

out of his way and may not succeed even then.

"A brief epitome of what has been accomplished in the past before we come to the last great effort is necessary:

"Parry in 1827 reached 82 degrees 45 minutes north by means of sledges.

"Markham in 1875-6 reached 82 degrees 20 minutes north at enormous cost and exertion.

"Lieut Lockwood of the Greely expedition reached 83 degrees 24 minutes, the highest point trodden by human feet. This was an American expedition, the previous explorers being principally English.

"In 1607, Henry Hudson tried to reach the pole by sailing along the east coast of Green land but could not reach a point higher than 73 degrees north. He then assayed to go farther north near Spitzbergen, and did reach 80 degrees 23 minutes of north latitude.

"Payer in '72 and '74 reached 82 degrees 5 minutes north on an island which he named Crown Prince Franz Joseph land.

"Another American expedition under Lieut. De Long sailed for the pole by way of Bering Strait, and was frozen in latitude 71 degrees, 35 minutes north, and drifted for two years in a northerly direction, when the Jeannette foundered in latitude 77 degrees 15 minutes north, and 145 degrees 59 minutes east longitude.

"The failure of the Jeannette expedition laid the foundation for an effort that proved to be one of the greatest successes of the century, and it was brought about as follows:

"The Jeannette foundered June 12, 1891. The seamen then made for the mouth of the Lena river in northern Siberia. Many of them perished and had a frightful experience.

"In 1884 some Esquimos found on the coast of Greenland, 2,900 miles from the place where the Jeannette foundered, some relics belonging to expedition, among them being some manuscript and a pair of oilskin breeches, bearing the name of one of the crew of the Jeannette thereupon. This established the fact that the ice floe upon which the discovery was made must have been floated clear across the Arctic ocean, and also that the current showed the absence of land across the dreary waste, as it took 1,100 days to reach the coast upon which the relics were found. We are informed that the Esquimos of Greenland depend upon the driftwood found on their coast for the different domestic uses of their social life. The wood thus found came from the Siberian coast, or possibly northern Alaska.

The conclusion reached by Nansen was that a vessel might be constructed, the shape and style of which could be made to withstand the fearful ice pressure that had invariably used up so many vessels before. The fact that a current that might possibly traverse the region near the Pole was another incentive, that the relics of the Jeannette had so traveled, so might the Fram, the vessel that Nansen caused to be made. Some of the men learned in Arctic matters doubted the success of such a voyage, but others thought such a project possible. As all of the previous efforts to reach a high northern latitude had failed this one seemed the most daring and original undertaken.

"Nansen is a Norwegian, and is gifted with a fine physique. He has been well educated and was raised in a country where the inhabitants are inured to cold weather. He is one of those men who seemed destined to accomplish some great results. With him there is no such word as "fail." His proposition to build a suitable vessel, sail her as far north as possible, in the open water, after sailing as far east as the 140th degree east of Greenwich,

which brought him near the locality where the Jeannette was crushed—and where she had floated after being locked in the ice two years and where it had been demonstrated that a current set in towards the northwest is one of those circumstances that demonstrate that men are born for the accomplishment of certain results. His journey has been paralleled by Stanley's dash through the dark continent in point of daring and endurance under trying circumstances, one to experience the most intense cold the other the heat of the tropics. Both were successful, and both were permitted to reach the object sought for.

"The listeners to these rambling statements will please take a map of the world, find the most northern part of Norway, follow the coast line of Northern Siberia—and on the New Siberian Islands in the Arctic ocean west of Bering strait. Trace a line east of the islands nearly up to the eightieth parallel of north latitude. This will show them the starting point of Nansen's exploring expedition—from the Fram in 1893. He reached this point near the 140th degree of east longitude and was frozen in October of the same year. The crew numbered eleven persons, all hardy Norwegians. They experienced but few disagreeable results, being so well prepared against the cold. They erected a windmill on the ship and with storage batteries lighted the ship with electricity during the long winter darkness. The sun is never seen in the far north from the early part of November until the middle of February. It is one long dark night only when the moon shines her rays upon the desolate Arctic waste.

