



MAP SHOWING THE ROUTE THAT LIEUTENANT PEARY IS FOLLOWING.

*a a*, Latitude reached by Nansen—the farthest north yet attained. *b b*, Latitude reached by Lockwood and Brainard. *c c*, Arctic Circle. *A*, Whale Sound, where Lieutenant Peary's Eskimo attendants were to be taken on board. *B*, Sherard Osborn Fjord, Peary's main base of supplies, and the probable northern terminus of the "Windward's" voyage. *C*, Depot at northern terminus of land.

the great problem, feeling that the more the merrier and the more chances there are that the goal will be reached.

I am after the Pole because it is the Pole; because it has a value as a test of intelligence, persistence, endurance, determined will, and, perhaps, courage, qualities characteristic of the highest type of manhood; because I am confident that it can be reached; and because I regard it as a great prize which it is peculiarly fit and appropriate that an American should win. This objective of my work will not prevent the attempt to accomplish valuable results in other directions, and a direct corollary of the attainment of the Pole will be an extensive filling in of the large existing blank upon our charts in the vicinity of the Pole, and perhaps the completion of the preliminary geographical work in the highest latitude in this hemisphere.

Before commencing my outline of proposed work, just a few words in regard to the North Pole, a subject upon which fools as well as sages have theorized for centuries, an object for which brave men have struggled for centuries. What is it? It is simply the

mathematical point where the earth's axis intersects the earth's surface, a place where there are ninety degrees of latitude and three hundred and sixty degrees of longitude, or no longitude at all, just as one prefers to look at it.

Let us assume that the Pole has been reached and that a man is standing upon it; what would be some of the conditions resulting from his position? In the first place, our man standing upon the Pole could go in but one direction, south. East, west, north have been obliterated for him, and the first step he takes, no matter what its direction, will be south. If, there on the Pole, he stands motionless for twenty-four hours, the diurnal revolution of the earth will simply turn him completely around on his tracks as on a pivot. If he stands there for a year, he will have in that year one night and one day. The sun will rise for him on the 21st

of March; the next day it will circle through the heavens, apparently rolling on the horizon all the way round; the next day it will be a little higher; the next a little higher still, and so on, until the 21st of June, when it will be twenty-three and one-half degrees above the horizon, a little more than one-fourth the distance from the horizon to the zenith. A few days later it will be a little lower, the next still a little lower, and so on, slowly describing a flattened spiral through the heavens, until it sets on the 21st of September, not to rise again until the 21st of the following March.

If now at any time during this six months' long summer day our man standing upon the Pole takes one step directly towards the sun, no matter in what direction it may be, it will then be noon for him. If he then steps back to his position on the Pole and from it takes a step directly away from the sun, it will then be midnight for him. Not darkness, however; midnight in the Arctic regions does not necessarily mean darkness. But to our man standing there upon the Pole two steps only will separate astronomical noon from astronomical midnight.