

night ; of Mr. Stefansson, who travelled 200 miles during the winter night ; and lastly, of myself, who have always travelled when the sun was below the horizon, and have never encountered the slightest drawback in doing so. To put the matter into a nutshell, the weather at this time of year is better than at any other ; the light is more than sufficient for the purpose ; and the cold, so far from being a hindrance, is actually a help. As regards the traveller himself, his fur clothing at all times neutralizes the shrewdness of the climate ; and, as regards the sledges, the cold is turned to positive profit by the Eskimo, who, in extreme temperatures, wet the iron runners of their sledge, thereby converting them into ice-runners.

Here, then, I bring this book to its close. To the general reader I can only hope that it has proved not wholly uninteresting ; to those who are already interested in these topics, not entirely uninteresting. If the fates ordain that this concluding chapter must, for the writer at any rate, be final—that his own connection with Arctic travel must herein terminate—he trusts that others may subsequently carry to greater length the results which it has honestly been a pleasurable task for him to record. I sincerely hope, however, that I may again have the opportunity of making an attempt to explore that unknown region, with the experience of these previous journeys to guide me ; and it is in the fact of my having made these journeys that the kindly reader will perhaps discern, more clearly than in the most earnest protestations I could make, that my scheme is neither hot-headed nor visionary. So far from