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DAWSON'S RESIGNATION.

Dr. Mawson has had many experiences of the mutability of this mortal life, and it was quite in harmony with the irony of fate that his return from the Antarctic Circle should have been heralded by a meteorological warning of "rising temperatures." "Rising temperatures" is, of course, a matter of comparison. To Dr. Mawson, accustomed to live for months at a time degrees below zero an advance to even the lowest-recorded South Australian cold would at least be as welcome as a frog's escape from a fire into a frying-pan: and Dr. Mawson would probably have preferred a gradual thawing-out to the sudden melting-out which should naturally follow the 141 degrees of sun-heat which was an individual portion of the warm welcome which awaited him on his return for arrival in Adelaide yesterday. Yet it seems likely that—as Australians, carrying stored-up calorie with them—and feel the cold less than the permanent residents when they expose themselves to a rigorous English winter—polar explorers are fortified in some curious fashion against great heat when comparatively suddenly brought under its influence. One of the side episodes of the party was the visit in conjunction with Captain Amundsen's visit to Adelaide on his return from the South Pole that was not that man—|\foolish, all the men present on the occasion, the least touched by the almost irreligious feeling that overtook the afternoon when he was formally welcome by the Council of the South Australian Branch of the Royal Geographical Society of Australia. The reason is, however, not what Dr. Mawson feels in the way of corporeal sensations, but the fact that he is able to feel anything—that he is back again among his own folk in Adelaide, and only a memory of a lost hero. A year ago no cautious speculator would have cared to wager on such a prospect as that which was realized in Adelaide yesterday. The party Mawson and his crew of the Aurora was unavailing left stranded in the most inhospitable region on the earth's surface, with the polar light beginning to encompass them, and with all the usual difficulties of polar travel; the most irresponsible optimist might have been excused if he had felt the cold clutch of despair at his heart when, after keen and inspiring anticipations of immediate departure to the mercy of the unknown, he had to face another year's detention amid the eternal ice. He had just dragged himself wearily back-day and night after day and night for weeks from a tragic expedition in which he had witnessed, one after the other, the deaths of two dear and daisies companions, whose deaths had left him, too, to live on in the hopeless journey to discover that he had to endure another year's travel, experiences, such as might have been applied to a modern Tartarenatus in the higher instead of the latter regions. Yet there was no returing, or sign of repining, in the quietly strong leader of the expedition. His hopes were as grand as those of either were all philosophical and sly. He admitted that nobody had blundered; that he, and his loyal comrades were merely victims of an upward trend during circumstances that they had been able to control those circumstances, they intended to extend their researches concerning the natural phenomena of the Antarctic Circle. They had accomplished as much as others. The message was, and, as brave men, they evidently would prefer that nothing more should be said about the matter. That, however, is not the public view. Australians would not subject them to a further cold-shoulder, and would be docile in the performance of an obvious duty if they did not tell brave men publicly that they bore unclad courage and self-sacrifice displayed unfalteringly in the service of the cause of science; and proof that such an attention is not merely to land the valourous, who have quite themselves as men, but to emphasize their example so that emulation may be inspired in others who may be a little wilder, and a little more reckless. For many true in some sense or other is the age which teaches that courage and zeal beget zeal and courage. The human nature aspect of the ground-breaking spirit is essential to the enjoyment virtually its ending so far as moral and physical achievement is concerned, has been specially commented upon because it is the more picturesque complexion of the matter, and the one which has the most appeal to the heart of man. For all practical men, the practically utilitarian and the scientistic—was what induced the South Australian taxpayers to contribute so liberally to the expedition already, through their own State, as payers of Commonwealth taxes also, and as personal subscribers. The Antarctic zone holds not merely the most precarious elements of mental life, but—Problems. And the solution of these problems certainly means an important addition to the sum of human knowledge; and it may mean much more. Must it be left to find the South Pole—the honour of that he left to Capt. Scott, who was doomed not to be spared to enjoy the distinction which he won at the cost of his life. His purposes were for the Antarctic explorer. Work may be tedious and unknown coasts which might contain harbours for commercial whalers and seamen; to continue a previously begun search for minerals which might be of economic value; to dredge the ocean for its own quafite treasures; and generally to add to the geographical as well as the meteorological lore of the world. All this has been done, but the time to estimate in detail his exploits and those of his party is not yet. There still remains to them the task of measuring the unknown which presents a more than due form; but they may safely be judged regarding the uncertain by what has been established of the certain, and all Australians will unite in the same feeling that evermore the heartiest of commendations and most cordial of welcomes.