wires was necessary to cause it to dive below the ice and then to swim along with the same rapidity and steadiness which it would have shown in the open sea. The electrical apparatus was made to furnish oxygen from the decomposition of sea-water, and a few pans of caustic potash, placed here and there, absorbed the carbonic acid we exhaled. Nothing was simpler, and things went on thus without incident for ten days or more, when I noticed that the water, which had been very cold, became much warmer and apparently more transparent. I called Sir John's attention to the fact, and he at once surmised, as I did, that we had passed beyond the floe and were moving in open water. The plesiosaurus, which had been swimming about one hundred and thirty fathoms deep, was soon brought to the surface, and we found our surmise to be correct. All rushed on deck, where, stretching all around us, we saw the open Polar Sea. The climate was sensibly warmer; sea birds of all kinds were flying overhead or swimming in its wonderfully transparent water. Whales and narwhals were sporting about in numbers which would have driven a New Bedford skipper wild.

Sir John lost no time in taking an observation to determine our latitude, and to the great delight of all on board found it to be 86° 47'—less than four degrees from the Pole. The Hebrew ancestors of our sailors could not have felt more joy on beholding the promised land, than these, their descendants, showed on receipt of the news. The whole day was given up on board to merry-making, and my last recollection was of seeing Sir John and Sam locked in each other's arms asleep.

Our course now lay directly to the north, and, except a few icebergs, we passed nothing of importance. Two days after Sir John had taken the first observation we were within about forty-five miles of the Pole, when shouts from him called all of us on deck. The cause of his excitement was plainly visible on the northern horizon, where a broad mountain or plateau loomed plainly up. Toward the western part a small pass or rift was visible through the powerful telescope on board. That pass was doubtless the gate to the Mecca toward which so many ill-fated pilgrims have started out.

Night came on, and Sir John and myself went below to continue our observations in the mirror in his cabin. On attempting to use it, however, we found to our surprise that it refused to work. Sir John called one of his Sc-emitic companions and sent him out on the head of our animal to see if the difficulty was not with the mirror there. He had been gone hardly fifteen minutes before the motion of the plesiosaurus suddenly changed. Instead of being straight ahead, it was circular, as though the creature were chasing its tail. Sir John and myself were appalled at the change, and were wholly at a loss to account for it. He shifted the wires in every possible way, but all to no purpose; still the animal went round and round, while having at the same time an onward movement, which greatly puzzled me. After an hour or two of fruitless endeavor on our part, the rotary motion still continued the same, although we seemed to be moving forward with a constantly increasing speed, as though we were irresistibly carried toward our goal. The movement at last became so rapid as to excite the concern of all on board, when Sir