

## WILKES LAND SEEKER

Philadelphian Plans Expedition to Region Around South Pole.

HOPES TO GO IN SEPTEMBER

Dr. Henry E. Wetherill, Traveler and Inventor, Says It Is America's Duty to Substantiate Claim to Vast Territory Lying Within Antarctic Circle.

Now that the north pole has been discovered the question is arising in the minds of explorers, What of the south pole?

Among those who are planning to go south is Dr. Henry E. Wetherill of Philadelphia, a surgeon and inspector of rifle practice in the Pennsylvania naval reserves, once a companion of Commander Peary in arctic travel and an inventor of scientific instruments.

Dr. Wetherill is preparing to explore the region surrounding the south pole known as Wilkes Land, which, he said recently, was the most fascinating field for the explorer today. "It is a vast territory," he explained, "lying wholly within the antarctic circle and in vastness can be said to be at least twice the size of the United States. Commander Wilkes of the United States navy discovered it, approaching from the south of Australia in 1840. Lieutenant Shackleton crossed a section of this land on his recent dash toward the south pole, entering upon it, as well as I can understand, from a point somewhat to the southward of South America.

**Fertile Field For Explorers.**  
"This great waste affords a fertile field for the explorer because it is land and upon it there is a chance of discovering interesting conditions. There is a comparatively small amount of land in the north polar regions, which makes that territory of less importance, to my way of thinking, than this region surrounding the south pole."

Dr. Wetherill pointed out the fact that it had been a question in the minds of some as to whether Commander Wilkes actually discovered this continent which bears his name, and he thinks that since the north pole has been discovered it is the duty of Americans to send an expedition south to substantiate the American claim and in a way to vindicate Wilkes.

"Such a plan," said Dr. Wetherill, "has been taking shape in the minds of certain members of American sci-

tific societies for years, but now the matter seems to be taking definite form. Edwin Swift Balch, a member of the Philadelphia Philosophical society and a leading authority on south polar conditions, has applied to the Philadelphia Geographical society, and, I think, to two other societies as well, for support in bringing the question to the attention of congress during the coming term. I understand that congress will be asked to appropriate money for the expedition, which I should think would require about \$500,000."

### Would Take Three Ships.

Dr. Wetherill has made formal application for the command of the expedition should one be formed, and in the meantime he is going ahead with his plans, believing that the funds will be forthcoming. He would take three small ships, to be built after the model of the magnet survey ship Carnegie, of the auxiliary type. One of these would be used as a supply ship, a second for cruising at sea out of danger of the ice fields, but within call by wireless in case anything should happen to the third ship, which he would personally command and which would be used for the actual work of exploration.

Dr. Wetherill has been for years interested in inventing instruments for scientific use. He has recently invented a patent sextant, also a table for taking Greenwich time by what he calls a lunar declination—that is, to determine longitude by an observation of the moon.

He explained that lunar observations for longitude were made in the past, but the task was one of such complexity that few navigators were equal to it. He has devised a simplified method which he considers to be one of his most important contributions to the science of navigation. By the use of this table, he said, longitude could be determined by a lunar observation in fifteen minutes.

### The Stellar Sextant.

The new sextant which Dr. Wetherill has invented contains, instead of two reflectors of the old type, only one reflector, which makes it of especial value in polar work, due to the fact that a star can be much more readily observed through it. Dr. Wetherill not only devised this instrument, but he actually built it, using, he said, the model of an old quadrant. Because of its service to navigation by the stars he has named it the stellar sextant.

Dr. Wetherill has traveled extensively. He accompanied Dr. Henry G. Bryant when the latter went to Greenland in 1894 to try to find the whereabouts of the naturalists Bjorling and Kalestanius, who were lost in the north. On that trip Peary and party, including Dr. Frederick A. Cook, were

brought out of the arctic.

