MAWSON'S NARRATIVE.

THE TRAGIC JOURNEY.

Loss of His Companions.

Majesty of Love and Death.

Dr. Mertz's Illness.

"The food was apportioned on a miserable scale. But, during delays by bad weather, the ration had to be reduced even further, and lastly, during the whole period the dogs gave out daily, so that the few that were left were reduced to a most meagre diet, and the new provisions they provided contained a minimum of centesimal, and were distributed almost entirely in small quantities. In January we arrived at a point at the south-eastern coast where Mertz had shown a degeneration of the alimentary system, and from this time we had no more short rations. I was affected likewise by this want of food, and the weather was unendurable, due to the constant driving winds and the cold. The living quarters were in a bad condition. Our last few miles had been covered in short stages with great difficulty. On January 3rd we became evident to me that my condition was worse than my own. Even the best food we had did not have the effect on Mertz expected. He was very cheerful, however, and we spent most of our time talking about distant reasons and the minds we would have together on reaching civilization. A better year I could not have wished for, and the same applied to Ninnis. They were both fine characters.

Close Fight with Starvation.

"My only condition was that I had to hold out until the end of this last period, and that I was to push on to the last, anticipating that something might be heard of a rescue already arranged for. Mertz could not proceed on foot, and with him on board the sledges, and the help of the sledges, progress was slow. About midday, which is the only time the sun could be seen, it was 30 degrees below zero. We had to make it, or go. I was moved in a sledge box, and a frame was improvised by using a pair of skis and the sleds. Later, on a broken stage, I was picked up at an old camp.

Eating Dog.

"Deliberating on what was to be done, it was decided that a descent to the frozen sea would be made at the point where we had arrived, and where we would start the journey, and we were just reveling in it when the calamity overtook us. At the moment when we were leaving the board, a heavy crevasse crossed our track, and in the crevasse, there was a dog. We immediately thought of the dogs, and without any further thought, we descended the crevasse, and the dog was rescued. We then had it in mind to keep a dog at a safe distance to the south of the crevassed coastal downs.