

over a large expanse of hitherto unknown regions, many degrees further north than have ever been reached in this ocean on this side of the Pole. But we hope she will not stop here ; concealed behind the mist of the future there are many triumphs in store for us, triumphs which will dawn upon us one by one when their time has come. But we will not speak of this now, we will be content with what has actually been achieved ; and I believe that the promise implied in Björnson's greeting to us and to the *Fram* when she was launched has already been fulfilled, and with him we can exclaim :—

“ Hurrah for the ship and her voyage dread !  
Where never before a keel has sped,  
Where never before a name was spoken,  
By Norway's name is the silence broken.”

“ We could not help a peculiar feeling, almost akin to shame, when comparing the toil and privation, and frequently incredible sufferings, undergone by our predecessors in earlier expeditions, with the easy manner in which we are drifting across unknown expanses of our globe, larger than it has been the lot of most, if not all, of the former polar explorers to travel over at a stretch. Yes, truly, I think we have every reason to be satisfied with our voyage so far, and with the *Fram*, and I trust we shall be able to bring something back to Norway in return for the trust, the sympathy and the money which she has expended on us. But let us not on this account forget our predecessors. Let us admire them for the way in which they struggled and laboured, let us remember that it is only through their labours and achievements that the way has been prepared for the present voyage. It is thanks to their collective experience, that mankind has now got so far as to be able to cope, to some extent, with what has hitherto been his most dangerous and obstinate enemy in the Arctic regions, viz., the *drift-ice*, and to do so by the very simple expedient of going with it, and not against it, and allowing