

faith. So far has nature been subdued that the arrival of the steamer can be timed with accuracy even in the storms of mid-winter, and through the thick fog the sinking "Republic" can call others to her aid. It might seem as though this mastery would rob nature of her romance and that adventure of the ancient sort had withdrawn from the world of modern men who know and control nature. But this is not so. Not more than a month ago we had proof that civilization and science have only heightened the inquisitive spirit, for what more daring challenge could be made to nature to show her terrors and overwhelm man by her rigors, her power and her awesomeness, than that venture so successfully completed by Lieutenant Shackleton and his companions? They sailed in the "Nimrod" to the barrier of Southern ice, and then started forth on different expeditions. They climbed a snow-clad volcano, Mt. Erebus, 13,000 feet high, examined its crater, and conquered mountain range after mountain range, crossing endless glaciers with deep crevasses, travelling during the several months of their journey seven hundred miles, discovering the south magnetic pole and reaching a point within one hundred and eleven miles of the South Pole. This was only possible because of their scientific knowledge, and the results of scientific invention. From this journey they have brought back valuable additions to human knowledge, have lifted a little more the veil of mystery that hangs over the world, have extended men's sense of mastery over nature, and have proved that the spirit of romance and of heroism still moves the heart of the modern man with all his scientific accomplishment.

This ability to control nature is a proof that the mind of man is growing masterful. Insignificant though man may seem to be, he has learned to dread nature less even in her most awful moods, and by the assertion of his right to direct and use her forces he has developed his own latent powers. By overcoming obstacles we grow in strength. The tasks essayed and accomplished at present would some generations ago have been judged almost miraculous, and the daring of the modern man to border upon impiety; indeed, the Greeks would have feared that such treatment of nature would have brought ruin similar to that which fell upon Xerxes for his insolence in encroaching upon the domain of the gods by bridging the Hellespont.

But with all this mastery has there been a similar advance in the mastery of man over himself? This is really the supreme question. Or has he lost any of his finer instincts? Or, is he in danger of losing any? It has recently been suggested that the application of modern methods in a masterful scientific spirit to the solution of the social problems of the day may succeed in relieving our poverty and our inefficiency, and that Charity may soon be organized on such an exact system that it will minister its remedies with the precision of a machine.

But will there not disappear at the same time the spirit of human compassion which has so often enveloped the head of an ignorant and even incompetent dispenser of mercy with a halo of divine glory? The fine word "humanities" is applied to some of the most distinctive and immemorial studies of a university. Assuredly it would be a sorry ex-