

dangers to life on the drifting ice. Nansen's ship, the "Fram," has been built to be uplifted and thrown on the ice by the pressure of the surrounding floes, but that it will act in the manner desired is denied by all authorities, English and American, who have given their opinion on the matter. George Melville, of the United States Navy, states that a ship, even the most perfectly constructed, to withstand lateral pressure "would be an egg-shell in the power of the mighty masses of ice, never at rest, but always grinding, like the everlasting gods, . . . even the granite hills and islands." The fate of the "Fram" seems clear. How will the crew fare when cast without means of escape on the treacherous ice? While Greely's ship, in his expedition of 1882, was caught in the drift, some of his men took to the ice and lived there in snow houses. Here are his own words for what they experienced: "Our own floe was from forty to fifty feet in thickness, and yet it tumbled and cracked like chalk under the tremendous pressure of the surrounding floes. As the edges of these

immense masses of ice ground against each other, with terrible groaning and almost irresistible force, their margins were covered for several rods with thousand of tons of broken ice. . . . Just as the whale boat party quitted their snow house a shock of unusual violence split our floe again, and a wide crack, running through the abandoned house, speedily swallowed up a portion of it. Even as we rolled up the tepee, a narrow crack formed under our feet." The experience of all Arctic explorers has been the same, which does not bid fair to Nansen's bold enterprise. Greely, commenting on Nansen's project, says: "In my opinion the scheme is unwise, impracticable, and is little short of suicidal."

Which of the present three explorers will accomplish the most or perhaps succeed in reaching the pole, time alone will tell. Whilst we are awaiting the issue of their ventures, let us hope that none will meet with a fate similar to that which befell the heroic Franklin.

JOS. McDOUGAL, '94.



A good example is the best sermon.—FRANKLIN.

