

taken from that gallant old vessel, which was one of the boats that went on the Expedition organised by Sir George Nares and the Royal Geographical Society in 1875 to search for the North Pole. She was commanded by Admiral Markham and accompanied by the "Discovery," and together they penetrated farther north than any previous explorers. An interesting relic (which is still preserved by relatives of the late Admiral) is a thermometer which records that it was carried to Lat. 83, 20 min. 26 secs. North, where the temperature was 109° below freezing! The frame of this instrument is made of the batten of the sledge "Marco Polo" which carried these intrepid voyagers over the ice when they were obliged to abandon their boat. The "Alert" was a seventeen-gun sloop, and before leaving England she was overlaid with a seven-inch covering of teak and lined throughout with felt. She had a crew of sixty men with nine boats, and it is interesting to read, in a detailed account in a "Strand Magazine" of nearly twenty years ago, that "the Commander's pet dog, Nellie, accompanied the expedition and had her own embroidered blanket."

"Punch" had a joke when the expedition returned: "Why didn't Admiral Markham find the North Pole? Because the Discovery was not on the Alert."