

TO EXPLORE THE MYSTERIES OF A NEW WORLD.

Perhaps an Unknown Race of Men Will Be Discovered by the Explorers Who Will Soon Start to Penetrate the Wilds of the Great Antarctic Continent.

MYRIADS OF STRANGE BIRDS FILL THE AIR, AND SEA MONSTERS UNKNOWN TO SCIENTISTS SWIM THE SEAS.

Professor Borchgrevink, the Explorer, the First Man Who Ever Set Foot Upon the Antarctic Continent, Tells the Sunday Journal of His Expedition and What He Expects to Find in the New World at the South Pole.



Two friends, both Norwegians, have approached the two poles of the earth almost at the same time. They are Nansen and Borchgrevink.

Of these Borchgrevink is the greater just at present, for he is the Columbus of a new world, the first man to put foot upon the vast Antarctic Continent, bigger than Europe. He is now finishing arrangements to return there, and will soon leave for Europe, after making a public address before the American Geographical Society, in this city.

Professor Borchgrevink and his expedition will solve the mysteries of the great Antarctic Continent—the one great field which the foot of the scientist and explorer has never trod. He will search the bays and rivers for the race of men, which it has been thought for many years may inhabit the unknown world. He will secure specimens of the queer water fowl which live along the shores, and then penetrate into the interior in search of the animals whose tracks he found during his first visit.

He intends to spend a year on the continent, with eleven followers, who include scientific men and botanists. The finding of the south magnetic pole and the taking of observations there are only two of the objects of this visit, and if successfully carried out these achievements alone will earn for Borchgrevink the gratitude of scientists and mariners and the thanks of future generations.

"Who knows but that there may be human beings there?" Borchgrevink asked this question, at the same time looking the Journal representative inquiringly in the eye.

"It is by no means impossible that the Antarctic Continent may have a distinct race of inhabitants. It is habitable. We shall prove that by living there for a year. It is the same distance south from the Equator that Norway is north from the Equator. The Antarctic Continent is rich with life. Dense fish and bird life characterizes its shores. The waters swarm with fish and clouds of birds fill the air."

"What reason have you to believe that there may be animal life on the continent?"

"I found traces of animals," replied Borchgrevink. "I found vegetation on Possession Island, where lichens are plentiful. I have reason to believe that at least bears and perhaps wolves or foxes may live on the mainland, which, so far as its capacity for supporting animal life

of this kind is concerned, ought not to differ much from Northern Greenland.

"If polar bears can live in the Arctic, why not in the Antarctic? If there are Eskimauks in the Arctic, why may there not be a hitherto unknown and unsuspected race of people living quietly in ignorance of all the rest of creation somewhere in the interior of this immense territory, which stretches its thousands of miles toward the South Pole?"

"Many scientific men would not be surprised if an unknown race of men were discovered. Previous to the discovery of the Eskimauks there was no evidence to show that such a race of people existed. The evidence obtainable, on the contrary, seemed to have pointed against there being permanent inhabitants of the frozen Arctic regions. What we know of the Eskimauks, who, as a rule, prefer to live their life amid snow and ice rather than to come to warmer latitudes, shows that man adapts himself to climatic conditions to a surprising extent."

"Upon what could such a race of men subsist in the Antarctic Continent?"

"Food ought to be abundant there of the kind that supports the inhabitants of the Arctic. All along the coast I found fish and birds. Blubber, which is a staple of the Northern Eskimauk, is also obtainable."

"You must remember that we know at the present time but very little of the vast Antarctic Continent, even its seacoast being largely unexplored. It has numerous bays, possibly the mouths of rivers or floods, where settlements may exist. Then again, it has been suggested that if there are men there, they may be savages or half savages living inland."

"The interior of the country is absolutely unknown. All of these things are, of course, merely matters of speculation, but very interesting, and the journey that I am about to take will, I expect, throw much light upon the matter. If there are any conditions existing in Antarctica which would absolutely prohibit the existence there of human beings, I have yet to learn of them, but I expect to know more on this point when I come here again."

A STRANGE NEW SEAL.

From what the explorer said it was apparent that the fauna and flora of the vast Antarctic continent offer full as many fascinating possibilities as does its exploration for a new race of men. Already Mr. Borchgrevink knows of many new things there to be found, though his stay was but short.

Not only are the very icebergs of the Antarctic different in their appearance from those to be met with in the frozen North, but its seas swarm with new kinds of fish. Mr. Borchgrevink, who is a man of many scientific attainments, and who was a professor in an Australian college before he started on his adventurous journey in the Norwegian ship *Antarctic*, captured a seal near Cape Adare that was absolutely new to him. The old sealers and whalers among the crew of the ship had never seen anything of the kind before.

"This was the most extraordinary seal I ever saw," said he. "It was of ordinary size and color, but an astonishing thing about it was that it had no ears. There was not even the sign of a rudimentary ear."

"A strange variety of penguin I found. They were without the yellow ornaments of their cousins of the North, having plain heads. These queer, sombre birds, that have a most gawsome aspect, appeared to me to display a high order of intelligence, if not, indeed, a rude sort of government of their own."

