

Originally it was the hope of finding an open north-western or north-eastern route to the Orient. There was also the prospect of exploiting the great mineral wealth which was supposed by some sanguine adventurers to be hidden beneath the eternal snows of the far north. But to-day, when the fascination of exploration and discovery is as strong in the hearts of men as ever it was, the reason that urges Arctic and Antarctic voyagers to deeds of bravery is not the prospect of discovering any new trade route amid the far northern icy seas, nor the hope of finding wealth beneath farthest southern snows. It is solely that certain scientific problems ; ay once and for all be solved.

The motive is indeed a high one, and the end to be attained may even yet demand immense sacrifices. True it is that the honour of being first at the north and south poles has not fallen to the lot of Englishmen ; but at least we have the satisfaction of knowing that it was the work of British explorers that made success for others possible. And we know, too, that the men of our race are ready to meet whatever further demands upon courage and endurance may be necessary to complete the work of exploration in the northern and southern extremities of the world.