

but there is a good to be gained, and it comes from this: The subjects of monarchy had planted the Red Cross of Saint George farther up towards the Pole than any other nation, and the young people, the free American citizens of the nation, determined to plant the Stars and Stripes farther on still, until that glorious banner, as it waves in the Arctic seas, will be mistaken by the wandering Esquimaux for the aurora borealis. [Great applause.] To have achieved that, fellow-citizens, was triumph enough to have sacrificed many lives. America is first in prosperity, in military power, in civilization, and now in wealth and population. An admiring world looks on, to which it must be shown that she is first in daring, in endurance, and in courage. And God in His goodness has given us the opportunity to show ourselves first in charity, in benevolence and care of our citizens at any cost.

But there is one who has contributed to this expedition who has been overlooked. With our vision nearer home we forget. I know I of all men on earth shall never be accused of any special love for England, for my grandfather and father from New Hampshire fought the red-coats. [Applause.] Yet I say now, all thanks, all honor, all commendation from the men and women of America to Her Majesty the Empress of India and Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, for her thought for Lieutenant Greely and his companions in their extremity.

There is another reason why we should seek to make ourselves famous in Arctic discovery. I do not hope that any expedition will be sent to the Antarctic Ocean, but I have interest in the Arctic sea clear up to the North Pole, and let me say here, now, that in my judgment it