

them, and suggested their being thrown together and submitted to a wider circle for perusal. Hence the following pages, by illness long deferred.

Not alone the strong tie of friendship induced me to crave your permission to dedicate this book to you, but also the knowledge that you have ever stood foremost among those who, verbally and practically, have evinced their conviction that it would be cruel and would be a lasting disgrace to this country to relinquish the search for the missing voyagers until definitive information respecting them shall be obtained, or the lapse of time render an assertion of their being no longer in existence no mere hypothesis.

On another plea also I ask you to stand sponsor to my literary babe (and herein I feel assured I speak for many of those who, like myself, have wandered amid the stern and chilling regions of the North). There can be few "Arctic men" who will not unite with me in earnest acknowledgment of your ever willing aid (not the less energetic because imob-