

A TALK WITH ANDREE.

Jonas Stadling, who accompanied Andree to Dane's Island and witnessed his departure towards the North Pole, contributes to the November Century an article entitled "Andree's Flight into the Unknown." This is accompanied by a number of interesting photographs, including several of the balloon after it had been cut loose and had begun its flight. Mr. Stadling says:

The aeronauts were impatient to start this year. They had decided to wait for really favorable winds until the 17th of July. After that they were prepared to start with a less favorable wind.

In my talks with them about the risks and dangers of their undertaking, they said at various times:

"We have taken all into account. We are prepared to face whatever may happen."

"Suppose the balloon should burst," I asked, "What then?"

"We shall be drowned or crushed."

"Suppose you alight on the pack-ice, far away in the desolate polar regions; what will you do?"

"We shall do our best and work our way back as far as possible. Having during these last years thought, worked, and calculated in preparing for this expedition, we have, so to speak, mentally lived through all possibilities. Now we only desire to start, and have the thing finished some way or other."

While talking about home and the loved ones their faces would assume a more serious expression, and a faint quiver of the voice might be noticed; but there was no wavering of purpose.

"When may we begin to hope to hear from you?" I asked.

"At least not before three months, and one year, perhaps two years, may elapse before you hear from us, and you may one day be surprised by news of our arrival somewhere. And if not—if you never hear from us—others will follow in our wake until the unknown regions of the north have been surveyed."

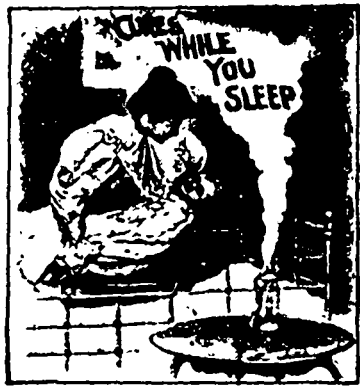
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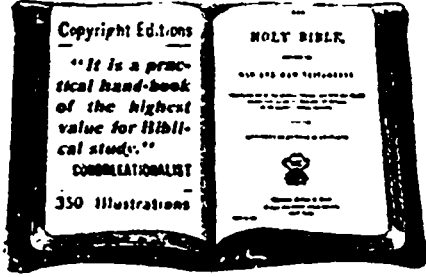
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