

anticipations, and it was to be hoped and expected that this would continue to be the case for the remainder of the voyage. We had, therefore, every prospect of accomplishing the principal part of our task; but then the question arose whether more could not be accomplished; and thereupon I proceeded to explain, in much the same terms as I have used above, how this might be effected by an expedition northwards.

"I had the impression that everyone was deeply interested in the projected expedition, and that they all thought it most desirable that it should be attempted. The greatest objection, I think, they would have urged against it, had they been asked, would have been that they themselves could not take part in it. I impressed on them, however, that while it was unquestionably a fine thing to push on as far as possible towards the north, it was no whit less honourable an undertaking to bring the *Fram* safe and sound right through the Polar Sea, and out on the other side—or if not the *Fram*, at all events themselves, without any loss of life. This done, we might say, without fear of contradiction, that it was well done. I think they all saw the force of this and were satisfied. So now the die is cast, and I must believe that this expedition will really take place."

So we set about our preparations for it in downright earnest. I have already mentioned that at the end of the summer I had begun to make a kayak for a single man, the frame of which was of bamboo carefully lashed together. It was rather slow work, and took several weeks, but it turned out both light and strong. When completed the frame-work weighed 16 lbs. It was afterwards covered with sail-cloth by Sverdrup and Blessing, when the whole boat weighed 30 lbs. After finishing this, I had entrusted Mogstad with the task of building a similar one. Johansen and I now set to work to make a cover for it. These kayaks were 3·70 metres (12 feet) long, about 0·7 metre (28 inches) wide in the middle, and one was 30 centims. (12 inches) and the other 38 centims. (15 inches) deep. This is considerably shorter and wider than an ordinary