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they shared in the decline of Egypt under the later Roman rule, being subject to raids from the south after the withdrawal of their garrison, while the closing of the roads to the west must have been a serious blow to their importance.

THE DANISH EAST GREENLAND EXPEDITION IN 1900.

By Lieut. G. C. AMDRUP, R.D.N.

TILL 1898 no one had set foot upon the east coast of Greenland from about $65\frac{3}{4}^{\circ}$ lat. to about $70\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$ lat. except some Eskimo, who, it was ascertained by the expedition of G. Colin in 1883-85, had formerly lived on the coast to about $67\frac{3}{4}^{\circ}$ lat. Several expeditions had tried to pass the ice-river which blocks the coast, but had not succeeded; one of them on board the French brig *Lilloise*, commanded by Lieut. Blosseville, disappeared, with all hands on board, in 1833. The coast from $68\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ to 69° N. had been mapped from on board ship, but at a rather

SKETCH OF THE COURSE OF THE "ANTARCTIC" AND OF THE COAST-EXPEDITION IN 1900.

long distance outside the ice-barrier. The coast from $70\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$ to 69° was mapped by Scoresby in 1822, and by Ryder in 1892, but in both cases from on board ship. But many miles of coast on the chart were only still shown as a dotted line.

On my first expedition, undertaken during August 16, 1898, to September 12, 1899, the coast from $65\frac{3}{4}^{\circ}$ to $67^{\circ} 22'$ was explored and mapped. The explorations were made with sledges in winter-time, and in summer-time in a light-built wooden boat, 21 feet long, manned with two naturalists and two sailors, beside myself. Two depôts with provisions were erected, one at $66^{\circ} 7'$, and the other at $67^{\circ} 15'$, and fine scientific collections were brought home.

My last expedition, which returned to Copenhagen on October 4, 1900, has from every point of view been a great success. For this expedition was bought the Swedish vessel *Antarctic*, used in the expedition of Dr. A. G. Nathorst in 1899. Besides the crew, the expedition numbered five naturalists, one army officer for mapping, one artist, and three sailors, who would accompany us on the boat expedition along the coast. The expedition left Copenhagen on June 14, and arrived at Jan Mayen on June 25, staying there till the 28th, making scientific researches and collections. The edge of the ice-pack was met with on the north-west of Jan Mayen on the evening of the 28th, and was followed north-east and north until July 6 at four o'clock in the morning, when the ice (at $74^{\circ} 30'$ lat., $30^{\circ} 58'$ long. W.) allowed us to make way towards the west. Inside the dense band of pack of smaller

CAPE GARDE, ON BLOSSONVILLE COAST.

CAPE CHRISTIANSEN, 67° 13' N. LAT.

floe-ice now came large ice-fields, often many miles in extent, with long channels between them. On July 10 we got the first glimpse of the coast, and on the 11th, at two o'clock in the morning, we anchored at Griper Road, on Sabine island. We examined Sabine island, and found a fine collection of fossils. The depôt for Sverdrup erected by Nathorst in 1899 was found in good condition. In a cairn next to the depôt I left a record, informing Sverdrup that the *Antarctic* would stay on the coast till September 1. Then we landed at Cape Borlase Warren, and steered south along the coast to Cape Dalton (69° 30' lat.), where we arrived July 18. South of Cape Dalton the ice was so dense that it was impossible to enter it. With three companions I left the ship here, giving the leadership of the ship-expedition to Dr. N. Hartz, and the command of the ship to the first mate.

At Cape Dalton we built a small wooden house, where all our provisions, sledges, kayaks, etc., were stored. On July 22 we left Cape Dalton, bound for Tasiusak, 65° 35', in a light wooden boat 18 feet long and 5 feet broad, with provisions for two months and a half and a good supply of ammunition, in case we should be obliged to winter on the coast. All the outfit was as light as possible, in order that we might be able to haul the boat over the ice without difficulty. All the provisions were stowed in boxes, in such a manner that they could not sink if the boat should be crushed in the ice. But we were always in luck's way, and on September 2 we arrived at Tasiusak, having done about 500 miles in the boat. My task was done; but, in addition, I also

travelled along the coast for almost half a year, partly in an ice-boat, and partly with sledges, and had many exciting accidents and narrow escapes, the coast being, I dare say, one of the most inhospitable in the world, with its steep cliffs and numerous large glaciers, and with the polar ice driving with the current along the coast.

The ship expedition, under the leadership of Dr. N. Hartz, left Cape Dalton on July 22, and examined and mapped the coast to Scoresby sound. From July 1 to July 20, the expedition carried out scientific researches in Hurry inlet and Scoresby sound. Then the expedition left the sound, landed at Cape Grey, on the Liverpool coast, on July 23, and mapped and examined the bays west of Cape Gladstone. The expedition then made a short run in Davy sound and King Oscar's bay, and left the east coast of Greenland on September 1. After a short stay at Dyrefjord, in Iceland, the ship arrived at Tasiusak on September 11, when I took the leadership of the expedition and the command of the ship. We left Tasiusak on September 18, and arrived at Copenhagen on October 4.

Besides the mapping * of the coasts and bays, the expedition brought home fine palæontological, geological, zoological, and botanical collections; also a living specimen of the musk ox, and ten living specimens of the lemming (*Myodes torquatus*). Four ermines were killed and brought

VIEW FROM THE NORTH SIDE OF KAUGERDLUGSUAK.

* The new chart of the unknown coast and of the bays west of Cape Gladstone is still unfinished, and is for this reason not shown in the sketch-map.

A SMALL GLACIER EAST OF KAUGERDLUGSUAK.

home. An interesting ethnographical collection was made in the old huts and graves of the Eskimo. Especially interesting is a collection found at $68^{\circ} 10'$ lat., and sixteen skulls from old graves were obtained. No Eskimo lived on the unknown coast from Scoresby sound to $65^{\circ} 45'$ of Angmagssalik. No traces of Andrée or of Blosseville were seen. Hydrographical researches were made occasionally. Astronomical and magnetical determinations were made at many different localities on the coast.

ON THE AFGHAN FRONTIER: A RECONNAISSANCE IN SHUGNAN.*

(NOTES FROM A RUSSIAN OFFICER'S JOURNAL.)

THESE notes are derived from the journal of a Russian officer, Lieut.-Colonel A. Serebrennikov, who was a member of one of two reconnoitring parties, despatched by the Russian Government into the little-known country of Shugnan from the Pamirsky Post during the year 1894.

The first party, of which Mr. Serebrennikov was a member, penetrated through the valley of the Shakh-Dara, whilst the second confined itself to the valley of the Gund river. Both parties ultimately united in the valley of the Kharokh river, near fort Kala-i-Bar-Panja, the capital of the Khanate of Shugnan.

This region is almost virgin ground for the explorer, most of the particulars we have of it at present being derived from hearsay. In view of this fact, and also

* Communicated by Dr. A. Markoff.