

being discouraged by the lessons these journeys have taught me, I have but been stimulated to renewed ardour. The sacrifice of comfort, and the expenditure of labour and of money, I have ungrudgingly devoted to the pursuit of my project. All that single-handed I can do I have done ; but I feel that, with the co-operation of others, a much greater work might be done in the interests of science and of geographical research. My zeal remains unabated, my physical power unimpaired. But to bearing the undivided cost of the proposed expedition the means at my command are wholly inadequate. The expense of the journey which I contemplate would be £5,000—surely no exorbitant sum when the funds commonly devoted to Arctic travel are borne in mind. Had I to equip a vessel of my own, five times that amount would be needed ; as it is, I can attain my object by availing myself of the good offices of the whaling captains. With these men, as I have shown, I was enabled to put myself into close and friendly touch ; and it is by them that I should be taken to Banks Land, whither they go every year in pursuit of whales. These allies, in fact, are only less indispensable to my scheme than are the Eskimo themselves, whom I should thus be enabled to take up on the way. If I can but secure amongst my own countrymen such willing co-operation as I can make certain of enlisting amongst the whaling captains and the natives, the first and greatest obstacle will be removed.