



MR. A. GAMEL, OF COPENHAGEN,
Who fitted out the Nansen Greenland Expedition

THE NANSEN GREENLAND EXPEDITION.

For the first time in history Greenland, that great mysterious, ice-capped continent in the far North has been crossed, a feat accomplished by Dr. Fridtjof Nansen, a Norwegian savant, three other Norwegians, and two Lapps. Several futile attempts have formerly been made to cross this continent, which is in exactly the same state as the British Isles during the Glacial age. The first attempt was made by Lieutenants Jensen and Steenstrup, of the Danish Navy, who, in 1878, commenced their inland march in lat. 62 deg. 30 min. N., and after many difficulties reached forty miles inland, and attained a height of 5,000 ft., whence the ice was seen gradually to rise eastward. Then came the famous Nordenskiöld Expedition of 1883, when the celebrated Swedish explorer landed south of the Disco Island, and with a large party reached ninety miles inland and an altitude of 5,000 ft., whence the land could also be seen rising eastward. However, Nordenskiöld had in his train two Lapps, whom he dispatched forward, on Norwegian snow-shoes, "ski," and who reached 140 miles further inland, and an altitude of 7,000, meeting nothing but snow and ice. Finally, an American engineer, Mr. Peary, in 1886, succeeded in reaching 100 miles inland a little further north. All these expeditions, however, made the attempt of crossing from west to east, whereas Dr. Nansen decided upon making the attempt in the opposite direction—from the east to the west coast. To this he was particularly prompted by the fact of the west coast being inhabited, so that provisions need only be carried one way, and when the journey was accomplished the expedition would not fear starvation, as on the uninhabited east coast. The expedition left Iceland June 4, 1878, in the whaler Jason, having received much encouragement on all sides, as, for instance, from the Royal Geographical Society and several of our well known Arctic explorers. Dr. Nansen's hope was to land in lat 65 deg. 30 min. N., in the neighborhood of Cape Dan; but ice prevented this—in fact, the expedition was unable to leave the ship till July 17. It was expected that they would reach land in their two boats on the next day, the land being only a few miles off; but drift-ice barred the way, and currents set the boats southward with terrible swiftness.

For a whole fortnight they battled in the ice, several times being at the point of destruction; but at last they reached land, though 240 miles further south than expected, and a month behind time. Nevertheless, the expedition rowed northwards along the coast till lat. 64 deg. 30 min. N. to Umiavik, whence the journey across the inland ice commenced on Aug. 15. The expedition met two camps of East Greenlanders along the coast, but they were unable to understand the few words of the west coast dialect known to its members. These people are described as entirely unlike the Eskimo, being tall and dark, almost swarthy in complexion, with black hair and dark fiery eyes, and full of life and gestures. All the women were, with one exception, ugly; but this one—a young girl—would have eclipsed many a southern belle. Several families occupy one tent, their food being chiefly seal meat, often eaten raw. Naturally they are

heathens, and very superstitious. They were, however, very friendly and good-natured. One camp possessed some Danish flags. The start inland was made with five sledges, and the party proceeded on the snow on ski—i. e., long strips of elastic pine wood, some five feet in length, four inches in width, and one inch in thickness, slightly pointed in front, being strapped to the feet of the ski runner in the middle. In Scandinavia these are the chief means of locomotion on snow, and immense speed may be attained thereon. The whole party are excellent ski runners, and the success of the expedition is wholly ascribed to the use of ski, Canadian snow-shoes being found useless in wet snow. After a few days' march a terrible rain-storm, lasting three days, broke upon the party, and laid them weatherbound. On Aug. 27, when forty miles inland, it was decided to alter the course of march further southwards for the Danish colony, Godthaab, on account of the lateness of the season. On Sept. 1 the true inland ice plateau had been reached, resembling a frozen ocean, across which the expedition proceeded for a fortnight. An altitude of 10,000 ft. was reached, and the temperature fell to 80 and 90 deg. F. below freezing point, according to computation, both barometers and thermometers being unequal to registration. A terrible snow-storm delayed progress for three days. The sole sign of life seen on the whole journey was a snow sparrow on the plateau, which settled on the snow, chirped sadly, and flew northward—a curious direction. On Sept. 19 the expedition had reached the western edge of the inland ice, and a stiff breeze springing up from the east, sails were set on sledges, and a rapid advance made downwards to the coast. On Sept. 24 the sea was reached in lat. 64 deg. 12 min. N., at the bottom of the Ameralik fjord, the whole journey from east to west having occupied forty days. Thence Dr. Nansen and Lieut. Sverdrup rowed in a frail craft made of the canvas of the tent and some boughs to the colony of Godthaab, perhaps the most perilous part of the whole journey. They were, however, too late to enable the last steamer for Europe to fetch the expedition home, and they had to winter here, a sojourn which, we are told, passed so pleasantly that when the Danish steamer "Hvidbjørnen" arrived, on April 15, to bring the expedition back, they were loth to leave. It may, by-the-way, be mentioned, that the expedition did not carry a single drop of alcoholic liquor. Naturally, Dr. Nansen and his brave comrades have met with a most enthusiastic reception in

