

in mind, it is impossible to pronounce the expedition a failure, even if there were no other discovery than that of the *deep* sea in the polar regions.

Before leaving in 1893 Dr. Nansen made three predictions regarding his venture. The first was that 1896 would probably be the first year in which it would be heard of. The second was that if the *Fram* were deserted the party would come home by Franz Josef Land. The third was that if they stuck to the ship she would, by the aid of the drift, bring them out between Spitzbergen and East Greenland. This is precisely what has happened. Dr. Nansen has vindicated his theory of the polar drift, though disappointed somewhat as to its *northerly* limit, and discomfited those who maintained that in trusting to what they styled "supposed currents," he was throwing away the lives of himself and his party. All other performances pale in comparison with this feat of the Norwegian explorer. It is not merely that he has gone some 200 miles nearer the Pole than any of his predecessors, or that he has made one of the most daring journeys on record, but it is that he has established the truth of his theory of Arctic *currents*, and has brought back valuable scientific information. Its organiser passed over an enormous part of the girth of the eastern polar sea—covered almost the widest area of the earth's surface that can be covered in a like voyage, and they travelled at a pace which permitted them to mark upon the chart accurately all the districts traversed. *There was no line of retreat, no going back and covering the same ground twice*, as has been the case in nearly every previous Arctic voyage.