

**THE ARCTIC PROBLEM AND
NARRATIVE OF THE PEARY RELIEF
EXPEDITION OF THE ACADEMY
OF NATURAL SCIENCES OF
PHILADELPHIA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649061525

The Arctic Problem and Narrative of the Peary Relief Expedition of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia by Angelo Heilprin

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ANGELO HEILPRIN

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THE
ARCTIC PROBLEM
AND NARRATIVE OF THE
PEARY RELIEF EXPEDITION

OF THE
ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES
OF PHILADELPHIA.

BY
ANGELO HEILPRIN
LEADER OF THE PEARY RELIEF EXPEDITION
PROFESSOR IN THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES; PRESIDENT
OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA.

PHILADELPHIA.
CONTEMPORARY PUBLISHING CO.
628 CHESTNUT STREET.
1897.



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Contemporary Publishing Co.**

**Engraved and Printed by
LEVTYPE COMPANY,
Philadelphia.**





PREFACE.

The interest which at the present moment centres about Polar exploration is perhaps broad enough to permit of a few additional pages being added to the lengthening literature of the subject, even though they be wanting in a recital of those mishaps and hardships which have made Arctic reading so fascinating. In this belief the author offers the following pages, which are in the main a record of personal experiences in the North, and reflections upon the best method of attaining the object which has so long baffled the energies of the hardy explorer. A portion of the work has already appeared in narrative form in the pages of Scribner's Magazine, and another portion is an amplification of an address delivered before the Geographical Club of Philadelphia.

The author feels that the record of the Peary Relief Expedition would not be complete without a reference to the numerous helping hands which made the expedition possible, and permitted of the full accomplishment of its mission;—to all these he owes a no small debt of gratitude, and to all, without distinction by name, he expresses his acknowledgments. A special mention should, however,



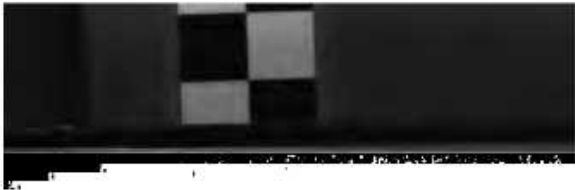
Preface.

be made of the names of a few gentlemen who more particularly interested themselves in the expedition, and gave their assistance in other directions besides the one very necessary one of raising the required funds for the undertaking. These are Gavin W. Hart, Esq., the indefatigable Treasurer of the Expedition Fund, and Messrs. Edward Longstreth, Joseph T. Rothrock, and Edwin J. Houston, through whose efforts, representing the good work of Philadelphia and West Chester, the rude children of the North have been placed in a condition of comparative comfort. The distribution of gifts of charity to the Eskimo was a feature of the expedition.

To the members of his party, for the faithful accomplishment of their duties, and the good will which ever prompted their work, the leader is placed under special obligation; and he is similarly indebted to the officers and crew of the good ship Kite, the vessel of the expedition.


A. H.

Philadelphia, May, 1893.

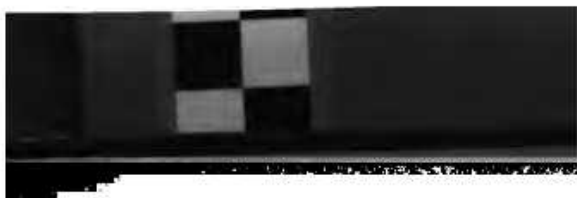


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"**S** ALL on, nor fear to breast the sea!
Our hearts, our hopes, are all with thee,
Our hearts, our hopes, our prayers, our tears,
Our faith triumphant o'er our fears,
Are all with thee,—are all with thee!"



I.

THE ARCTIC PROBLEM.

It can truly be said that to no class of workers does a community owe so much of what it possesses as to that of the travelling geographer or explorer, whose cumulative efforts and resources have brought the world to know itself as it in reality exists. This year the nations of the world celebrate the greatest discovery of modern times,—the greatest in the sense that it most deeply touches the welfare of the human-kind. Every year, almost, brings with it the culmination of an effort which, though not so great and far-reaching as the Columbian, yet adds materially to that fund of knowledge from which Columbus drew his inspiration, and which served as the main-spring for the discovery of a continent. On sea and on land, from alpine summits to the waters of the frozen north, the march of discovery is progressive, and it will forever remain progressive and unabated until the surface of our globe is made known to us in its every feature and under every phase of its existence.

The region which to-day again most attracts the thoughts of geographers lies in the