Scandinavia. He will read a paper on his journey before the Royal Geographical Society on June 24. The names and dates of birth of the members of the expedition are:—Dr. Fridtjof Nansen, attached to the Bergen Museum, born 1861; Olaf C. Dietrichson, Lieutenant in the Army, born 1856; Otto N. Sverdrup, mate in the mercantile navy, born 1845; Kristian Kristiansen, farmer born in 1865; and the two Lapps, Samuel Balto and Ole Ravna, born in 1861 and 1842 respectively.

Finally, it should not be omitted to mention that the expedition is chiefly due to the munificence of the well-known Danish Mæcenas, Mr. Augustin Gamel, of Copenhagen, whose portrait we also give, and who dispatched the Hovgaard Arctic Expedition of 1880.—*English Paper.*

"SONGS IN THE NIGHT."

Duncan Mathieson, a Scotch youth, had a fiery temper. He became a Christian, and his fierceness was so checked that the town of Huntly said, "Puir laddie! He's gone daft."

Duncan went out to the Crimea as a Scripture-reader and lay-missionary to the British soldiers. One day, when he had tramped many miles in the mud, and was sick at heart with the sights he had seen, he was returning late at night to his lodgings in an old stable at Balacava.

The mud was knee-deep, and Duncan, fatigued and depressed, happened to look up. The stars were shining calmly in the clear sky.

"There remaineth, therefore, a rest to the people of God," whispered Duncan, as his thoughts were drawn heavenward by the starry sky. Then, in a resonant voice, he began singing the hymn:

"How bright these glorious spirits shine!
Whence all their bright array?
How came they to the blissful seats
Of everlasting day!"

The next day was stormy, and Duncan, while going his "grand rounds," saw a soldier standing under the verandah of an old house. His uniform was ragged and dirty; the toes peeped through the worn-out shoes; but the man's face had an expression of seriousness and determination.

In a moment Duncan was by the man's side, speaking cheery words.

"Take that," said he, putting a half-sovereign in the soldier's hand, "and buy yourself a pair of shoes. You can get them from some burying party."

"God bless you, sir," replied the soldier, grasping Duncan's hand, but not taking the

coin, "but I am not as badly off as I was yesterday."

"Last night I got thinking of my miserable condition—half-fed, half-clothed, living in the mud, more like a pig than a man."

"I won't stand it very long," said I to myself. So I took my musket and went down yonder, intending to blow my brains out. Just as I got there, I heard some one singing the old tunc, 'How bright these glorious spirits shine!' I remembered the Sabbath school where we used to sing that hymn."

"I felt ashamed of myself for being such a coward. 'There's some one as badly off as myself,' said I, 'and yet he's not giving in. He's got something to make him happy which I haven't.'"

"Then I thought over what that something might be, and went back to my tent. To-day, sir, I'm determined to become a Christian man, for that's what that singer is, or he couldn't have sung as he did."

"Did you know the singer?" asked Duncan, glowing with joy.

"No, sir; I couldn't see him in the darkness."

"Well, my man, I am that singer," said Duncan.

"Thank God!" said the soldier, "that I know you, but you must keep the money; I could not take it from you, after what you have done for me!"—*Youth's Companion.*

AN OBJECT LESSON.

"I want you to notice," said Grandfather Grey, "to the two little boys who lived over the way, 'That a man can never a drunkard be Who keeps from the poison-cup totally free. And never a drunkard was any where known But out of a moderate drinker he'd grown."

"And so, if you never would have the disgrace Of a staggering step and a bloated face, Of a wretched home and a ruined soul, Be sure not to touch the foaming bowl; Let it alone, nor look with desire On the wine that is red, on the liquid fire."

"Beware of the little now and then; If you take it once you will want it again. The moderate drinker is never secure; A drunkard he'll die, you may almost be sure. To be safe from the curse there is only one way; Be total-abstainers," said Grandfather Grey. —*Band of Hope Review.*

EVIL COMMUNICATIONS.

To a growing family of boys and girls could there be a worse nuisance or a greater menace than a saloon across the street, and a saloon-keeper for a next door neighbor? —*Cumberland Presbyterian.*

OLE RAVNA.

S. BALTO.

K. KRISTIANSSEN.



DR. F. NANSEN.

LIEUT. O. DIETRICHSON.

CAPT. O. SVERDRUP.

MEMBERS OF THE NANSEN GREENLAND EXPEDITION.