville, entitled, *The North-west Passage ; or, The*