

four years. He is forty eight years of age, solidly built, and a powerful and vigorous man ; and as his ancestors have attained an extreme old age, he may be said to be in the prime of life. He has been at sea ever since he was one year old with the exception of five years which he spent at school. He was Captain of a deep sea vessel at the early age of seventeen, and since that time has commanded no less than forty-six different ships. He has crossed the Atlantic one hundred and seventy-eight times, has visited the Arctic regions on more than one occasion, and has sailed around the world a number of times. He has had a varied and valuable experience, and possesses strong testimonials, from the owners of every ship he has commanded. He is a firm believer in nature, and says that if we were to study nature more we would succeed better.

Captain Bernier's plans for reaching the Pole have received the strongest commendation from scientists and scientific societies in all parts of the world. His plans are fully in accord with nature while his competitors propose to battle against the difficulties of nature.

Of what use will it be? This is the question uppermost in the mind of the public, the majority regarding it as useless from a utilitarian point of view. Science presents a score of reasons why the discovery of the Geographical Pole would be beneficial to mankind. No former expedition has ever failed to yield results of practical as well as scientific value. The results of scientific importance to be derived from an examination of the immense unknown area round the North and South Poles are as numerous as the region to be explored is extensive. It is impossible that its examination can fail to add largely to the sum of human knowledge, and it is necessary to bear in mind that the Polar area is, in many most important respects, of an altogether special character, affording exclusive opportunities for observing the condition of the earth's surface, and certain singular circumstances, due to the relation of this area to the position of the axis of revolution of the territorial spheroid, and which have to be considered not only with reference to the present time, but to the earth's past history. It may therefore be received as certain that discoveries will be made in all branches of science, the exact nature of which cannot be anticipated.