

within the Arctic circle, may be expected to yield important results. Important questions connected with the migrations of man within the Arctic zone are yet unsolved, and are closely connected with the geography of the undiscovered portions of the Arctic regions. The Polaris Expedition has made it certain that even as far north as  $81^{\circ} 30'$ , there either are or have been human inhabitants, and even north of the explored portions of Greenland. Indications on the eastern side of Greenland point to the same conclusion. The investigation of the habits of such a people, who have been for generations cut off from all intercourse with the rest of the world, would possess the highest scientific interest. From what centres this singular race originally wandered; what are their religious ideas and what their language; their weapons and method of hunting; their superstitions, songs and traditions—all these inquiries present subjects of high interest for investigation, and their study would tend to advance the science of man. A human interest thus attaches to Arctic explorations. The inhabitants of these icy solitudes are our brothers, and we want to know something of their joys and sorrows, and of the circumstances under which the "struggle for life" goes on, where wood and metals are unknown, and the inhabitants are dependent on bone and stone for weapons and utensils. If we want to know how man fought the battle of life in the Stone Age, we may find light thrown on the subject, by an acquaintance with the isolated tribes of Esquimaux, who are living examples of a stage in progress which the rest of the race have left far behind them.

The geographical and hydrographical discoveries which are to be made, within the unknown region, also possess a deep interest. To complete the circuit of Greenland and determine the nature and extent of the land along its northern extremity, and to explore the land to the westward, as well as the great Polar Archipelago, whose existence seems to be dimly indicated, is a task worthy of the boldest explorers. Then the hydrography of these unknown seas will have a close bearing on the question of ocean currents and consequently on general navigation. Pendulum observations made at the Pole are still necessary to complete our knowledge of the earth's figure. Researches into the phenomena of magnetism and atmospheric electricity, in the vicinity of the Pole will probably yield important scientific results; while the meteorologi-

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