Rugged of appearance and enthusiastic, Dr. Wetherill has the typical explorer's personality. He is looking forward keenly to the forthcoming expedition, which he believes he will command. The proper time to start for Wilkes Land, he said, would be next September.

### GIFTS FOR JAPAN AND CHINA.

Our Navy to Show Appreciation of Orientals' Cordial Welcome.

In recognition of the hearty welcome extended to our naval officers and men the imperial Japanese navy is to be remembered in splendid fashion by the officers and enlisted men of the Atlantic fleet who made the round the world voyage last year. The entire Atlantic fleet is concerned in the presentation of the gold mounted loving cup that is going to the officers and sailors of the mikado's fleet. Only those officers and men who were serving in the second squadron of the fleet are responsible for the Chinese gift.

The token that is going to China is a magnificent punch bowl more than two feet high and costing more than \$1,000. It is the joint gift of the officers and men of the battleships Louisiana, Virginia, Georgia, Wisconsin, Illinois, Kentucky, Kearsarge and Ohio, the vessels that visited Amoy and Hongkong under Rear Admiral Schroeder, the present commander in chief of the Atlantic fleet. At that time the vessels named constituted the second squadron of Admiral Sperry's command.

The visit to China of the American ships was the occasion of one of the most demonstrative welcomes ever extended foreigners by that rather exclusive people, the visit being a continual round of entertainments, excursions and receptions tendered the Americans by the highest dignitaries in the Chinese empire.

### A \$20,000 SHAKESPEARE.

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According to the publishers, what promises to be the most costly copy of Shakespeare's works is at present in the making in New York. This copy, when completed, is being put together from the spoils of various famous editions of Shakespeare that have been ransacked for the purpose, the Edinburgh folio, edited by W. E. Henley, being the basis for the work. In the original this folio is in ten volumes. The additions made to this particular copy have quadrupled it in size. Among other features these additions include 240 original water color drawings by Jean Paleologue, 120 original

illuminative and decorative designs by Easton, Paleologue's wife; 80 original water colors by Gifford, 24 original water colors by Schuelterus, 18 by Daniel Garber and 2,500 etchings, mezzotints, steel, copper and wood engravings, including the best known among Shakespeare illustrations. The binding, which is, of course, a main feature in these volumes, is full French levant, red. The value placed on each volume is \$500, giving to the entire set when finished a prospective value of \$20,000.

### HAD GOOD TIME IN JAIL.

Roland Hinton Perry, Anti-alimony Sculptor, So Declares.

Roland Hinton Perry, the sculptor who was adjudged in contempt of court and sent to Ludlow street jail in New York city on April 1 last for failing to pay up his back alimony, finished his term of six months and was released. The artist praised the Ludlow street jail in a manner to make Warden Regan blush. As a jail, he said, it was absolutely ideal.

"But don't get the idea that it's a club," he said. "The difference is that in a club you are allowed the privilege of choosing your companions, while at Ludlow street"—He paused significantly and gave the idea that if one had to spend a day playing penuche it was far better to have congenial companionship.

"You must not think that I have any fault to find," he added. "I spent a pleasant summer on the whole. My room was remarkably cool! It was supplied with books and magazines, and about the only thing that I missed outside of my family and my work was exercise."

### WORK FOR ABOLITIONISTS.

Slavery Conditions in Portuguese Islands Arouse British Reformers.

In calling attention to conditions existing on the Portuguese islands of San Thome and Principe, off the coast of Africa, the British Anti-slavery society declares that the "cocoa slavery" existing there is worse than anything that appeared in the days when there were slaves in Jamaica.

It seems that from 30,000 to 37,000 negroes are on the islands of San Thome and Principe and that the mortality is so great that it is necessary to import between 5,000 and 6,000 annually to keep up the number and that those who arrive on the islands are about half of the number sent from the interior. In other words, 10,000 lives are annually sacrificed that cocoa may be cheap.

The Gazette-Times 50c per month.

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