"It would not be possible in the limit of space allowed me to attempt a full description of all details but I must omit many very interesting facts. One strange item of their experience was the extraordinary number of polar bears existing on the ice. This proved a source of fresh meat supply to the hardy voyagers in the summer time. Sea birds of many kinds would alight upon their vessel, while in the pools of water that melted around the ship, vast numbers of small crustaceans would be found—it is wonderful that life exists on our globe in the most remote and unlooked for localities. The summer heat was never great enough to melt the water around the ship except in pools the first year. But they kept on drifting with the great ice pack, and without effort on their part reached a higher degree of north latitude than had ever been attained before. Some might imagine that the surface of the ice would be smooth and easy to travel upon, but such is not the case. High winds will force the ice up into lanes caused by the huge masses being forced together and into ridges—making travel very difficult. This is the greatest obstacle met with in navigating by means of dogs and sledges on the ice. This also was the reason why the Jeannette was crushed. Not so with the Fram; she seemed able to bear any crushing she experienced but at times they were greatly frightened owing to the terrible roar of the ice during a gale of wind.

"The Fram after being frozen in November, 1893, floated with the ice in a northwest direction up as far north as 84 degrees north, in the year following when Dr. Nansen and Johansen left the vessel and took with them two years' provisions, dogs, sledges, guns, ammunition and other necessities, leaving their comfortable quarters on the ship, and started out upon the dreary waste of ice and snow for the Pole. By the 7th of April they reached 86 degrees and 13 minutes north—leaving a distance of 263 miles yet unexplored, about as far as Parowan from Salt Lake City in our own State—the most northern-

ly point upon the globe trodden by the foot of man.

"The difficulties of travel in that region became so great that it was impossible to proceed farther—and as there lay before them the return trip to some locality where the vessel might be found or assistance looking to their return home it was decided to return either to Spitzbergen or Franz Joseph Land, that lay northwest of their location. It would be impossible to recount their trials and sufferings from the weather and other causes, the dreadful loneliness of their position cannot be imagined. Being expert navigators they could always locate themselves. They had a silk tent into which they crawled for shelter, and when they slept they both crawled into a bag made of reindeer skins—they had a cook stove and used kerosene oil to cook with—they seemed to enjoy good health and the wise selection of food kept off the scurvy the terror of Arctic travelers. Their sleds were so made that they could be transferred into Kyaks or boats if they reached water. The greatest cold experienced was 58 degrees below zero in March, 1895. Summer weather there is about the freezing point here in Utah; 9 degrees above was considered very warm. They finally decided to return to Franz Joseph Land, the most southern point being on the 80th parallel of north latitude—and hoped to reach that point in the summer of 1895—but they met with so many terrible experience that they were compelled as the winter was near upon them to build a hut on Frederick Jackson Island and pass the winter of 1895-6. From August 26th to May 19th 1896. Bears and foxes prowled around their hut all winter. They managed to kill enough bears and walrus to furnish meat to eat and oil to cook with. Through the terrible dark, dreary, freezing, months—with a poor place to sleep upon, made of cobble stones, they became begrimed with soot and grease and dirt. They finally reached Cape Flora on the 11th of June, 1896, and they were delighted to find white men there belonging to the Jackson-Harmsworth expedition, who treated them with the greatest kindness, and when the vessel that calls there annually came to the windward they returned to Norway, reaching there in August, 1896.

In the meantime the Fram in command of Captain Swerdrup floated westward and northward as far as 85 degrees north, and eastward to the 10th degree in 1896. The captain then made for the south as best he could by using dynamite and other explosives, and finally reached the open water in the 80th parallel—near Danes Island in Spitzbergen—thence homeward in about the same time as Nansen arrived.

"The king and people of Norway were overjoyed to learn of their safe return. Not one soul had been lost and the greatest Arctic exploration triumph of the century was recorded in their favor. The full details are worth reading by all. At the present time Dr. Nansen is being lionized by this nation, and receives, wherever he goes, the warmest welcome. His trip has demonstrated that there is no land in sight north of their track; that the ocean is very deep, as much as 4,000 yards being measured; that life is found everywhere; in many places the seals and walrus swarm; that the Fram is the proper kind of vessel for work in the ice; that the temperature of the water is a little below freezing just below, or about ninety yards from the surface, while in the greater depths it is warmer, being about thirty-one degrees, just one below freezing point. Doubtless the whole region near the pole is water.

"Thus little by little we learn what the globe upon which we live is