"The penguins climbed up the cliffs sometimes to a height of 1,000 feet. As they exist on fish, and as this journey up and back must have occupied many days, it was apparent that they must have had some way of storing their food inside their bodies."

A QUEER PENGUIN COLONY.

With their beaks and feet the birds had carefully put away most of the pebbles and stones from their footpaths. When snow covered the ground the roads had by constant use by the birds become smooth and neat. The most curious thing of all was the way in which the penguins seemed to maintain order in these paths. Currents of penguins were continually moving up and down from the beach. The new arrivals going up always kept to the right. The birds coming down kept to the left. I never once saw this rule of the road violated. There was no fighting among the birds.

The inveterate enemy of these Antarctic penguins, says Mr. Borchgrevink, is a gray robber gull, which gives them much trouble. He said he saw two of these robbers, after apparently consulting together, descend from the sky and make an attack upon a peaceful family of penguins.

They played a sort of bunco game. While one of these crook birds kept the two old penguins engaged the other calmly picked a large piece of flesh out of one of the young penguins. Not content with attacking penguins, this robber gull, with extraordinary nerve, attacked men. Mr. Borchgrevink says that several times they made an attack upon him, and he had to fight in self-defence.

AN UNKNOWN SEA MONSTER.

A strange, unknown animal lives in the seas of the Antarctic continent, carrying on against its inhabitants the same sort of bold, aggressive warfare as the robber gull wages against the penguins. Seals are his victims.

Seals shot by Mr. Borchgrevink showed an extraordinary number of scars and cuts in their skins, which had subsequently healed, leaving a permanent mark. Previous scientific commentators upon the sea life of

these latitudes had noticed the same thing and ascribed it to the work of the sea leopard. Mr. Borchgrevink measured these wounds, however, and was convinced that this was a mistake and that some fierce enemy of the seal exists in these waters which kept out of sight and is thus far unknown to science.

"My opinion," said Mr. Borchgrevink, "is that these wounds are not made by a tusk. Varying from two to twenty inches in length, they are narrow and straight. Where several of these marks were together on one animal they were too far apart to have been made by the numerous sharp teeth of another seal. The seals, moreover, never had any scars about the neck and head, which undoubtedly would have been the case if battles had been fought among themselves."

HIS FIRST LANDING.

It was a thrilling moment in the life of Mr. Borchgrevink when about to set foot upon this strange new land, where no human being had ever trod before. This was on the 29th of January.

"The coast line," said Mr. Borchgrevink, "presented a noble and magnificent aspect, the huge snow-capped peaks shining and glittering with singular whiteness and beauty. The sun shone bright at night, when we landed, and I think it is probable that we are the only people who have ever seen the sun shining at midnight on Christmas."

"When we were about to land the sea was tolerably clear of ice and we could see the thousands of penguins on the cliffs. As we rowed ashore I could not but think of the event that was about to take place. A peculiar feeling of fascination crept over all of us."

"I was resolved to be the first man ashore. When we came in close, approaching a pebbly beach, I could restrain my impatience no longer. I placed my hands on the gunwale and jumped overboard into the water, which was nearly up to my waist. The boat then went on and was pulled on the beach, all of her crew landing dry shod."

"It was not only the first to touch the land of this great continent, but the first to reach the dry land. Previous to landing I had painted the Norwegian flag on an old soap box, and this I fastened on a strong pole near the place where we landed. I collected specimens of the rocks and found the same cryptogamic vegetation here as on Possession Island."

"I made a short exploration about the bay and was convinced that it is the very place to make my second landing and to establish quarters while I go back with part of my company into the mainland. The south magnetic pole will be our objective. Our compasses showed extraordinary variations while we were in the neighborhood."

TO BE GONE A YEAR.

"It is possible," said Mr. Borchgrevink, "that much mineral wealth may be found in Antarctica. The rocks which I brought back with me would seem to lead to this conclusion. A great chain of volcanoes in the neighborhood rise to a height of over 15,000 feet above the sea. From the place where we landed several accessible spurs lead up to the top of the cape and from there a gentle slope runs on to the great plateau of Victoria Land."

Mr. Borchgrevink, upon leaving England this summer, will be accompanied by Mr. T. Gilbert Bovick, of the Royal London Yacht Club, as far as Australia. Mr. Bovick is greatly interested in the forthcoming expedition, having done much to bring it to a successful formation, and is a worthy English gentleman, much interested in science.

The vessel which will leave Borchgrevink's party on the Antarctic continent will call for them again a year later. Meanwhile the party will divide, one section remaining at Cape Adare, and the other, headed by Borchgrevink, proceeding inland to find the south magnetic pole and discover what they can.

Mr. Borchgrevink's lecture in this city will take place at Chickering Hall on March 24, when he will tell of his voyage and describe the preparations now made for his second trip to the mysterious Southern Continent. Since returning from his first trip he has lectured in four languages, before scientific bodies at London, Berlin, Glasgow, Hamburg, Edinburgh and in Boston and Chicago.

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