

rounding Cape Tcheluskin, the most northern point of the Eastern Hemisphere, and he almost effected the passage in one season. But his ship became frozen in the ice and he was forced to remain on the coast till the following spring. When his vessel was liberated he sailed through Behring Strait and reached Yokohama on September 2, 1879.

The Americans have in late years taken their share in Arctic exploration, and among the most notable of their expeditions was the one in 1882 under Lieutenant Greely. He established himself in winter quarters at Lady Franklin Bay, and several parties were sent out to explore. One under Lockwood attained the highest point ever reached, $83^{\circ} 24'$ N. latitude. No provisions arrived for the explorers during the summer of 1883 so Greely and his men started for Smith Sound where they expected to find a vessel. But none awaited them and they were obliged to winter on the shore in a small hut. When Bucaro reached the expedition the following spring all had perished but Greely and six companions, and they had suffered dreadfully from want of food. Their experience shows the necessity of always providing a depot-ship at a convenient station.

Within the last few years Arctic expeditions have become so numerous as to excite but local comment: yet owing to the diversity of the routes and the magnitude of the preparations, the three expeditions of 1893 have excited universal interest.

Robert E. Peary, a young American, who has already gained fame as an Arctic explorer by his journey over the interior ice of Greenland, intends to pursue the familiar route by way of the west coast of Greenland. At Inglesfield Gulf he will establish a post, and leaving his ship there will proceed with five or six men across the ice-cap to the extreme north of Greenland. When he reaches the coast he will endeavor to explore the land discovered by Lockwood, the highest yet attained, and if possible to push on to a still higher latitude. The difficulties of the task undertaken may be slightly appreciated from his own description of a twelve mile journey over the rough ice: "My feet were bruised on the sharp chaos-strewn rocks

which cover the icefoot borders of this land of rock. . . . I was strongly tempted to go on, but my footgear precluded it: the soles of both kamiks (mocassins) were cut through and the edges of sharp rocks had cut my feet. It was even questionable whether I could fix up my footgear in order to get back without serious injury to my feet." His chances of success in attaining a higher latitude than that already reached are thus summed up by General A. W. Greely, the noted Arctic explorer: "The endurance, determination and skill of Lieutenant Parry are beyond question, and his moderate success most probable, but as to his attaining the farthest north and mapping out the north-eastern boundaries of the archipelago discovered by Lockwood his chances of success are inconsiderable."

The practical English are sending Mr. Jackson to try a route which according to the opinion of the experienced gentleman just quoted, presents the best features for attaining a high latitude and for exploring the yet unknown portions surrounding the pole. He goes direct to Franz Josef Land, situated on the 80th parallel to the north-east of Europe; from here he will, with ten men, proceed as far as possible in dog-sledges. When land fails he will take to whale-boats and examine if the North Pole is accessible by way of Franz Josef Land. His plans are carefully prepared and unless some accident occur he probably will manage to thoroughly explore this country and to come very near that much sought for point—the pole.

Dr. Nansen, an energetic and courageous Norwegian, is the third scientist striving for Arctic fame. Disregarding all established rules of Arctic navigation and setting aside the adverse opinions of the most experienced scientists and seamen of our day, he intends to allow his ship to be caught in the ice-floes and to drift with them. He claims that a current sets in from Behring Strait, through the Arctic Ocean, over the North Pole and down the east coast of Greenland. He will sail to the new Siberian Islands which skirt this supposed current and boldly strike out into it. His success depends first on the correctness of his views regarding the existence and direction of the current, and then on his ability to escape the incessant