

CHAPTER XIV

FRANZ JOSEF ARCHIPELAGO

PETERMANN says: "I consider it highly probable that the great Arctic pioneer, William Baffin, may have seen the western shores of Franz Josef Land in 1614." However that may be, the first definite knowledge of these islands is due to the exertions of the Austrian soldier Payer, and the English yachtsman Leigh Smith.

At the instance of Lieutenant Carl Weyprecht, two expeditions were outfitted by Count Wilczek to explore Novaya Zemlya and attempt the North-east Passage. The expedition of 1871, in the *Isbjorn*, reached $78^{\circ} 48' N.$, $42^{\circ} E.$ In 1872 Wilczek in the *Isbjorn* landed supplies for an emergency on Barents Island, while the main expedition sailed on the *Tegetthof*, with Weyprecht in command; with him was Lieutenant Julius Payer, who was to explore any land that might be discovered.

Steaming north on August 20, the ship was beset the same day in $76^{\circ} 22' N.$, $63^{\circ} E.$, within sight of Novaya Zemlya. Subject to wind and current the *Tegetthof* drifted with the main pack, from which she was destined never to escape. Threatened with shipwreck from violent movements of