



Map of Explorations for a North-west Passage.

—From the February Century.

started blindly for the Pole. The cracks and leads in the moving sea of ice made his work difficult. The dogs broke down in the work, and the dead were used to feed the living.

At noon on April 21st, he reached 87 deg. 6 min. Abruzzi's record is 86 deg., 34 min. and Nansen's 86 deg., 14 min. Peary's record in 1902 was 84 deg. 17

min. He had broken the record and only 2 deg. and 54 min. remained between him and the Pole—about two hundred miles. His pinched circumstances forbade any further attempt, for some provisions and some strength were required for the return trip. Foiled, but undaunted, he turned his face southward and succeeded in regaining his ship.

The Anglo-American Marriage

A PROPOS of the Marlborough disagreement, Ella Hepworth Dixon, traveller and novelist, writes discriminatingly on the subject of alliance between Englishmen and the women of the United States. She shows that the difficulty which frequently arises comes from misunderstanding rather than from deliberate tyranny or revolt.

The falling out of one English duke and his American duchess does not, of course, prove conclusively that all such marriages are impossible, but it is in the nature of a danger signal to others contemplating similar matrimonial alliances.

The peer in difficulties goes to Newport, and sometimes even to Chicago or Pittsburg, and there looks around for a multi-millionaire who will give him a daughter with a dowry to which European royal princesses do not aspire. He marries a young person of boundless ambitions, who is usually well educated, but who is not of his class, and who has none of the traditions and little of the repose of an English girl of good family.

For the first few years she has a good time. For her England and English life is a fairy tale come true. She starts playing at being a great English lady, the wife of a peer of the realm. She would like to wear a diamond tiara every night and robes of state once a week. She opens bazaars, starts home industries, patronises everybody, and pours out her money with a lavish hand.

She will adapt herself to anything but the root of the evil; the crux of the whole question is that she can not, in the majority of cases, adapt herself to her English husband. Very willing to become a marchioness, it is not in her nature or her upbringing to become the subservient spouse of an English husband.

For America is the paradise of the young person, and why they want to leave it and to marry men who seldom assume an attitude of blind worship is one of those feminine mysteries which are so hard to elucidate.

Now, excellent fellow though he is—and far less "flighty" than the American husband—this is not the attitude which John Bull takes up toward his wife or his daughters. The adulation must be taken for granted; it is possibly implied, never openly expressed. In nine English homes out of ten it is probably the wife who is the dominant partner, or at any rate in all affairs of the joint life; but the English woman is adroit enough to conceal this fact.

The American wife, on the contrary, never conceals what is to her a matter of national pride and affair of race and sex. Moreover, she has usually an inordinate opinion of the power of money. So, having brought her million or so of pounds to these shores, the young heiress expects from every circumstance and surrounding of her early life, to take the first place and receive the tribute which she thinks due to beauty, youth and wealth. No wonder the situation bristles with difficulties.